

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, January 30, 2012
- TIME:** **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Winder
- 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:** He announced to the committee members that in their red file there is the financial information from the College Southern Idaho for them to review. This request came from **Senators Malepeai and Andreason**.
- INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Goedde** introduced **Dr. Mike Rush** from the State Board of Education to give the committee an update.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Mike Rush** took the podium and introduced **Jessica Piper**, Director of College Challenge Access Grant and New College Idaho Initiative, who will be helping with the presentation.
- Dr. Rush** reminded the committee that in the past 20 years the legislature has commissioned the State Board of Education to reform education. He highlighted what had been accomplished in the grade schools and talked about the 2013 requirement for Idaho high school seniors. The Board is ready to take the next step in education reform and has adopted the next major initiative, Complete College Idaho (CCI). He named the groups and people that helped construct this initiative. The State Board of Education is presenting today to relay to the committee the information. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).
- Dr. Rush** explained that stakeholder feed-back and buy-in on this initiative will be gathered by his staff. He has presented this plan to the three state colleges' Board of Trustees and they gave their concerns and provided great ideas. **Dr. Rush** introduced **Byron Yankey**, who was hired by Idaho Business Coalition for Excellence in Education (IBCEE), as the program manager to gather the feedback from stakeholders.
- Dr. Rush** then continued to explain where the U.S. ranked with the world in high school and college completion rates. He compared Idaho's ranking with other states. The CCI plan will help students in Idaho attain the State Board of Education's goal for 2020, that 60 percent of the population 25-34 of age will have a certificate, an associates' degree, or a bachelors' degree. This plan mirrors the Governor's commitment to unified job creation and growth strategies.

He explained the three state plans to meet the 60 percent goals of education and economics: Project 60, Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM), and Talent. He concluded his presentation with the five strategic statements to achieve the CCI plan: 1. Strengthen the Pipeline; 2. Transform Remediation; 3. Demystify College; 4. Structure for Success; and 5. Reward Progress and Completion.

Currently, the State Board of Education is presenting this plan and the CCI plan to a variety of constituent groups. IBCEE is garnering information from the focus groups to provide feedback on this plan. This information will launch the college access number. He concluded by stating the educational system is broken and it is time to get it right for our kids and grandkids.

**Chairman Goedde** thanked **Dr. Rush** and asked for questions from the committee

**QUESTIONS:**

**Senator Fulcher** thanked **Dr. Rush** for having allowed him to participate in the process of CCI. This process shows real promise and he was very impressed with **Dr. Rush's** team and thanked him for doing a great job.

**Vice Chairman Mortimer** stated that the time frame for the feedback seems short just January through May. What is the committee doing to retrieve the feedback?

**Dr. Rush** replied that his staff is committed to talking to every group that they can so that they can implement this program. Once this is implemented it will continue to be a plan in process. His staff will learn along the way and make adjustments as necessary.

**Dr. Rush** introduced **Byron Yankey**, IBCEE Project Manager to explain more of the feedback delivery process. Finished field testing to survey teachers, parents, and administrators. The stakeholder feedback could be as high as 8000 household respondents around the state. In March, IBCEE members will be hosting five community forums across the state. They also will be at BSU to gather information from about 800 high school students. A sixteen member team will be reviewing the data and in May will make the recommendations. He introduced **Alicia Ritter**, IBCEE, who was a member from the first state Idaho college plan.

**Senator Andreason** agrees that more of Idaho high school graduates need to get a degree, but the types of jobs that he sees coming to Idaho are going to require electricians, welders, and carpenters. How do we prepare for those needs? **Dr. Rush** is very sympathetic to those types of careers and they are included in the CCI plan. Those jobs require some additional training and certification before the student is employable.

**Senator Pearce** commented that in a town hall meeting in his district education and the post-secondary plan was brought up. For special education students who continuously struggle with academics, what would be a good plan for them? Couldn't vocational programs be developed for them? **Dr. Rush** answered that was outside the scope of his expertise. He stated that he was aware of some technical and vocational classes available to that specific student, he just didn't know if there was a stand-alone curriculum.

**Senator Pearce** followed up by stating that it makes far more sense for the special education students to leave school with a skill that helps them to be employable rather than educating them on things that they are failing to comprehend. Our society needs professions where these students have an aptitude. He asked if there were any programs around the country that do that type of educating. **Dr. Rush** said that he wasn't aware of any but would look into that request.

**Senator Toryanski** asked if the 60 percent goal is for all high school students to have some post-secondary education, not just a bachelor's degree. Does the 60 percent include associate degrees and certificates? **Dr. Rush** replied that he was correct. The goal measures after the fact. It is measuring the 25-34 year olds population to understand their level of post secondary education.

Having no more questions, **Chairman Goedde** thanked **Dr. Rush** for his presentation.

**INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Goedde** introduced **Dr. Carissa Miller** from the Idaho State Department of Education.

**PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Miller** presented an overview regarding three topics that the Department of Education is focusing its efforts: The common core state standards implementation, SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, and Idaho's ESEA Waiver Application. Each is a very diverse topic. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the committee Secretary (See Attachments #2). She will take questions at the completion of each segment. There were no questions after the first segment.

Questions from the second segment entitled SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium, questions are as follows:

**QUESTIONS:** **Senator LeFavour** asked what is the percentage or certain frequency of multiple choice questions used in student testing. **Dr. Miller** replied that has not been decided yet. The proposal is that it be at least 40 percent of the test. The committee is reviewing what would be the reasonable amount of time in the classroom for the testing. This is still in the development stages.

**Vice Chairman Mortimer** acknowledged **Dr. Miller's** commitment to this process and thanked her for her dedication. He asked her to tell about some of the things that Idaho receives from other states' findings. **Dr. Miller** responded that Idaho will have all the aspects of the testing that the state could not have afforded to do on their own. Pooling of resources are great cost savings that has benefited the state. There is also the great benefit to learn from each other and much of what Idaho is planning to do is from lessons learned in other consortium states.

**Chairman Goedde** asked in regards to the digital clearing house that is being set-up, will there be challenges getting that information into School Net? **Dr. Miller** replied that at this point she cannot answer that question. The rights to do that are available; however, technologically she is not sure of that format.

The third segment of the presentation showed how Idaho is working to get a waiver from the No Child Left Behind act. To do that the state must prove to the federal government that they have an accountability system set in plan. **Dr. Miller** showed the committee the timeline and the requirement necessary to achieve that goal. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the committee Secretary (See Attachments #3). There were no questions for the third segment entitled, Idaho's Next Generation Accountability System.

Having no questions for **Dr. Miller**, **Chairman Goedde** stated that this is an ambitious task and thanked her for her willingness to work on this project

**ADJOURN;** **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:03 P.M.

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Senator Goedde  
Chairman

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LeAnn South  
Secretary