

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 15, 2013

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, Durst and 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.

CONVENED: **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and a silent roll was taken. He then called attention of the committee to several documents in their folders pertaining to the Idaho Attorney General opinions on questions remaining after repeal of the Students Come First laws, as well as information as to who is allowed to have weapons in schools.

PASSED THE GAVEL: **Chairman Goedde** passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Mortimer**.

RULES REVIEW: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** suggested rules review begin by revisiting items held from January 14, 2013.

DOCKET NO. 08-0202-1203 **Luci Willits**, State Department of Education (SDE), briefly described how the SDE is allowed to incorporate manuals by reference, especially those of large size. The language is reviewed by both the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) They review twenty percent of the manuals each year. This year's review concerns (1) teacher preparation and certification, and (2) teacher ethics.

The new changes primarily dealt with adjustments in Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and were adopted from the Council of Chief State Officers based on principles developed by the Interstate Teacher Assessment Support Consortium (INTASC) to address the absence of new standards for K-12 teachers since 1992. Most of these standards were basic and did not need to be rewritten for Idaho. All standards adopted nationally by INTASC were included. In addition, "teacher leader" standards are new and important, and recognize teachers who excel at their profession. These standards also are included in the manual.

Vice Chairman Mortimer introduced **Christina Linder**, Idaho State Department of Education Director of Certification and Standards who addressed several questions of the committee. She stated that the new standards apply both to traditional and alternate forms of certification. Alternate forms of certification are effective and have been vetted by the Professional Standards Authorization Committee. **Ms. Linder** stated that the manual is used by administrators to determine standards for employment; and while not given to new teachers, the manual is available online.

Senator Nonini expressed concern with portions relating to world language. He questioned how an institution might prepare teachers to educate students about cultures which possibly are hostile to the United States and western views. He was concerned with the freedom given to a university professor under the current standards to teach hatred of the United States using the veil of cultural sensitivity. **Chairman Goedde** agreed that flexibility could allow objectionable views on an individual basis. Both **Ms. Willits** and **Ms. Linder** agreed to supply more information to the committee, and **Chairman Goedde** suggested that action on this rule be postponed until that information was obtained.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0202-1204**

Ms. Willits stated that changes under this rule dealt with three major categories: (1) the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction course; (2) the definition of "Master Teacher"; and (3) clarification of various certificates pertaining to early childhood education. **Senator Durst** questioned if the designation of "Master Teacher" might put rural schools at a compliance disadvantage due to lack of an adequate teacher pool. **Ms. Willits** replied that this rule has existed for some time. Master Teachers are not required, but districts should encourage teachers to enhance their abilities. **Ms. Linder** stated that the designation of "Master Teacher" also would require a master's degree for which teachers would be properly recognized.

MOTION:

Chairman Goedde moved, seconded by **Senator Buckner-Webb**, to approve Docket No. 08-0202-1204. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0203-1202**

Ms. Willits explained that this rule change inserted language pertaining to adolescent relationship abuse and sexual assault prevention and would require all school districts to create a specific policy in their individual districts as part of "school climate" which was discussed in depth on January 14, 2013. As requested by the committee, **Ms. Willits** continues to collect information on "gun-free schools" also iterated under this section.

MOTION:

Senator Durst moved, seconded by **Senator Nonini**, to approve Docket No. 08-0203-1202. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0203-1205**

Ms. Willits introduced the rule pertaining to the Adoption of 2012 World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Standards, another manual incorporated by reference. WIDA, similar to PSC was created by an outside agency, The Wisconsin Center for Educational Research with the help of teachers. The WIDA details the goals expected of teachers and how they go about achieving these goals. SBE deemed these standards adequate for Idaho and made no changes. **Senator Thayn** asked about the relationship between WIDA and CCSS. **Ms. Willits** advised that the WIDA standards need to be consistent with CCSS. She introduced **Nicole Hall**, Assessment Coordinator for the SDE who further advised that training for these standards, funded from Title III, begins in February and concludes in April. The training occurs primarily in larger school districts, and those trained this year will train others next year.

MOTION:

Senator Durst moved, seconded by **Chairman Goedde**, to adopt Docket No. 08-0203-1205. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0204-1201**

Tamara Baysinger, Director for Public Charter School Commission, explained the changes to the rules, definitions and requirements governing public charter schools. These changes were enacted to ensure that more clarity and understanding was available to petitioners for public charter schools and to reduce redundancy in application process. All of these changes were enacted with the goal of producing more public charter schools. After a detailed review of each change, **Ms. Baysinger** stated that most changes reflected statutory changes. She confirmed that the appeals process would require a charter school applicant to start over if the appeals process failed. She also confirmed that charter schools had been given a chance to comment on the changes, but no one had responded.

MOTION: **Senator Thayne** moved, seconded by **Chairman Goedde**, to approve Docket No. 08-0204-1201. The motion carried by **voice vote**, with **Senators Nonini, Durst** and **Buckner-Webb** dissenting.

DOCKET NO. 08-0301-1201 **Ms. Baysinger** noted that the changes in this rule governing the Public Charter School Commission were directed toward reducing waste and providing clarity to potential petitioners of public charter schools. The changes also streamline the application process. **Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer** and **Senator Fulcher** asked several clarifying questions. One substantive change no longer requires the charter school authorizer to collect evidence that the public charter school is in compliance with local, state and federal law. Instead they must only be required to show evidence that the charter complies with all laws if requested to do so.

Ms. Baysinger further stated that new items were included in the petition to ensure that inexperienced individuals petitioning the Commission as a board understand all of the ethical standards required of them and have a plan to use them. She hopes to make these standards more accessible to the public as well. Ethical standards exist for educators in general, but charter school boards generally are closer to operations of school than a district board. **Ms. Sylvester**, a citizen, came forward to explain that members of local school districts are elected, and as such, they must follow the ethics of an elected official. Members of a charter school board, on the other hand, are self appointed or appointed by elections within the school itself. **Senator Fulcher** questioned what would happen if an entity provided a description of ethical standards which the Commission found inappropriate. **Ms. Baysinger** said the goal would be to find common ground between the Commission and the petitioner. The statute leaves open the reasons authorizers can deny a petition, but the action would have to be egregious.

Chairman Goedde asked if the amended rules made a burden on a charter to report budget in Idaho Financial Accounting Reporting Management System (IFARMS) and then report to the Commission in a different format. **Ms. Baysinger** explained that the purpose of the request allows the Commission and the school to look at the budget more like a business than a school since public charter schools are very similar to small businesses.

MOTION: **Chairman Goedde** moved, seconded by **Senator Thayne**, to approve **Docket No. 08-0301-1201**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 47-0101-1202 **Senator Durst** noted that this rule had been incorrectly cited on the Agenda. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** therefore held discussion until the following day.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1203 **Chairman Goedde** informed the committee that he had requested information from the SBE pertaining to this rule and had not yet received it. He suggested that the rule be heard, but a vote postponed until he had received a letter from the SBE. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** agreed. **Ms. Willits** stated that Docket No. 08-0203-1203 deals with online and mathematics course requirements. Even though they are two separate items, they have been merged into one rule. The online course requirement for graduation has been deleted in accordance with Proposition 3's failure last November. Wording has been added to the current mathematics rule to allow students, who had exhausted all avenues of math courses, exemption from math in their senior year as is now required. The timing for this temporary rule is important since this is the first year for new math and science requirements.

Chairman Goedde believes this rule should be rejected as he is a supporter of online requirements. He explained the original rule had an asynchronous requirement which was opposed by many people. If the proposed rule were rejected, this part of the original rule would come back into play. He hoped that the SBE would respond to his request for more detail in writing. He would recommend approval of the rule if certain wording in the letter was met. **Senator Durst** expressed opposition to the rule requiring online education. **Ms. Willits** acknowledged **Chairman Goedde's** desire to wait on voting until the SBE presented more detail to the committee.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0202-1205**

Ms. Willits presented Docket No. 08-0202-1205, concerning teacher and principal evaluations, and explained that the State Department of Education values teacher and principal evaluations a great deal. The rule in question would extend this standardized evaluation process to administrators with some changes made in response to the November 2012 elections. **Chairman Goedde** noted that the opposition to this rule stemmed from the requirement of administrators to show proof of competency in teacher evaluations. These administrators vociferously debated the rule, but it was something that **Chairman Goedde** felt must be present in an education system. **Rob Winslow**, Executive Director of the Idaho Association of School Administrators, explained some of the rule's history. Several superintendents had problems with the rule. To address this, **Mr. Winslow** wrote a letter detailing to those concerned that some problems had been noticed and requesting that all parties involved would work together to ameliorate them. **Mr. Winslow** explained that some problems dealt with the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), since it was difficult to measure effectiveness of teachers whose students do not take the test, yet the federal government requires the ISAT be involved to some degree. Also, the evaluation of performance needed to more clearly state evidence by which it could be measured, especially for administrators. It was not clear how the Danielson framework for teacher evaluation would fit in with administrator evaluation. Several additional problems dealing with learning plans, formative observations and State Department approval were mentioned. **Chairman Goedde** stated that this effort must move forward and he looked forward to receiving more information.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to **Chairman Goedde**.

ADJOURNED:

Having no further business before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:58 p.m. until Wednesday, January 16, 2013.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary