

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 06, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Semmelroth

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 Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to approve the Minutes of February 26, 2024. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Lenney** moved to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2024. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Paul Amador of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to the Public Charter School Commission to serve a term commencing November 7, 2023 and expiring May 12, 2024.** **Paul Amador** introduced himself and spoke about his background, education, professional experience, and community service. He shared that he earned masters and doctorate degrees in educational leadership, and that he had professional experience in higher education administration. He reported that he served in the Idaho Legislature for six years during which time he was an advocate for public schools and charter schools. **Mr. Amador** expressed support for strong communities and the belief in the potential for education to change lives. He advocated for charter schools and appreciated that they offered families educational choices and that they fostered innovation. He stated that the Public Charter School Commission was to be a cheerleader for charter schools and to also provide accountability.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Herndon** inquired why Mr. Amador's appointed term was short. **Mr. Amador** explained that he was appointed by the Governor to fulfill the term of someone who had stepped down from the commission. **Senator Nichols** asked Mr. Amador what were the opportunities and challenges that charter schools currently faced. **Mr. Amador** replied that charter schools faced challenges related to school funding, population growth, and changing demographics.

RS 31578 **Approving Pending Rules.** **Chairman Lent** requested **Unanimous Consent** to send **RS 31578** to a privileged committee. The **Unanimous Consent Request** carried by **voice vote**.

RS 31579 **Approving Pending Rules.** **Chairman Lent** requested **Unanimous Consent** to send **RS 31579** to a privileged committee. The **Unanimous Consent Request** carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lisa Stein
Secretary