

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 07, 2016

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Anthon 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 Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:03 p.m. The weekly poem was "Prayer," by Edgar A. Guest, from *Heap o' Livin'*.

S 1376 **Blake Youde**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **S 1376**, Relating to Public Charter Schools: To Provide an Additional Way to Form a Public Charter School. He explained this legislation is for the replication of public charter schools. He walked the Committee through each of the changes in the legislation and explained each in detail. **Mr. Youde** outlined the details required for authorizer with multiple charter schools.

Senator Den Hartog asked Mr. Youde to clarify the definition of "high performing charter schools." **Mr. Youde** answered that the SBE sets standards for high performance. **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if ANSER Public Charter School wanted to replicate, who would be their authorizer. **Mr. Youde** said the board for ANSER would go to their authorizer to replicate, which would be the Boise School District, but they cannot authorize a school outside of their boundaries. **Senator Ward-Engelking** clarified it would be the authorizing board that they would approach. **Mr. Youde** confirmed it would be the authorizing board of the Boise School District.

Senator Patrick asked what a duplicate school would do differently than the original charter school. **Mr. Youde** replied that the duplicate school would be the exact same type of school as the original charter. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked Mr. Youde to identify the problem that this legislation is meant to solve. **Mr. Youde** answered that successful charter schools are replicating across the country, and this bill takes into consideration the laws in other states to streamline the process for Idaho.

TESTIMONY: **Emily McClure**, Idaho Charter School Network, testified in favor of the bill. **Ms. McClure** said that **S 1376** creates a successful guideline to bring charter school replication to Idaho. She said this would be particularly beneficial to under-served populations in the State.

Will Bogdanoff came forward on behalf of Sage International School in support of **S 1376**. **Mr. Bogdanoff** said that this law would help specify how to replicate a successful school in a certain and clear way because the current law does not. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how the Boise School District will be affected if Sage International School works towards replication. **Mr. Bogdanoff** replied that Sage is not authorized by the Boise School District because they are a charter commission authorized school.

Jason Bransford, of the Idaho Distance Education Academy (IDEA), came before the Committee to testify in favor of the bill. **Mr. Bransford** noted that the students of IDEA have been successful because of blended learning, which they call Gem Prep. He said there are no clear parameters in the law for expanding or replicating their successful schools. **Mr. Bransford** supports the bill because it would ensure high quality charter schools.

Bobbie Sanchez, an independent contractor for Pathways Charter School, spoke before the Committee in favor of the bill. **Mr. Sanchez** explained that this legislation creates a good framework for replication, which dovetails with the goals for students' educational success. He elaborated that Pathways Charter School wants to promote the education and success of Idaho's students, as they have been doing in other states across the nation. He urged the passage of **S 1376**. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if there was a Pathways school already in Idaho. **Mr. Sanchez** confirmed that was accurate. **Vice Chairman Thayn** inquired how they will interact with the school districts as they apply for replication of their school. **Mr. Sanchez** said it is a collaborative effort and explained the process of working with all of the stakeholders. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if those charter schools will compete for the same student population in the Caldwell or Vallivue districts. **Mr. Sanchez** explained they will not compete with schools already in existence. Pathways will provide an alternative to better serve the students needs.

Terry Ryan, CEO of the Idaho Charter School Network, came before the Committee to speak in support of **S 1376**. **Mr. Ryan** said that he appreciated the work of the staff of SBE and he encouraged the support of the bill.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked Mr. Youde who the replicated charter schools will be accountable to. **Mr. Youde** said that each school is responsible for its own academic and financial outcomes. He clarified that funds for schools cannot be shared.

MOTION: **Senator Nonini** moved to send **S 1376** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion.

Senator Patrick asked why the finances and board need to be separate for replicated schools. **Mr. Youde** replied a board can hold charters for replicated schools. Finances are separated to account for State funds and to prevent any fund sharing between schools. **Senator Souza** inquired if replicated schools could pool their funds when purchasing to increase value. **Mr. Youde** said those schools would be able to do so, as long as they included documentation in the audits.

The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Nonini will carry **S 1376** to the floor.

H 515 **Jessica Harrison**, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), presented **H 515**: Relating to Professional Personnel of School Districts to Provide for Formal Written Performance Evaluations. **Ms. Harrison** stated that currently teacher and principal evaluations must be completed by May 1, but the ISAT scores do not arrive in time to be included in the evaluations. The legislation allows for the use of substitute tests in place of the ISAT and it changes the due date to June 1.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **H 515** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion.

Senator Den Hartog asked if regulation of teacher evaluations was included in the bill. **Ms. Harrison** said regulation of teacher evaluations is not part of the bill.

The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Johnson will carry **H 515** to the floor.

- HCR 44** **Vice Chairman Thayn** presented **HCR 44**: Rules Rejection, Science Standards. He said the rules need to be rejected so that the science standards can be rewritten. He explained there were issues with weighted and non-weighted grade point averages.
- MOTION:** **Senator Nonini** moved to send **HCR 44** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Thayn will carry **HCR 44** on the floor.
- HCR 45** **Vice Chairman Thayn** presented **HCR 45**: Rules Rejection, Opportunity Scholarship. He explained there were issues with weighted and non-weighted grade point averages.
- MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **HCR 45** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Thayn will carry **HCR 45** on the floor.
- ADJOURNED:** There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Chairman Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Anna Roser
Assistant