

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2014 and the February 13, 2014 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 22933** **Rep. Horman** presented **RS 22933**. She said the proposed legislation directs each school district and public charter school to develop a strategic plan that focuses on improving student performance. It directs professional development funding be provided to local school boards and superintendents and boards of directors and administrators of public charter schools in the content areas of strategic planning, governance, finance, ethics and/or superintendent/administrator evaluation. Funds will be distributed to districts and charter schools on a reimbursement basis upon completion of training. She indicated **RS 22933** addresses two recommendations from the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education: #7 Annual Strategic Planning, Assessment, and Continuous Focus on Improvement; and, #18 Training and Development of School Administrators, Superintendents and School Boards. Rep. Horman said both recommendations were mainly compliance based in nature. She added the implementation of the proposed legislation needs to take place during the 2014 and 2015 school years.

In response to a question regarding accountability and review, **Rep. Horman** said the local school boards will use this statute in assessment of their administrators. It is designed to work at the local level.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 22933**.

Responding to further questions, **Rep. Horman** said the fiscal portion of **RS 22933** would be an annual expense. She said the amount paid each school, public school district or charter school, would be the same. **Rep. Clow** clarified regarding the "fair and equitable" question between school size and per unit allocation. He said in his legislative district, the school districts are smaller than some of the charter schools. Rep. Horman indicated the Governor's Task Force unanimously approved both recommendations included in **RS 22933**. She told the committee, the penalty for no school district strategic plan will be the price paid by the children and teachers.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:** **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 22933**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Alex Macdonald**, Director Instructional Technology, SDE, said the 2013 Legislature provided \$3 million for schools to participate in building-wide technology pilot programs. Last summer, the State Department of Education picked 11 schools to split the money and begin the pilot programs. He said SDE looked for projects that were full integration models, scalable and sustainable, and that could be replicated and would increase student achievement. Mr. Macdonald introduced 3 of the 11 schools who received grants and are transforming education.

McCall-Donnelly High School (MDHS) Student, **Brooke Thomas** introduced the iPad Integration Project at MDHS. She said she was interested in 21st Century technology, but felt the adults were disconnected with how students wanted to learn. During her junior and senior years she worked on the project to change how kids "do school" through a student-teacher collaboration involving hands-on learning and integrating iPad technology into everyday classrooms. In 2013, the McCall-Donnelly \$150,000 pilot grant funded Miss Thomas' vision of a Next Generation Learning Environment in which student-centered learning occurs and is student-driven. Members of the committee were provided with iPads for a demonstration, and Ms. Thomas directed the committee to answer questions and receive immediate cumulative feedback.

**Alix Stanley, Taylor Howell, Keenan Walgren, Noah Walgren, Christian Beckham, Kylie Hoogendyk, Britiani Phelps, Taylor Garber, Heather Crawford and Savannah Summers**, MDHS students, explained to the committee the iClub at MDHS, the student opportunity for those less privileged, and the seamless access to teachers through the use of Google Drive, which also provides Cloud storage. In addition, they described programs now available for math and writing which gives tutorial help as well as instruction. Mr. Beckham said adequate bandwidth was vital to implementing 1:1 devices. Other students spoke regarding the positives of integration of iPads from the teacher's perspective and how one device simplifies the life of a student. Miss Garber explained how students provide tutorial help for teachers and other students. Students said installation of Mobile Device Management Systems allows administrators to monitor student activities and/or block inappropriate usage. They also addressed administrative problems including iPad breakage. However, many of the iPads can be repaired on campus.

In response to a question regarding limitation of the iPad, the students said insufficient bandwidth and varying degrees of student maturity limit the program's success. To questions about devices replacing teachers, and parent adjustment to the iPads, the students said the teachers still give lectures although it is easier to follow because it is often interactive. There is more collaboration with teachers at all hours of the day. Students indicated parents were excited about the access and students found it enjoyable to teach their parents how iPads operate. Responding to a question regarding wireless availability when not at the school building, students said wireless is available at most homes, at the public library and other free Wi-Fi businesses.

Kuna Middle School (KMS) Supt. **Wendy Johnson**, introduced her staff and student. **Devan DeLashmutt**, Assistant Superintendent and Administrator of Information Technology, said that KMS's technology goals were to (1) pilot cost effective devices, (2) implement wireless capable of supporting a minimum of one device for every student and staff and (3) develop an alternative support structure and train students as IT support. With these goals, they chose the Levono Chromebook with services in the cloud. He said there are currently 30-40 devices per classroom, serving 800 students. He indicated they chose the Chromebooks because they were inexpensive and relatively easy to care for and repair.

KMS Principal, **Deb McGrath** testified virtually via an online Google Hangout to stress how Chromebooks have transformed education and offered more online opportunities to students whose families did not already own computing devices. She said the school wants to improve math and writing test scores, using the Chromebooks and related curriculum as the impetus. **Emily Leckie**, Math Teacher and 1:1 Implementation Coach, KMS, said, in August 2013, teachers were given two days for professional development on Chromebook teaching techniques. **Mariah Gunn**, KMS student, said students who repair and assist in regard to the Chromebooks, make up the "Mouse Squad."

Responding to questions, KMS staff said they have taken a slow approach, giving teachers and students time to evolve, making sure devices have a positive impact. Already they have seen students being plugged into the strategies, filling the "holes" in their learning. They explained students were not allowed to take the devices home. They also said the students are instructed in appropriate internet use and that prevention of internet bullying is targeted by staff and visiting speakers. To a question regarding the expectation for obsolescence, they said the devices should be viable for six or seven years.

**Dr. Richard Bauscher**, Superintendent of Middleton School District introduced his staff and students. He said the grant goals include: (1) expand Career Information System implementation, (2) allow the maximized use of My Big Campus, (3) promote communication, collaboration, Cloud storage, and improve efficiencies through the integration of Google Apps for education and (4) foster critical thinking, creativity and a positive digital footprint through the creation of senior projects.

**Terry Harding**, Middleton High School (MHS) teacher, said students need to take responsibility for their education through academic ownership and digital citizenship. He described his involvement with technology as a parent and as a teacher. He highlighted the collaboration between students and teachers as one of the best things about the laptops available to all students.

MHS Students, **Hunter Kuntz**, **Lexy Wilson** and **Joe Hardy** told the committee student learning plans are developed at MHS. Also, working on assignments anywhere, with a variety of media sources, makes student learning more constant. Mr. Hardy thanked the committee for the opportunity to have his own laptop and to be involved in 21st Century learning experiences.

**Lisa Pennington**, 1:1 Advisor, showed the committee the "ruggedized" computer and reported the laptop breakage at MHS was less than one percent and 95 percent of the students and stakeholders bought into the new program. She said MHS help desk is staffed mainly by student "Google Ninjas," who do training, and IT support. **Mike Cozakos**, Director of Instructional Technology, said bandwidth was not an issue at MHS. He said the school stood firm in its development of technology and stayed within their wireless contract. He said the computers are filtered even when at home. He said they have a service area where students who leave laptops at home, must get a "day user" laptop before going to class. **Page Goodson**, Technology Integration Specialist, said MHS provides both formal and informational training for teachers. He explained that age is not a factor. He said some experienced teachers have more readily embraced the technology, then work in collaborative fashion to assist younger teachers.

**Dr. Baucher** said the MHS Go One-Go On Project is focusing all students toward higher training at colleges and universities. In response to a question from the committee, he said the capital investment for laptops was made so that students could work in secondary levels as if they were at college or in a career setting.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary