

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 13, 2012
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Wills and Bateman
- GUESTS:** Jennifer Swindell and Roger Quarles, Idaho Leads Project; Tamara Baysinger, Public Charter School Commission (PCSC); Bert Marley, Idaho Education Association (IEA); Tracie Bent and Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education (SBE); Luci Willits, State Department of Education (SDE); Benjamin Davenport, Risch Pisca; Jane Wittmeyer, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families (CICSF)
- Chairman Nonini** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Chew** moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21253:** **Rep. Shirley** presented **RS 21253**. He stated that teachers with less than three years of experience are not currently eligible for leadership awards. He believes that new teachers are capable of strong leadership. Newer teachers might have stronger technological skills than teachers who have been in place longer, and would, therefore, be able to lead in that area. **RS 21253** would allow teachers to be considered for leadership awards regardless of how long they have been teaching.
- Rep. Trail** stated that teacher turnover is highest in the first five years, and allowing new teachers to receive recognition for good work could help alleviate some of that turnover.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Trail** moved to introduce **RS 21253**.
- In response to questions, **Rep. Shirley** said that there is no fiscal impact. More teachers would be eligible for existing awards.
- VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 21253**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 20852:** **Tamara Baysinger**, Public Charter School Commission (PCSC), presented **RS 20852**. She stated that this amends Idaho Code Section 33-5208. It would establish more practical timelines for public hearings, clarify that full records will be considered by a hearing officer in the event of an appeal regarding the denial of a charter petition, and clarify the State Department of Education's role in providing technical assistance to petitioners and public charter schools. It would also restructure the flow of information within the chapter to a more logical order, remove redundant and outdated language, and make corrections to grammar and verbiage to improve clarity and consistency.
- In response to questions, **Ms. Baysinger** said that groups that would need to be involved in discussions include the Idaho School Boards Association, Idaho Charter School Network, and Idaho Charter School Families.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** moved to introduce **RS 20852**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Roger Quarles, Idaho Leads Project (ILP), Boise State University, gave a presentation to the committee. He stated that the purpose of the ILP is to help local K-12 school districts build leadership capacity, and to better ensure the success of Idaho's students. ILP's goals are to support and enhance the advancement of educational improvement, and to share best practices to all interested districts and their stakeholders in an easily accessible manner. These are accomplished through building relationships, using effective practices, managing change, and committing to continuous improvement. The ILP provides training for trustees, superintendents and teachers across Idaho. Participants in regional network meetings can define their priorities, identify what is working, and discover areas where improvements can be made. There is a strong focus on the use of technology, which allows for more and different visual aids, collaborative skills, and additional course offerings.

In response to questions, **Dr. Quarles** stated that teachers have the greatest impact on student learning. Answers to difficult questions are available online at any time, any day. The use of the internet is vital to our changing learning environment. The ILP is being funded by the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. Student engagement is about more than what adults want them to know; it's about what they want to know. Squelching things that engage students is counterproductive to their learning. Schedules can be modified and adjusted to allow for more collaboration periods. The ILP's goals are driven by research and commitment to the people who are involved. Dr. Quarles spoke of a "readiness to benefit", meaning a desire to be helped and embrace solutions immediately. He stated that we will never help all of Idaho's students unless we reach the bottom twenty percent (20%). Certain rural communities face challenges in the use of technology because broadband service is not available.

Responding to additional questions, **Dr. Quarles** stated that parents, students, superintendents, teachers and trustees participate together in the ILP's programs. He stated that new research indicates the biggest driver in student learning is the relationship between the teacher and the student. Real time sharing of information allows formative assessments to be created quickly. Teacher forums and networks support greater sharing of ideas.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Representative Nonini
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary