

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 03, 2014
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Buckner-Webb
- 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.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Goedde** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:09 p.m., and a silent roll was taken.
- S 1228** **Ann Joslin**, State Librarian, Idaho Commission for Libraries, said that **S 1228** makes a small amendment in existing law. Idaho public libraries currently are required to follow all provisions of the Open Meeting Law. Unfortunately, the portion of the Idaho statute that deals with Open Meeting Laws omits a few sections. **S 1228** changes the citation within the public library section of the law to encompass the entire Open Meeting Law.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Mortimer** made a motion to send **S 1228** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** will carry the bill on the floor.
- PRESENTATION:** **Tim Hill**, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education (Department), began with a brief summary of his background. He said his job is to accurately distribute the public school state appropriation according to statute, and to provide policy makers, education stakeholders and the public with reliable public school information. His presentation describes how the Department currently funds public schools, and answers ten questions: (1) Where do public school funds come from? (2) How are public school funds distributed? (3) How is Average Daily Attendance (ADA) calculated? (4) What is a support unit and how is it calculated? (5) What is salary-based apportionment and how is it calculated? (6) How much is a support unit worth? (7) What is a distribution factor and how is it calculated? (8) What is the payment distribution schedule? (9) How is a school district's/charter school's foundation payment calculated? and (10) What are the three main reasons that revenues per ADA vary?

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, the State Legislature appropriated \$1,598,156,500 for public education. An additional \$420 million in property taxes was also allocated to schools, for a total available sum of \$2,018,156,500 (\$2.02 billion). The largest expense, 85 percent, is salaries and benefits. Education is basically a service business where people are paid to teach, administer, and perform other duties as necessary. The three major factors in determining distribution are: size, staff, and student mix. In education funding, size does matter. Larger schools receive more total dollars but less per student; smaller schools receive less total dollars but more per student. The type and experience of staff plays a role, as does the mix of students in each school. The combination of these three factors creates an average amount per attendance.

Average Daily Attendance (ADA) drives 90 percent of school funds distribution. Current discussions may shift ADA to an enrollment system (Average Daily Membership, or ADM). While an enrollment basis may have some benefits, it will not solve all of the problems that ADA can create. **Senator Goedde** asked if there would be advantages to some districts and disadvantages to others by switching to an enrollment system. **Mr. Hill** replied affirmatively. In order to make distributions revenue neutral, the divisors used for attendance would need adjustment as well as adjustment of the minimums. The move from ADA to ADM could potentially send less money to districts and charters with historically high attendance rates and more to those who have low attendance rates. **Chairman Goedde** asked if, by choosing one or two days to calculate ADM, the Department might create incentives to increase attendance on those days. **Mr. Hill** agreed, and suggested that with the systems in place today, the Department can calculate average enrollment. Due to Idaho's large migrant population, students may attend multiple school districts during the year.

Mr. Hill's summary and detailed presentation are attached and incorporated by reference.

#### **RS 22523C1**

**Senator Patrick** explained that **RS 22523C1** creates a grant for the professional technical agricultural program. One facet targets \$25,000 dollars for new startups, limited to four per year. A second facet provide \$10 per qualifying classroom per year, and will allow 60 percent of students to go on to higher education. This legislation is in accord with the Governor's Task Force (TF) recommendations.

**Senator Patrick** said that he became aware of this need in July from teachers and others in the community. Historically, professional technical funds have not gone into high schools, even though they are the pipeline for professional technical programs in community colleges. This legislation would stabilize a program which already exists. The money ensures classroom instruction, a Future Farmers of America (FFA) segment, and a summer-based project component. By having year round training, students learn work ethics and skills.

**Senator Thayn** asked if there was a limit on the number of grants available, and if not, how many grants could be offered. **Senator Patrick** estimated approximately \$500,000 could be available. This could be limited by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) as to the amount of money that private industry can donate. However, **Senator Patrick** stated that potential corporate sponsors are plentiful. **Senator Pearce** said that he personally participated in a similar program for four years and has used every aspect of that training in his life. He supports the bill.

**MOTION:** **Senator Pearce** made a motion to print **RS 22523C1**. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. In discussion, **Vice Chairman Mortimer** questioned the new language concerning private donations. **Senator Patrick** replied that the language was added to enable private donations. **Chairman Goedde** clarified that the appropriation request is in additional funds rather than from the general fund. He also commented that this bill aligns with the TF recommendations. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Patrick** will carry the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURNED:** Having no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

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Senator Goedde  
Chair

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Elaine Leedy  
Secretary