

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 09, 2012

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block (Block), Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Senator Goedde; Rob Winslow and Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Penni Cyr, Idaho Education Association (IEA); Luci Willits, State Department of Education (SDE)

Chairman Nonini called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1327: **Senator Goedde** presented **S 1327**, which amends provisions of Students Come First that were contained in **S 1108** (2011). Changes include allowing school districts to deliver teacher contracts electronically, allowing designees of school boards to declare a position vacant if a teacher contract is not returned in a timely manner, and allowing school districts to suspend employees in cases where a court order prevents the individual from being in contact with children or from being in contact with another employee at the same school. Additionally, the first portion of the required annual teacher evaluation must be completed by March 1st, rather than February 1st. Other changes are as follows: Reassigning an employee from an administrative position to a non-administrative position may include a change in contract terms; the parties to a Master Agreement must provide written notice of ratification activity; and the State Board of Education may promulgate rules relating to the implementation of school district collective bargaining laws. Also, the definition of "employee benefits" is limited to the items listed in statute.

In response to questions, **Senator Goedde** stated that requiring teacher evaluations to be completed by February 1st would mean that those evaluations were completed in January. He does not believe that anyone disagrees with allowing the additional month's time.

Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), spoke **in support** of **S 1327**. He stated that the IASA appreciates that the date for teacher evaluation completion was moved to allow additional feedback.

Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association, spoke **in support** of **S 1327**. She stated that the ISBA especially appreciates the clarification that employee benefits will be limited to items listed in statute.

In response to questions, **Ms. Echeverria** said that the term "open meetings" refers to meetings that are open to the public. She believes that this is clarified in administrative rule.

Penni Cyr, Idaho Education Association, stated that the IEA **opposes S 1327**.

MOTION: **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to send **S 1327** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Thayn** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1328: **Senator Goedde** presented **S 1328**, which amends provisions of Students Come First that were contained in **S 1184** (2011) to correct an allocation of funds for districts to meet the State's high school graduation requirements for math and science, allow students to participate in the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program if they meet their State graduation requirements prior to their final semester or trimester term, clarify that students do not need to complete their senior year math requirement in order to be eligible for the Dual Credit for Early Completers Program, and limit the number of online courses in which a parent can enroll a child without school district permission to no more than fifty percent (50%) of their courses. It would also require course providers to report attendance to each student's school district or public charter school, using one of the two methods provided by law.

In response to questions, **Senator Goedde** stated that questions about what would constitute more than fifty percent (50%) of online courses would be handled in rule. Homeschooled students may attend one or more classes in a traditional school, however, he believes that they are not required to have permission from their local school districts to complete the bulk of their courses on line. Students do not have to be high school seniors to take online classes.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **S 1328** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wills** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1329: **Senator Goedde** presented **S 1329**, which amends provisions of Students Come First that were contained in **S 1110** (2011). It clarifies that State-paid employees benefit apportionment is apportioned from the funds allocated for Pay for Performance. It also clarifies that academic growth calculations may be based on cohorts of students with similar scores, and that school administrators may only earn up to 1.0 local Student Achievement Awards share, as well as that Pay for Performance funds must be distributed to districts by no later than November 15th for payment. Additionally, the implementation date for the requirement that at least five percent (5%) of certificated school district staff pay be based on student performance is moved back one year.

Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), stated that the IASA is working with the State Department of Education to align the implementation date for the change to certificated school district staff, and appreciates the additional year that is provided in **S 1329**.

In response to questions, **Mr. Winslow** stated that time is necessary to ensure that the goals of teachers and central administrators are correctly aligned.

Luci Willits, State Department of Education (SDE), responded to questions. She stated that the word "similar" could be clarified in rule and brought back to the committee.

Senator Goedde responded to questions, stating that in regard to the Student Achievement Awards shares, if a local plan is adopted, an administrator is entitled to one local share, but if the State plan is adopted as a local plan, the state plan has two shares.

Luci Willits, State Department of Education (SDE), responded to a question. She explained that Pay for Performance contains both State and local sections. In order to receive a bonus, teachers must meet the qualifications in both. The change contained in this bill seeks to ensure that teachers receive one single bonus. All interested stakeholders are welcome to participate in discussions related to this legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to **HOLD S 1329** in committee to time certain, Monday, March 12, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Representative Nonini
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary