

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Keough, Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, 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 Mortimer** called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He welcomed the audience and reminded people to sign in. He announced a change in the agenda and stated **RS 23612** will not be heard today.

RS 23472: **Representative Nate**, District 34, presented **RS 23472**, Smarter Balance Accountability Consortium (SBAC) Repeal. He testified about the reasoning behind this legislation. He described the research that supported the SBAC's detriment to children as well as teachers. **Representative Nate** reported to the Committee the districts that were opting out of the testing. He concluded the evidence by reviewing the fiscal impact to the State.

Senator Den Hartog asked if there was a contract with the SBAC provider and would there be a cost in breaking the contract. **Representative Nate** said he didn't have the information at hand but believed the fiscal impact costs stated on the SOP addressed that issue. If this goes to print, he will follow-up.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **RS 23472** to print. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion.

Senator Patrick asked if the Representative Nate had introduced this legislation in the House. **Representative Nate** responded that he started it as a personal bill. He found that procedure was not working so he approached the House. They were not ready to hear it so he came to the Senate to introduce the legislation.

Senator Souza said she appreciated his work on this legislation. She asked what other tests are available. **Representative Nate** responded listing the other available tests.

The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Patrick** voted nay.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

RS 23541: **Chairman Mortimer** presented **RS 23541**, Charter School Attendance Privileges. He explained the propose of this legislation is to ensure the continuation of a charter school education when a student moves from an elementary or middle school to high school. He outlined the conditions for the privilege.

MOTION: **Senator Nonini** moved to send **RS 23541** to print. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Thayn returned the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

RS 23561 **Senator Keough** presented **RS 23561** Reduction of Force. She asked Karen Echeverria, Executive Director Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) to speak to the legislation in more specifics. **Ms. Echeverria** said this is consensus legislation with the Idaho Education Association. She explained this is one of the labor bills with a sunset and described the actions of the bill.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **RS 23561** to print. **Senator Ward-Englekling** seconded the motion.

Senator Nonini asked if the Idaho school administrators were also in consensus to the legislation. **Ms. Echeverria** replied in the affirmative.

The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 23546C1 **Dwight Johnston**, State Administrator, Professional-Technical Education (PTE) presented **RS 23546C1**. He explained this legislation addresses two issues: 1) to improve technical dual credit transfers between high school and college, and 2) to increase access to professional technical education. He detailed the reasoning for this legislation.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked Mr. Johnston to explain the funding requirement. **Mr. Johnston** said the division has set aside existing one time carry over dollars to begin the process. This will pay for the faculty to start the alignment process and to fund the pilot program for online PTE programs.

Vice Chairman Thayn moved to send **RS 23546C1** to print. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Ron Pisaneschi**, Director, Idaho Public Television (IPT), introduced his colleagues: Jeff Tucker, Director of Content Services, and Craig Meadows, Board Member. He presented the work of IPT and its impact on the State. **Mr. Pisaneschi** spoke about the successes which include the highest membership per capita in giving, an Emmy award for an Outdoor Idaho segment, and the statewide delivery system of programming. He announced a new show that IPT is producing in Africa with private funding called Gorongosa: An Effort to Restore a National Park. He showed clips of the variety of programs that IPT airs that have lead to its success. In conclusion, **Mr. Pisaneschi** reviewed the funding processes and the issues IPT is encountering concerning the lack of federal grants and the FCC compacting channels (see attachment 1).

PRESENTATION: **Claudia Miner**, Executive Director, Upstart in Utah and Waterford Institute, presented the history and work of Upstart. She explained the dilemmas of young children in Utah who were entering kindergarten without the skills necessary to learn. **Ms. Miner** outlined the obstacles for early learning which prompted Upstart: At Home Early Learning. She detailed Utah's five year pilot program and highlighted the funding spectrum. She then described the three software pieces of the Upstart program: 1) Waterford assessment of core skills, 2) Waterford early learning, and 3) Camp consonant. She highlighted the user support team that helps parents. **Ms. Miner** closed by showing the students' learning results from the Upstart program (see attachment 2).

Senator Souza asked how Upstart is funded. **Ms. Miner** explained the funds received from Utah, noting that a federal grant paid for a little over 900 children. She said the interest in the rural areas has grown so much that there is a need for more funds.

Senator Den Hartog asked if there is any private funding. **Ms. Miner** replied there was some private funding and it is for individual scholarships from benefactors when the waiting list was long.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked how much of the curriculum is play based discovery verses more structured lecture. **Ms. Miner** said the Upstart focus is on reading, math, and science. The program is about the cognitive skills.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Ms. Miner for the presentation and all the information about early childhood learning opportunities.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Mortimer** stated that he will be going to the Joint Finance Appropriation Committee (JFAC) to present the education budget. He explained the education budget is 62 percent of the General Fund and outlined the hand-out that Committee members have in their folders. He stated the information in the packet is from the JFAC budget book and encouraged the members to review it. It is his hope that he can spend time with Committee members individually to best understand their priorities and then to relay the Committee funding preferences to JFAC.

Chairman Mortimer directed members to review the budget requests for Idaho's colleges, universities, community colleges, and professional technical education. He reemphasized the desire to visit with each Committee member for their input to help him formulate the general budget to recommend at the germane presentation at JFAC. **Chairman Mortimer** asked Mr. Paul Headlee to walk the Committee through the hand-out so that they can have a better understanding of the requests that have been made.

Senator Patrick asked if there will be legislation on teachers' salaries and course requirements that will impact funding. He asked how those funding amounts will be determined. **Chairman Mortimer** suggested that he and Senator Patrick get together to review the guidelines for determining that funding.

Paul Headlee, Deputy Manager, Budget and Policy Analysis Division, Legislative Services Offices presented a condensed outline of the extensive Education Budget. **Mr. Headlee** started the overview explaining the overall incremental budget for colleges and universities. He gave the Committee a detailed synopsis of the section. He pointed out in the budget the figures that show the Governor's recommendation in one column and the agency's request in the next column.

Committee members questioned Mr. Headlee about some of the line item requests. He answered the questions to the satisfaction of the members.

Chairman Mortimer stated that budgeting is a very important function of the Committee. He said that it is very important that the Committee weighs in on the budget requests. He will be bring the JFAC proposal to the Committee before his germane presentation on February 19, 2015.

Senator Keough thanked Chairman Mortimer for the work he has done to inform the Committee about the budget. She emphasized the importance of germane committees having input on the budgets, and it is very important for JFAC to hear from those committees.

ADJOURNED: There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** read a poem from the book *A' Heap of Living*, by Eugene A Guest and then adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn South
Secretary