

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 28, 2012

TIME: 8:00 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:** Rep. Block (Block)

GUESTS: Robin Nettinga and Penny Cyr, Idaho Education Association; Jan Sylvester, citizen; Ray Amaya, KBOI 670 AM; Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Harold Ott, Idaho Association of Rural Schools; Jason Hancock, State Department of Education; Dave Goins, Idaho News Service

Chairman Nonini called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 698: **Chairman Nonini** presented **H 698**, explaining that this bill replenishes the money taken out of salary-based apportionment last year to pay for technology and performance issues. He pointed out that on page 2, lines 13 through 17, the reductions are removed. He also noted that on page 1, lines 35-36, the legislation changes the increase in minimum salary from one and one-half times the base salary to two times the base salary. This is intended to help increase the starting teacher salaries. Finally, on page 2, lines 19-24, **H 698** sets a policy whereby JFAC has some direction in terms of priorities for spending. The four sections listed in this portion of the bill refer to pay for performance, technology, dual credit for early completers, and the one-to-one laptop program. Chairman Nonini said both **Sen. Cameron** and **Sen. Goedde** support **H 698**, and Sen. Cameron has signed on as a co-sponsor. He invited committee members to become co-sponsors if they wished to do so, and he indicated he would be inviting the Senate co-sponsors of **S 1331** to also sign on as co-sponsors.

MOTION: **Rep. Marriott** made a motion to send **H 698** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Jason Hancock was recognized to respond to committee questions. He explained that the priorities listed on page 2, lines 19-14, are specified only for FY 2014 because that is the last year in which there will be a significant squeeze on those programs. After that date, the cost of Students Come First levels off and there will be no need to establish Legislative priorities for new money in the public schools budget. Mr. Hancock said he has not run projections on how entry-level teacher salaries will be affected by this legislation, but he said he does not expect this provision to come into effect for several years. He said Pay for Performance will be funded first, and then both the base and minimum salaries have to be returned to the 2009 level.

Responding to concerns about the beginning teacher salary remaining the same for nine years, **Mr. Hancock** said that in reality the minimum salary has never stayed the same for that period of time because when the Legislature appropriates additional money, the minimum is increased. He stated last year's minimum of \$30,000 will be \$30,600 next year. Mr. Hancock said the way to differentiate a new

teacher from one who has several years of experience and who is receiving the same minimum pay is through pay-for-performance measures. Beginning in FY 2014, each district will have leadership dollars available to award a teacher whose performance is exceptional. These leadership award decisions will be made by the Board of Trustees of each district.

Karen Echevarria, representing the Idaho School Boards Association, testified **in support of H 698**, stating that it meets the intent of a resolution passed by the Association's membership.

Rob Winslow, representing the Executive Director of the Idaho Association of School Administrators, testified **in support of H 698**. Mr. Winslow stated the bill addresses a significant legislative priority of the Association and they are in full support.

Jason Hancock, State Department of Education, testified **in support of H 698**, noting that both the Department and Superintendent Luna support this legislation. Mr. Hancock said the Department has supported all of this year's legislative efforts that have tried to address the fifth factor issue, and said this bill is probably the best of the three attempts.

In response to further questions from the committee, **Mr. Hancock** said the \$54 million increase in the schools budget last year was a one-time extra distribution and is not included in this year's budget. He said the federal stimulus dollars which have been available over the past few years are going away, but additional state funds have more than replaced the federal dollars.

Paul Headlee, Legislative Services Office, was recognized to respond to questions. Mr. Headlee explained that when the minimum salary is increased without increasing the base salary, this will have the effect of slowing down the progression of some individual teachers on the pay grid. He said the way around this problem is to increase both the minimum and the base. This legislation will slightly increase the number of cells on the pay grid.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Nonini called for a vote on the motion to send **H 698** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Pence, Chew and Cronin** requested that they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Nonini** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 a.m.

Representative Bob Nonini
Chairman

MaryLou Molitor
Secretary