

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 16, 2014

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None.

**GUESTS:** Sharon Harrigfeld, James Pannell, Tim Rigsby, and Joe Buckles, Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC); Robin Nettinga and Matt Compton, Idaho Education Association; Julie Oye-Johnson, Shane Evans, and Doug Kellis, Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC); Kristyn Kirschaman, Risch-Pisca; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News, Marilyn Whitney, Amy Nelms, and Tracie Bent, State Board of Education; Luci Willits, State Department of Education

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**RS 22480:** **Rep. Bateman** presented **RS 22480**, explaining the intent of the legislation is to officially recognize March 4 as Idaho Day. He said President Abraham Lincoln signed the document which created the State of Idaho on March 4, 1863. He indicated that celebrating the state would bring heightened awareness to Idaho's students as they learn and appreciate the State of Idaho. He said the celebration would not close state or federal offices.

Responding to a question from the committee, **Rep. Bateman**, the date of the celebration would be changed to March 5th when March 4th landed on a Sunday to enable students to be in school and the Legislature to be in session.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to introduce **RS 22480. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 2282C1:** **Rep. Bateman** presented **RS 2282C1**. He said the legislation will give legislators a chance to recommend for award, a public school teacher for outstanding service to the public schools of the State of Idaho. He explained the teacher must be from the legislator's district and must have a demonstrated record of improving student engagement and learning. The selection of the school and teacher to be nominated shall be made by the board of trustees of the school, or the governing board, in the case of a charter school teacher. He indicated the award will be five hundred dollars each year per award recipient to be paid from the legislative account. The award would be accompanied by a large certificate suitable for framing.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Bateman** said the two representatives and one senator from each district would work together to coordinate the awards for their legislative district. He said most school districts already have a mechanism in place for recognizing outstanding teachers. He also said the award would not go through the school budgets request to the legislature; rather it would be handled by the House budget.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 2282CI. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Sharon Herrigfeld**, Director, IDJC, explained the mission of the department is to develop productive citizens. She introduced members of her staff and said that **James Pannell** would give a presentation on educational programs of IDJC.

**James Pannell**, Education Director, IDJC, explained the educational programs for incarcerated youth. He gave statistics describing the positive outcomes of IDJC. (See Attached.) He told the committee 58% of incarcerated youth return to society ready to earn a taxable wage. Mr. Pannell indicated their schools belong to an eleven-state consortium for educational excellence and that Idaho achieved the highest ratings among those participating states. He also explained the demands of teaching in a confined setting.

In response to questions, **Mr. Pannell** said the average daily count of incarcerated youth is about 325, with 450 youth moving through the system per year, although the 2012 statistics from the Idaho State Police list 11,279 total arrests of juveniles. He explained the community effort of teachers, counselors and staff in the educational effort. He also said that the parents, who agree to be involved with their youth, are used to help prevent recidivism.

**Ms. Herrigfeld** was called upon to respond to a question from the committee. She said they do not study or track the correlation of recidivism in regard to whether the youth complete a high school diploma or a GED. She said 30 percent of IDJC youth never return to the correctional institution.

In response to further questions, **Mr. Pannell** said there were 128 juveniles housed in the St. Anthony facility; 28 in Lewiston; and 73 in Nampa. He said each facility functions as its own school district; however, they do not have to comply with all state regulations. They function more like an alternative school. He explained the compensation scale for teachers. He told committee members their funding for instructors comes through the Department of Corrections and that teacher turnover rate is high because (1) compensation is lower; and (2) stress level is very high. Mr. Pannell told committee members, IDJC schools service youth as young as sixth grade through seniors in high school. Usually the incarcerated youth leave by age 19, however they can keep them to age 21. He added that IDJC uses the Educational Portal Website for postsecondary classes to meet the needs of their population.

**Brent Reinke**, Director, IDOC, introduced members of his administrative staff. He said the mission of IDOC is to promote a safer Idaho by reducing recidivism.

**Julie Oye-Johnson**, Education Program Director, IDOC, introduced **Doug Ellis** to the committee. She told the committee that Mr. Ellis had been processed through the Idaho correctional institutions and was one of the success stories.

**Doug Ellis**, Micron, described his pathway to success after multiple incarcerations and many years of probation and probation breaking. He said, for him, a visit to Narcotics Anonymous and a success story from an older man with a similar background, gave him the hope that he could have a normal life. He said with a supportive family, and many mentors along the way, he was able to get both a Bachelor and Masters degree. His final triumph was a pardon from the Governor of the State of Idaho.

**Shane Evans**, Chief, Education, Treatment and Re-entry, gave an IDOC overview which included the academic achievements. (See Attached.) Mr. Evans said IDOC is dealing with an ambivalent population with criminal thinking. They look at their lives in a different way. He said in their educational offerings, they offer online services with a closed-linked system because criminals do not have access to internet. He said their educational system is fully accredited and the very core of their programs are education and treatment. He added that their program goal is for those inmates leaving their facility to make a living wage. It is difficult because bridges have been burned; past offenses must be righted.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Evans** said 3500 volunteers across the state work to provide religious and spiritual guidance. He said they focus on skills for readily employable jobs more than academics.

**Mr. Ellis** was called upon to answer a question from the committee. He said even though he knew he had ability, his experience in Narcotics Anonymous showed him a path on how he could successfully return to the outside.

**Director Reinke** was called upon to answer questions from the committee regarding replication of successes such as **Mr. Ellis**. He said it is the work of the Council of State Governments; they have to manage to a strength-based mode. He explained that legislation is forthcoming that will assist in the change. He said when criminals hit a diminishing return, the "light bulb" time is important. It provides the chance to batter them with change.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary