

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:**
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies, and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- MINUTES:** **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:11 PM. The approval of minutes on the Agenda was deferred to another day.
- H 383:** **Tracie Bent** introduced **H 383** which makes changes to the administrative funding that is currently in the Statute. The Opportunity Scholarship Program was created in 2008. The amount has been reduced each year due to budget cuts. The proposed change would limit the funds from earnings that could be used for administrative costs to \$50,000 and remove the 5% limitation. The current balance of the Opportunity Scholarship Program is \$19,700,000 with a projected rate of return for Fiscal Year 2012 is .9%. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** inquired as to what the costs to administer the program have been for the last two years. **Ms. Bent** said that in Fiscal Year 2009 it was \$22,800, in Fiscal Year 2010 it was \$11,300, in Fiscal Year 2011 it was \$9,400, and in Fiscal Year 2012 there is \$8,800. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** inquired as to what the actual costs of administration are. **Ms. Bent** responded with a total of approximately \$41,500.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Mortimer** moved to send **H 383** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. The motion was seconded by **Senator Fulcher**. The motion passed by voice vote and **Vice Chairman Mortimer** will carry **H 383** on the floor.
- H 385:** **Tracie Bent** introduced **H 385** that will revise terminology regarding the Junior College account. It would change the name of the account to the "Community College Account," and will designate the liquor division as the agency authorized to make payments from the fund and change the disbursement to quarterly rather than biannually. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked whether or not it affected the counties and their accounting. **Ms. Bent** responded that it does not. **Chairman Goedde** asked for clarification as to why the State Board of Education is being changed to the State Liquor Division. **Ms. Bent** stated they are attempting to cut out the middle man by allowing the liquor division to make the disbursement directly. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked whether this is all done by formula, allowing for no discrepancies. **Ms. Bent** confirmed it is her understanding it is all done by formula.
- MOTION:** **Senator Fulcher** moved to send **H 385** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. The motion was seconded by **Senator Winder**. The motion passed by voice vote and **Senator Fulcher** will carry **H 385** on the floor.
- DOCKET RS 21183** **Senator Fulcher** introduced **RS 21183** which amends Idaho Code § 33-512 to make technical revisions regarding provisions relating to supervision and regulation of certain extracurricular activities. This bill directs the State Department of Education to define and implement accreditation requirements and focuses on participation in extracurricular activities.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** moved to print **RS 21183**. The motion was seconded by Senator Winder. The motion passed by voice vote.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Tamara Baysinger**, Director of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, to the committee. **Ms. Baysinger** introduced **Alan Reed**, the new Chairman, and **Kaylee Campbell**, the new Charter School's Program Manager. The vision for the future of the commission is to give schools the opportunity to try unique ideas, but hold them accountable so if those ideas do not work the school gets shut down. What you end up with is a system of high performing schools that compliments the traditional system. The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) came out with an index of twelve essential authorizing practices which are intended to be implemented as a whole. The bad news for Idaho is that it currently only uses five of the twelve essential practices. **Ms. Baysinger** then proceeded to go through the twelve essential practice points and discussed where Idaho passed and failed (see document attached hereto). **Chairman Goedde** asked if there have been any district authorizations in recent years. **Ms. Baysinger** responded that there have been very few and can only think of one which resulted in the school being closed. **Chairman Goedde** inquired about whether the increase in the budget for the Fiscal Year 2012 was for staffing. **Ms. Baysinger** stated that was correct.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Chairman Goedde** then called upon **Brad Corkill** of Cataldo, Idaho, who has served on the Public Charter School Commission for four years and been selected for a reappointment to the Public Charter School Commissioners. **Chairman Goedde** disclosed that he is good friends with **Mr. Corkill**. He has lived in Idaho his whole life and for the past 24 years he has owned his own sawmill in Cataldo. He served for eleven years on the Kellogg School Board, 2.5 years on the St. Mary's School Board, and did a term on the Shoshone Medical Center Foundation Board. **Senator Winder** asked **Mr. Corkill** what his vision for the future is. **Mr. Corkill** said that in the 12 years the Charter School system has been in effect, the market has slowed down for charter schools and as a result, he does not see any harm in raising the cap.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT **Chairman Goedde** then called upon **Wanda Quinn**. He disclosed that he served on the Coeur d'Alene School Board with **Ms. Quinn** when the first charter school was authorized. **Ms. Quinn** has lived in Idaho since 1981. She received a degree in education from the University of Washington. She taught in the Lake Washington School District. When she moved to Idaho she obtained her masters in administration through the University of Idaho in Coeur d'Alene. She then pursued her law degree from Gonzaga University. She served 12 years on the Coeur d'Alene School Board. She currently works at the University of Idaho as Program Development Specialist. **Ms. Quinn** has been working with others on a research project on effective school board training for districts that are focused on student achievement. **Senator Malepeai** asked if she was still supervising student teachers. **Ms. Quinn** responded that she is not. **Chairman Goedde** asked about the work she does mentoring under performing schools. **Ms. Quinn** responded that she facilitates a program for which Boise State wrote the grant application on behalf of the State Department of Education that provides coaches for schools that are struggling. That program provides a coach at both the school level and the district level.

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APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Goedde then called upon **Ester Van Wart**, of Chubbuck, Idaho. She is a mother of 8 children and grandmother of 17. She served as the Pocatello Community Charter School chair for four years, facilitated a loan for the building, and ran the charter school. She also had the opportunity to be a school board member for District 25. This will be her third term on the Commission. She has a passion for the children - to make sure they have a quality education and opportunity to grow. She feels that she can help and make a difference to ensure the children are well educated. Her husband passed away two years ago unexpectedly, but that has only driven her passion more to ensure every student goes on to success. **Senator Fulcher** thanked her for her years of service and asked her to describe what has happened over the course of the terms she has been on the Commission - consumption and requirements on her time and whether that trend was going up or down. **Ms. Van Wart** stated that each meeting used to have a paper box full of binders, but over the years, the binders have decreased and the policies have improved. She has nothing but time to devote to this and looks forward to being on the Commission again. **Senator Malepeai** stated that **Ms. Van Wart** has raised some remarkable children and she is uniquely qualified to be on this Commission. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** asked what changes, if any, she thinks we should be making for our charter schools. **Ms. Van Wart** said that one thing is being able to open the door wider for the charter schools to receive more finances and money for facilities. She made the observation that all schools are in some financial trouble, including her own District 25, not just the charter schools. However, understanding the economy right now, she is honored to know that the schools are still succeeding without the opportunity to receive state funding for facilities. In addition, she would like more money for additional staff of the Commission.

ADJOURN: **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:07 PM.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary

Shannon Dearing
Assistant Secretary