

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW2
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour
- Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representatives Trail, Block, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nasset, Pence, Chew, and Cronin
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Representative Wills
- 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.
- Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Superintendent Luna**, Department of Education (DOE), to the committees.
- PRESENTATION:** **Superintendent Luna** thanked both committees for the opportunity to be here. He explained that he would first give an update regarding the Student Comes First Program, which each committee person would receive a written report. He will then give the report from the Technology Task Force and ask subcommittee chairs to speak.
- Superintendent Luna** stated that this was the most comprehensive education reform bill in the country. This will improve education for the Idaho student no matter where they live in Idaho. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachments #1 and #2).
- Superintendent Luna** then introduced the Technology Task Force Subcommittee Chairs. They are as follows: **Representative Reed DeMordaunt**, One-to-One Governance and Instructional Integration; **Stefani Cook**, Idaho's 2011 Teacher of the Year, Classroom Technology Integration; **Jayson Ronk**, from the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, Platform, Specifications, and Procurement; and **Andy Grover**, Melba School District Superintendent, Online Learning Implementation. Each addressed the area they led. Supporting documents related to their testimonies have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #2).
- Chairman Goedde** thanked the presenters and **Superintendent Luna**. He reminded the committees that each of them have been provided a report and encouraged them to read that for more details.
- MOTION:** **Chairman Nonini** thanked **Superintendent Luna** and his staff for their tremendous work on this report. He moved, seconded by **Vice Chairman Mortimer** that the Joint Education Committee approve the report as presented. The motion carried with a **voice-vote**.

QUESTIONS: **Chairman Goedde** opened the meeting up for questions. He asked **Jason Hancock**, DOE, based on **Ms. Cook's** recommendation for increased professional hours, to tell him how much would it cost the state if they added the 72 professional development hours to teachers' contracts. **Mr. Hancock** replied based on 180 day contract and add six more days to that contract the cost would be \$22.7 million.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked **Superintendent Luna** how did his office determine that 85 percent of the teachers in Idaho would receive the pay for performance bonus? Also, how does the Department of Education get the word out to teachers so that they can accurately understand pay for performance?

Superintendent Luna replied to the second question saying that it may come as a surprise but the DOE does not have teachers' contact information and it is very difficult to get the accurate information to teachers. **Superintendent Luna** stated that he has offered to go to every school district to speak to pay for performance and that he has gone to a few districts, but not all. They can also contact the DOE or go to the DOE website to better understand the options.

Mr. Hancock then replied to the question as to how 85 percent of teachers will receive bonuses. He stated there are two bars that teachers will have to hurdle. If a teacher is in the top 75 percent of schools when it comes to student academic growth then they receive participation measure. Then there is an excellence measure that the top 50 percent of schools receive. There is also a local plan for teachers to receive merit pay. Calibrating these numbers gives the number of 85 percent of total teachers teaching in Idaho. There are a variety of scenarios that will and can affect the teacher's pay. Having reviewed all the local plans, there will not be very many teachers not getting the bonus money.

Representative Nielson noted that when this reform is being rolled out there is going to have to be bills introduced to at least change education codes. How is that going to happen; before, during, or after? **Superintendent Luna** stated that both Education Committee chairs have been informed that there will be changes coming and that those code changes will happen along the way. **Representative Nielson** then asked will if recommendations taken from the department will be addressed to the concerned districts. **Superintendent Luna** said the department will be working to develop a statewide professional development plan. There will be stipends for trainers at the regional, district, and school levels to help facilitate this reform

Senator Malepeai thanked the Superintendent and all those who gave their time to get this report to the committees. He then asked **Superintendent Luna** if there are some districts that do not have the infrastructure to support this technology? **Superintendent Luna** replied that two months ago all high schools were hooked up to the Idaho Educational Network, therefore, the bandwidth for support is available. There will be full wireless access to all high schools and that is an expense to the state which will not be passed on to districts. **Senator Malepeai** then stated that teachers were the most critical of this legislation. What will the Student Comes First legislation do to teacher workloads? **Superintendent Luna** replied that whether this law was passed or not the funding for schools had been reduced. Less money has to do with the economy not the law. This past year there was an influx of \$60 million given to schools and that was more than what they received in the prior year. How districts spent their money was affected but the amount given to districts was not affected.

Representative Shirley said since each one of the committee members has a school district in their district that would like to be one of the first third to receive one-to-one devices, how will the department decide from the 81 letters which district will be selected? **Superintendent Luna** replied that demand far exceeds the supply. The department will put together a measurement matrix to determine which districts will get the one-to-one devices. He would like to have some regional balance making it better for those schools in different districts that rely on each other to broaden their educational offerings to more students.

Representative Thayne stated that a big portion of the money in the budget is spent on technology in the classroom. Is professional development going to be about training teachers in technology? **Superintendent Luna** stated that the \$13 million and the funds for One-to-One are there specifically to integrate and develop technology.

Senator LeFavour asked for him to better explain and clarify how the funding for education was routed. **Superintendent Luna** replied to her that the money appropriated to district was not affected by the Student Comes First legislation, but, how the money was spent was affected by the law. He then explained where DOE gathered the \$13 million to fund technology. He said the state no longer paid \$18,000 retirement bonuses to adults, it no longer gave 99 percent protection to the districts and those two omissions provided just about all the money necessary for technology. It also provided money for every Idaho high school junior to take the S.A.T. college entrance exam, for those high schools students who meet their graduation requirements early it provided the funding for the state to pay their college entrance exams. That money paid for far more than just technology.

Senator LeFavour replied that none the less funding was cut for teachers and spent on technology. **Superintendent Luna** responded that money was spent on transportation, benefits, and all other budgeted items. Clarification is important and it should be clarified that two months after the \$40 million cuts, \$60 million that was given to education due to unanticipated state revenue. That influx of funds should be included and clarified. Actual spending on education last year was not cut so let it be clarified it was increased.

Representative Chew stated that looking at the funding plan is there the assurance that no teachers will lose their jobs due to budget cuts. **Superintendent Luna** replied the DOE gives local districts the flexibility as to how they spend the money they receive from the state. Each district will receive the same amount for salaries and benefits as they received last year. It is up to the district how it is spent.

Representative Trail asked the hypothetical question if a district that is not selected in the first round of funding raises enough money to purchase one-to-one devices. Would DOE give them guidance so that they are on the same plan?

Superintendent Luna stated yes the department would provide the guidance and the district could get the state contracted price for the devices.

Chairman Goedde thanked **Superintendent Luna** and the task force committee chairs for their presentations.

ADJOURN;

Chairman Goedde adjourned the meeting at 5:07 P.M.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary