

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 07, 2013

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc, Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Wills

GUESTS: Dr. Linda Clark, Joint School District 2; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Association; Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Bert Marley and Robin Nettinga, Idaho Education Association; Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association; Marilyn Whitney and Jason Hancock, Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE)

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Ann Joslin, Idaho State Librarian and Director of the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICL), explained that in the 112 years since the creation of the first library commission, Idahoans still want traditional library services. They also want 24/7 electronic information services and a place, physical and virtual, to participate in their community. She said a recent Pew Research Survey found: (1) Libraries are key technology hubs in communities. (2) Patrons would like even more tech-centered services, but remain loyal to print books. (3) Free access to technology in public libraries now rivals books and reference librarians as a key library service. She reported Idahoan's use of public libraries is consistent with these national findings.

Ms. Joslin noted, over the past five years, circulation and reference increased significantly; and, over the past two years, the use of the LiLI databases increased by 65 percent. She told the committee, the Idaho libraries focus on reading for early childhood, and have also joined in the fight against cyberbullying. Among the many offerings at the libraries, adult education, job search and e-commerce are very popular.

Responding to questions from the committee, **Ms. Joslin** said there is no way to collect or gather data on patron's library use preferences without invading the right of privacy. She indicated the funds were available to upgrade only 55 of Idaho's most rural and remote libraries. The broadband capability is now 11 megabytes per second. She said LiLI and other programs are technically available in any publicly funded library; Tumblebooks, the electronic, animated childrens books, were available through a grant. If someone has Wi-Fi, he/she can access LiLI and the other library programs. "Think through Math" is also available through the libraries.

In response to further questions, **Ms. Joslin** said the ICL was first under the umbrella of the State Department of Education, but is now a self governing entity, financed through the Governor's Budget. She related, the mini-grants used were state funded and she could not speak to the quality of the grants. She said monies should be spent on elementary school libraries focusing on making books available to kids in early grades. She added, school district budgets for elementary libraries are very inadequate. Responding to a question regarding the vision for libraries, Ms. Joslin, said there is an increase in library use by youth and young adults. The use goes down for mid-life adults, but then returns during retirement. She said the summer programs have become extremely popular with 12,000 more participants, statewide, than in 2011. She said ICL has joined with school libraries to increase attendance for "tweens" and teens. She indicated libraries try to reach people where they are; physical libraries are becoming civic centers; and some libraries are investing in such items as 3D printers for MakerSpace, keeping up with the pace of the patrons.

To further questions, **Ms. Joslin** said children are becoming more interested in non-fiction. She reported the 2012 legislation requiring all public libraries to have filters was finalized by October 1, 2012. She said the Idaho Education Network (IEN), and their providers, are very effective in bringing broadband to public schools. For libraries, the IEN costs are higher than what they are already paying.

RS 22184: **Rob Winslow**, Director, Association of Idaho School Administrators, presented **RS 22184**. He said the proposed legislation reinstates the funding for public schools' "use it or lose it" flexibility that was repealed in the November 2012 repeal of Propositions 1, 2, and 3. It also sets forth a one-year sunset clause.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to introduce **RS 22184**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman DeMordaunt gave the committee a copy of the "intent language" which the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee had promulgated for FY14. (See attached.) He said anything that is policy-related comes from the House Education Committee. He added, committee members should study the "intent language" addressing appropriations for public education.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary