

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 24, 2014

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium WWO2

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 3:01 p.m., and a silent roll was taken. **Chairman Goedde** welcomed the large audience of school board trustees and school administrators who were guests at the Capitol for their annual Day on the Hill.

PRESENTATION: Todd Wells, President, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), summarized the ISBA's annual resolutions, adopted in November 2013 and which remain in effect for two years. As anticipated, several of the resolutions support the findings of the Governor's Task Force (Task Force). These resolutions include (1) restoration of operational funds before specifically funding any new programs; (2) support for the Idaho Core Standards, (3) development of a knowledge and skills based salary reimbursement plan and appropriate state funding for salary schedules, and (4) emphasis on mastery learning and achievement rather than "seat time". The ISBA also favors provisions for funding professional development for trustees to improve leadership skills. Mr. Wells' complete comments are attached.

Senator Patrick asked Mr. Wells to detail the implications of reduced funding in his district. **Mr. Wells** replied that in Castleford School District #417 (Castleford), the budget has been very tight, and reserves have dwindled. They successfully ran a \$300,000 supplemental levy to try to remain stable, but they now need to ask for an increase of \$100,000 more in the supplemental levy this spring. If the voters reject their request, Castleford will need to cut a program or decrease support staff.

PRESENTATION: Officer Brad Ford, Nampa Police Department, Skyview High School School Resource Officer (SRO), explained that, following a failed emergency response simulation, the Idaho School Safety & Security Stakeholder group released several determination statements. They found that (1) the majority of districts in the State lack the resources to establish meaningful school safety and security improvement, (2) school districts must work more closely with their first responder community, (3) school safety includes violence prevention, school climate and drug/alcohol issues, (4) a dedicated funding source for state and local activities must be established, and (5) existing state-level activities and infrastructure must be leveraged to support school safety efforts.

Officer Ford said that in the past year, a school shooting has taken place in America every two weeks on average. Schools in general are lacking in emergency response and communications. Currently, a lockdown order is communicated via the intercom (if available) by front office staff, but in a true event, the risk of crashing the 911 system is likely and necessary information might not be received. Dispatch gives as much information as possible to responding officers who enter the building and listen for sounds of chaos, without knowing who, what and where.

At Skyview High School in Nampa, 100 radio-frequency identification (RFID) badges are worn by all adult staff – teachers, administrators, secretaries, custodians, kitchen staff, etc. In the event of a lockdown situation, a teacher simply pulls down on their tag which alerts all others wearing a badge and police dispatch. Police dispatch and patrol are alerted to the exact location where the incident is occurring and who made the request for help. Since implementing the system, the medical alert request has been used two to three times a week on average for injuries, seizures and diabetes; security assistance has been utilized three to five times per week on average for physical fights, unruly or out of control students. The emergency lockdown pull tag has not been needed. All tags and software can be customized to each school's specific needs.

Senator Ward-Engelking asked about accidental activation of the tag. **Officer Ford** responded that in the first week of operation, 11 incidents of accidental activation occurred, causing 11 lockdowns. The software was immediately modified so that the first alert goes to the SRO who investigates the situation and alerts other badge wearers. Also an accidental alert can be turned off. **Senator Fulcher** asked if the beep on the tag could pose a "target" danger to the wearer. **Officer Ford** replied that the audible alert turns off after 10 seconds. **Senators Pearce and Nonini** asked about the cost of the system. **Officer Ford** replied that Skyview High School was the first in the nation to use the system and received a price break. 100 tags and 100 chargers cost approximately \$35,000, which is the upfront cost. An additional 15 to 17 percent per year is charged for maintenance and upgrades. For smaller schools, the per tag price is \$300.

S 1232

Matt Compton, Director of Public Policy, Idaho Education Association (IEA), stated that, following public hearing on this legislation, the Trial Lawyers Association had assisted in crafting language to more clearly define when a school bus driver is granted immunity from civil or criminal liability when "reasonably acting or failing to act to aid a rider on the bus whom the school bus driver reasonably believes to be in imminent danger of harm or injury."

Vice Chairman Mortimer stated that the Committee hopes the drivers made the best decision, and believes that the notion of "reasonable" was an appropriate addition to the language in this bill.

MOTION:

Senator Ward-Engelking made a motion to send **S 1232** to the 14th Order for possible amendment. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. **Senator Patrick** said the bill was better with the amendment.

Senator Thayn stated that the word "reasonable" will need to be defended on the floor.

The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 504

Representative Lance W. Clow explained that **H 504** aligns with at least three of the Task Force recommendations, i.e., #12 tiered licensure, #13 career ladder compensation model, and #15 teacher mentoring. Specifically, it combines "incentives" and "rewards" into leadership premiums, which will provide school boards with the ability to reward teachers in specific leadership categories. The premiums will be set by local school boards and are not subject to collective bargaining. **Representative Clow** addressed the fiscal impact of \$15.88 million, beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2015. He said that by implementing the leadership component of the Task Force's career ladder recommendation this year, the estimated costs of implementation of a career ladder will decrease from \$42.4 million to \$26.5 million in FY 2016.

Representative Julie Van Orden explained the leadership premium guidelines. Each district would receive \$850 for each actual full time equivalent teacher. The local school boards would then award a minimum of \$70 up to \$480 per month to teachers who meet leadership requirements. These requirements include, but are not limited to (1) holding a master's degree in their subject area, (2) teaching a dual credit course in high school or middle school; (3) holding and providing service in multiple certificate or endorsement areas, (4) serving in an instructional position that is hard to fill; (5) providing mentoring and professional development, (6) providing career and academic counseling in addition to instructional duties, (7) other leadership duties as identified by the local school board. Sports coaching and club advisor roles do not qualify. The bill further requires that the State Department of Education would report to the Legislature beginning January 2016.

Senator Thayn asked how elementary teachers participate in the leadership premiums and what percentage can be received. **Representative Van Orden** replied that mentoring would be a beneficial area, as well as special endorsements for hard-to-fill areas. **Representative Clow** said that no percentage had been placed on the amount received. It could vary from \$70 to \$480 per month.

Senator Patrick noted that elementary teachers often teach two subjects in small schools. Some days the principal may be away and so a teacher may volunteer to fill in. **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked how this bill fits in with tiered licensure and a career ladder. **Representative Clow** replied that he had always seen the leadership premium as "sitting on the side" of tiered licensure and career ladder. Once those are in place, the leadership premiums may dissolve. He envisions the payment of these funds as a "premium" for performing a particular leadership function. Districts can choose how they wish to allocate the premiums.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Mortimer made a motion to send **H 504** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Chairman Goedde will carry the bill on the floor.

Senator Pearce asked whether a district could simply divide up their premium funds so that every teacher received additional pay. **Representative Clow** replied that the bill does not contain any provision to stop that from occurring; however, that is not the true nature of the bill. **Senator Nonini** said he thought the bill did a good job in defining areas to reward, and said that he is in strong support of the bill. **Chairman Goedde** stated that the ISBA, IEA, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA) and Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, were in the audience and prepared to testify in support of **H 504**. **Chairman Goedde** said that some teachers will not participate because they do not want to take on additional responsibilities, but for those who do, premium rewards should be made available.

The motion carried by voice vote. **Chairman Goedde** will carry the bill on the floor.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST
RS 22940**

Chairman Goedde explained that **RS 22940** deals with student data security policies and was previously printed as S 1296. Vice Chairman Mortimer had made recommendations and the fiscal note was changed by adding a half-time employee.

Senator Nonini requested unanimous consent to send **RS 22940** to the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing. There were no objections.

ADJOURNED: Having no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chair

Elaine Leedy
Secretary