

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

DATE: Tuesday, January 31, 2012

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Senate Auditorium

MEMBERS: Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin
Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, LeFavour

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Wills

GUESTS: Gary Smith, City of Star; Jeri DeLange, City of Hayden; Martin Bilbao, Education Networks of America (ENA); Bert Marley, Idaho Education Association (IEA); Marilyn Whitney and Tracie Bent, State Board of Education (SBE); Phil Homer, Harold Ott and Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); John Eikum, Jan Sylvester and Janie Ward-Engelking, citizens; Jason Kreizenbeck, Lobby Idaho;

Chairman Goedde called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Tom Luna, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented an update on "Students Come First," the educational reform bill passed by the 2011 Legislature. He explained statistics on Idaho students and compared them nationally and internationally. He also explained the goals for higher student achievement and teacher development. He laid out the plan for putting computers into the hands of students and their families and spoke to the technology accomplishments of several Idaho school districts. He noted that Idaho had applied for a waiver from the federal law known as No Child Left Behind and that Idaho had drafted a new accountability plan. (A detailed copy of the Power Point presentation and a copy of Superintendent Luna's remarks will be in the Committee Secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, this will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.)

Superintendent Luna introduced the subcommittee chairs for the Technology Task Force Report: **Rep. DeMordaunt** chaired the One-to-One Governance and Instructional Integration Subcommittee; **Stefani Cook**, Idaho's 2011 Teacher of the Year, chaired the Classroom Technology Integration; **Jayson Ronk**, Vice President, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, chaired the Platform, Specifications, and Procurement Subcommittee; and **Andy Grover**, Superintendent of the Melba School District, chaired the Online Learning Implementation Subcommittee. Each chairman explained the composition and findings of his or her committee. (A detailed copy of the Power Point will be in the Committee Secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, this will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.)

MOTION: **Chairman Nonini** made a motion to accept the "Students Come First" report as presented. **Senator Mortimer** seconded the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

In response to a question from the joint committees, **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education, stated that adding 6 additional days for teacher professional development to the 180-day school year would cost \$22.7 million.

In response to questions from the joint committees, **Superintendent Luna** stated that 85% of teachers will receive merit pay in the Pay for Performance Plan because their performance would be based on leadership duties; hard-to-fill positions, as determined by local authorities; as well as student performance. In order to receive merit pay for student performance, a teacher's students must be in the top 75% of student academic growth. He also explained that there would be more education bills coming through the legislative process in 2012 and that some of the 2011 laws need adjustment. He said that in the past two months all districts have received the infrastructure for broadband connectivity and that every high school would have wireless connectivity before the laptops were distributed.

In response to further questions from the joint committees, **Superintendent Luna** explained that the education budget had been cut in the 2011 Legislative Session, however, during the summer, the projected shortfall proved inaccurate and educational funds were reinstated. He said that if teachers received less money it was a local decision. He also told legislators that a matrix would be constructed and would serve as the deciding standard for those wanting inclusion into the first third of the state's districts to receive the computer program. Factors such as readiness, desire to move forward, and regional balance would be considered. He also said if districts could raise the needed funds for the laptops and the accompanying program, not only could they receive the plan, but they could access the state's contract to finance the plan.

In response to questions from the joint committee regarding teacher pay and increased class sizes, **Superintendent Luna** explained that the funds provided by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) were not modified by "Students Come First." He said that additional money was available for school districts because the state no longer funded 99% protection and no longer offered retirement bonuses. He also stated that he could not guarantee that teachers would not be laid off. He said that the funds would be going to the districts, but district administrators and school boards would decide distribution.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the joint committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Representative Nonini
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary