

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 09, 2012

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, Malepeai, and LeFavour

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:**

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.

MINUTES: **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** called **Garry Lough**, Idaho Education Network, to introduce **Jeff Piontek** from Hawaii via internet Skype. **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Mr. Piontek** to the committee. **Mr. Piontek** is an expert on online and blended learning; he has served on Hawaii's Workforce Development Council. Because of that focus he is speaking to the Education Committee to offer some insights. His experiences as an educational consultant helps him understand the economics of what the Idaho Education Network is experiencing as they work to connect high schools.

Prior to going to Hawaii he said he was the head of technology for the New York City Department of Education. In Hawaii, he is the Director of Science for the state and working with the governor to implement a STEM strategy to build more STEM programs in schools. He also opened a charter school in Hawaii which is the fastest growing charter school in the state.

Mr. Piontek said that he works with the development council of Hawaii. He also oversees the software media programs for the state, which with the economy the way it is, is the only sector that is growing in Hawaii. Because of that experience he started looking at how education and the economy tie hand in hand. As a country, when people converse about education, the economy should be included in the discussion. Growth, development and sustainability are the economic strategy.

Mr. Piontek said there are three pillars to education: economics, cultural, and personal. Everyone comes to education with a different expectation. Whether the student is in an "online" or in a "brick and mortar" school, they come with their own expectations as to what education will do for them and how it will serve them in the future.

In regards to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, he stated that Arts should also be added to make the program STEAM. He said the Arts are needed or education loses the creativity and innovative edge that students need in order to implement the other four fields of STEM.

He said the reason for education in the 1800's was a way to teach about agriculture in an agricultural economy. It is no longer that type of industry anymore. Education is the fundamental culture for the students. Cross cultural communication, collaboration, and the ability to understand the culture of other people around the world are skills they need.

People are the third aspect of the pillars. Many students drop out of school not because they are not engaged in school, but because education is a one size fits all box model that is the same as it was at the turn of the 20th century. Education today needs to be about the 21st century and the ability to engage students. It is about the student's own individual hopes, dreams and aspirations that make them desire education and have a passion for education.

Mr. Piontek said that the delivery systems for education need to be reviewed and changes should be made at all levels, including colleges and universities. Online learning is a big component for Idaho; being in the high schools and universities. He highlighted new delivery systems for education using robotics and the game "mousetrap." He stated it is nothing about the game but about learning how to problem-solve and critically think. Those are the skills people will need to compete in the next century.

Mr. Piontek referred to Daniel Pink's book "*A Whole New Mind*" which focuses on imagination and the need to integrate creativity into each person's workplace. He suggested that at universities' colleges of education there is some disconnect between what the students are learning to teach and what they really are expected to teach. They leave the university not knowing how to teach what districts expect. Teachers were once the keepers of knowledge. Now they need to be the facilitators of knowledge. Colleges do not give students the ability to be 21st century educators.

He then asked the audience to consider what society is really preparing students for when we can't tell a school from a prison. The world is made up of social media, which are strong tools for education. **Mr. Piontek** said mobile learning is the next chapter in education. There are schools that are starting with 5th and 6th graders with one to one mobile devices. The attempt to ban them is out of fear and teachers have to prepare the student for their future not the teacher's past. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #1).

Senator Andreason asked **Mr. Piontek** if a classroom teacher is more effective than the online teacher. **Mr. Piontek** replied it is difficult to manage a large classroom online. Online classrooms need to be manageable, no larger than a total of 300 students. Teachers still need the ability to know the student personally and if the classroom is too large that skill is lost. He then cited a study that asked students why they did well in a class and they replied, because their teacher cared for them. With that understanding it is important for student success that teachers know their students intrinsically.

Chairman Goedde asked the students in the audience who were allowed to use mobile computing devices to please raise their hands. There were very few hands raised. He then asked **Mr. Piontek** to explain how melding this information and knowledge can work for job creation. **Mr. Piontek** said that the information for people now is online and they broadcast that through Tweets and Facebook posts. In Hawaii, there is a displaced workers program that shoots specific emails to people with the skills to job openings. The schools are also opening up the technology labs for people to learn new skills and obtain training. This has been particularly good and needed during the recession.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked what advice **Mr. Piontek** would give teachers today, regarding technology in our day and what to expect in the future. **Mr. Piontek** said that teachers don't have to learn it all themselves. Students are experts, let them teach you. Understand what the tool you are using will do and then be an advocate for the children. Children learn in different ways and look at each piece of technology in the classroom to see how it can benefit each child. Teaching will never be an easy profession. If it is, you are doing it wrong. Technology can make a teacher's job much more efficient.

RS 20919

Chairman Goedde called **Darin DeAngeli**, Ahrens and DeAngeli LLC, to the podium to present **RS 20919**.

Mr. DeAngeli's firm's primary business focus is on trusts and estates representing a large number of donors and charities. The statute Uniform Prudent Management Institution of Funds Act (UPMIFA) it was enacted in 1996 and revised in 2007. This act brought charitable fund management into the twenty-first century. There are two major parts to the statute: how to use modern investment standards to manage the funds; and how to spend the funds. The current problem with the statute is many charities have very old contracts that specify how the money is to be spent and/or earned. Often those contracted requirements are no longer relevant or achievable, due to death of the donor or the change in investment practices. This revision operates to modify terms of very old contracts and to bring the contract into current relevant investment practices.

MOTION:

Senator Winder moved, seconded by **Vice Chairman Mortimer** to send **RS 20919** to print. Motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 394:

Chairman Goedde introduced **Tracie Bent**, State Department of Education, to present **H 394**.

Ms. Bent said **H 394** is a housekeeping bill to amend section 33-4104. This bill was first passed in 1969 encompassing the interstate agreement of educational personnel and to help with teacher mobility. The purpose of the bill was to have high standards for teachers across the state and to help with teacher mobility across state lines.

MOTION:

Senator LeFavour moved, seconded by **Senator Winder**, to send **H 394** to the floor with do pass recommendation. Motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator LeFavour** will carry the bill on the floor.

INTRODUCTION:

Senator Malepeai introduced a group of students from Hawthorn Junior High School, Pocatello, Idaho who were sitting in on the committee hearing.

PRESENTATION:

Chairman Goedde called **Laurie Boeckel**, Idaho Parent Teacher Association (IPTA), State President to the podium.

Ms. Boeckel passed out to the committee the talking points and read the initiatives of the IPTA to the committee. Supporting documents related to this testimony have been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #2).

Senator Pearce said this information is great. He asked **Ms. Boeckel** how does this committee, the legislature, and the IPTA get parents involved. It seems that the responsibility starts with the families. **Ms. Boeckel** replied there are many factors that will contribute to getting parents involved. Every community is unique for some it will be with programs and partnerships with schools, parents, and local community. Parents need to know that they are a part of the process.

Senator Pearce stated somehow this need should go back to where families teach each other. Our society needs to know how to be better involved as parents. Until core values are brought back there will not be much change.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked if **Ms. Boeckel** has been involved with any of the school districts discussion on teacher merit pay and parent evaluations. **Ms. Boeckel** replied the IPTA doesn't have a position on merit pay. There have been some PTA groups that have been involved in the discussion and others that have had no voice. Clearly there needs to have some improvement on parental input for merit pay.

Senator Toryanski stated that IPTA is very concerned about the resources that go into public education. He asked if the IPTA is concerned about the efficiency and effectiveness of education services delivered to the children of Idaho. **Ms. Boeckel** said IPTA believes that the services should be research based with accountability. IPTA does not support unfunded mandates from federal, state or local entities. The association recognized there are challenges across the state.

Chairman Goedde asked **Ms. Boeckel** to explain IPTA's position statement regarding Land Endowments and whether the association has discussed the effort to push forward land exchanges? **Ms. Boeckel** said IPTA as not taken a position specifically related to the land exchanges, as it understands there are challenges facing Idaho and would like the best for the schools and students.

Chairman Goedde stated that there has been discussion regarding money following the students in the form of a public voucher system. In the IPTA statement, it seems there are some conditions with diverting money from public education to private education. Does IPTA have a position on money following the student? **Ms. Boeckel** said IPTA believes that the funding for the child, no matter the cost should be made available. IPTA's support is for overall education and there are no specifics on how the money is spent.

Senator Fulcher asked if the IPTA has taken a position on the issue on charter schools and the cap on the number. **Ms. Boeckel** stated the IPTA supports education. The concern is equal funding for all and that parents have the choice as to where they send their children to school.

Senator Winder stated that after a couple of years on the Education Committee and not knowing achievement numbers between regular and charter schools, he got the Department of Education to widen their information. He asked them to update the numbers before the session is over. The previous numbers are pretty close to the current number. The statistics are available through the Department of Education.

ADJOURN: **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:47 P.M.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary