

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, January 08, 2013
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, Durst, Buckner-Webb
- 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.
- CONVENE:** **Chairman Goedde** called the **Education Committee** to order at 3:03pm. A silent roll was taken.
- Chairman Goedde** directed Committee Members to information provided by the Legislative Education Staff Network concerning current educational issues. **Chairman Goedde** also referred the Committee to a list of team assignments for the purpose of Rules Review over the next three Committee meetings.
- After introductions of new staff and audience members, **Chairman Goedde** asked each Committee member to give a brief perspective on the upcoming session and their individual goals.
- Vice-Chairman Mortimer** expressed his pleasure with the interest that is being taken in education as evidenced, in part, by Idaho Business for Education and the Albertson Foundation in their presentations this week. **Vice-Chairman Mortimer** has attended several education conferences to gain perspective on how Idaho compares to other states in supporting students and their achievements. **Vice-Chairman Mortimer** anticipates significant legislation on different aspects of the educational community, and looks forward to the stakeholders' and constituents' active participation.
- Senator Fulcher** expressed his thanks to **Chairman Goedde** and **Vice-Chairman Mortimer** for their continued pursuit of fresh ideas both in and out of session. **Senator Fulcher** said that he has no "agenda" for this session, but rather, looks forward to working with the Committee and stakeholders to best promote education in the State.
- Senator Patrick**, who has served on both the House Education Committee as well as the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee, stated that he, too, has no personal agenda, but recognizes that the Committee needs to address areas of concern left by the defeat of Propositions 1, 2 and 3. He also praised the presentation by the Albertson Foundation..
- Senator Thayn** has served the House Education Committee and expressed his appreciation for now serving on the Senate Education Committee. He looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of the current Session. He recognizes that education is in transition and looks forward to his participation.
- Senator Pearce** joined with others in expressing his disappointment at the failures of Propositions 1, 2 and 3, and wishes in the coming Session to "do right by the children of Idaho". He notes the Committee's great obligation to improve the education system and appreciates the sincerity of all Committee members.

Senator Nonini, who also has served on the House Education Committee, expressed his belief that "policy drives budget". Since the greatest part of the State's budget is with Education, he feels that the Education Committees of the Senate and the House are the two most important Committees in the Legislature.

Senator Durst agrees with the desire to do what is right for Idaho's students, both at an early age and going forward. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Committee.

Senator Buckner-Webb expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Senate Education Committee. She has heard numerous conversations across the State from people in communities saying that education is foundational to Idahoans and that what The Committee does this year, and in the coming year, leaves a legacy for the future. She looks forward to collaboration, cooperation, investigation, inspiration and innovation in working on the Committee.

Chairman Goedde addressed the Committee, noting that short-term solutions need attention in order to correct the Code, and he believes those solutions will be worked out in policy made, rather than in the budget received. **The Chairman** noted other areas of focus, including Common Core State Standards. He does not believe any of Idaho's schools are ready develop their curriculum in compliance with those standards and that emphasis will be needed in professional development.

Chairman Goedde stated that Idaho is part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. In 2014, schools will implement computer adapted tests. Therefore, every school must have computers with appropriate bandwidth to be successful in this transition. **Chairman Goedde** further voiced concern with student remediation. North Idaho College has founded a remarkable program; changes are being made in other institutions as well, and the Committee may look forward to presentations by these institutions on their programs.

Chairman Goedde affirmed his belief that we can effect change in our schools while also providing educators with professional development in the areas impacted. He encourages a discussion of professional development – what does and what doesn't work – to assist districts in adopting change.

Professional development means introducing into the classroom those skills educators need to effectively teach. New teachers ought not need professional development, however, they might require mentoring. **The Chairman** has posed several questions to each institution which will provide a picture of those means most effective in producing good teachers. Through collaboration, he hopes they can implement ideas that are working effectively among them.

Chairman Goedde closed with the assurance that he will provide the Committee with information gleaned through his contacts both statewide and nationally. He also reciprocates with education partners, trustees and administrators. **The Chairman** agrees that areas of education policy will have significant impact and that the challenge will be to balance the Committee and the Governor's forum. He suggests that there is more than one way to reach consensus.

Chairman Geodde asked if there were any further remarks or questions.

Senator Durst raised a question on the process of Rules Review. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** clarified that in assigning teams, each team will explore their assigned rules in depth and make recommendations to the Committee.

ADJOURN: Having no further business, **Chairman Geodde** adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary