

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 22, 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: Robin Nettinga and Matt Compton, IEA; Brody Aston, Lobby Idaho; Mark Browning, North Idaho College; Tracie Bent and Amy Nelms, State Board of Education; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Kristyn Kirschenman, Risch-Pisca; Luci Willits, SDE; Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates

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

Bob Lokken, CEO, White Cloud Analytics and Vice Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Education, spoke to the committee on the changes needed for implementation of the recommendations coming from the Task Force. He explained schools are not factories; teachers not machines and students not widgets. The body of governance that served education in the past came out of the industrial age. He said the change is not one of incrementalism; it is a structural change. The management system he recommended was the biological system, as opposed to the un-minded or the mechanical systems, which were either chaotic or top down control systems. He said the biological system would give the schools ability to use local autonomy and outcome accountability, which were top recommendations from the Task Force.

Mr. Lokken explained that students cannot get situational intelligence from the state department. He said logistically speaking, there is not a line item in the current rules governing education that says third graders should read, and there should be one. He indicated the New Plymouth School District and **Supt. Kirby** represent bright spots outside the current system. He said the collaborative work and measurable goal setting by the teachers are driving the success.

In response to a question relating to federal government's obstruction of progress, **Mr. Lokken** said, since the federal government micro-manages from Washington DC, the Task Force chose to work with the ideas that could be managed within Idaho and its school districts. He said the test was simple, if remediation in colleges and universities is widespread within Idaho's high school graduating population, then the job of educating is not being done. Responding to other questions, Mr. Lokken said Idaho is spending \$1.6 billion on education; it is paramount to get K-12 consistently performing before funding preschools. He said the issue is a matter of sequence. He indicated testing is crucial to improvement. Without data, there is no improvement and without goals, there are no measurable outcomes.

In response to questions regarding successful educational models, **Mr. Lokken** said the Task Force looked at highly-ranked Finland where schools are extremely autonomous and where standards are high. He said teachers are well paid and produce notable outcomes. He added that Idaho was 22nd in the nation, performing in the middle of U.S. schools.

Responding to questions on ensuring the paradigm shift occurs, **Mr. Lokken** said the natural intuition is to go slow; however, if you go aggressively into the change, it will happen. There may be failure, but the transformation will happen quickly. He told the committee, Idaho needs taxpayers. The number of citizens on government assistance is unsustainable. He said educational transformation may be messy for the first year, but going slower only prolongs the mess.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary