

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 29, 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** convened the meeting at 3:02 p.m. and a silent roll was taken.

**S 1028** **Chairman Goedde** informed the committee that the Department of Education is required by statute to provide a full report prior to voting on this legislation. The 2012 report is complete, but the 2013 report will not be available for several days. Consequently, a vote would not be held on **S 1028** at this meeting. Because presenters and a testifier were present at the meeting, the committee would hear the presentation and testimony at this time and the legislation would be voted on when the 2013 report is available.

**Senators Durst** and **Thayn** presented **S 1028**, relating to the Mastery Advancement Program (MAPP). **Senator Durst** said the bill would remove the word "pilot", open the program to all schools in Idaho, and repeal the sunset clause. **Senator Thayn** said the original legislation was introduced and passed in 2009, which consisted of two parts: (1) Allowed students to challenge classes for credit toward early graduation, and (2) Created a scholarship from unspent Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funding. **Senator Thayn** reported that the scholarship part has been working well but said in the Boise school district, of 79 qualified students, only 39 took advantage of the scholarships.

**Senator Durst** said the advantages of the program are cost-savings, compared to what the state would have paid in ADA funds, and creation of an incentive for students to go on to higher education. It also serves as an incentive for students to adopt a "worker" mentality.

A question-and-answer period ensued regarding scope of the program (open to all students, K-12), student interest, and number of schools participating (about 17).

**TESTIMONY:** **Mr. Dean Jones**, Boise School District, reported on the program's positive results and increased student participation.

**Chairman Goedde** thanked the presenters and Mr. Jones and reminded the committee that **S 1028** would be back for a vote when the Department of Education has completed its 2013 report.

**PRESENTATION:** **Mr. Alan Dornfest**, Property Tax Policy Supervisor, Idaho State Tax Commission, reported on the impact of personal property tax repeal on education and referred the committee to the handouts (Attachment No. 1). He presented an overview of how general property tax operates. The taxing system determines how much is needed, then a taxable value is set as the tax rate. If a portion of the tax is defined as personal property, the denominator can be lowered. He gave the example of how tax rates increased when home values decreased due to the economic recession. He said the definition of personal property is critical when creating the tax rate.

Relative to school districts, **Mr. Dornfest** spoke of maintenance and operation taxes where rates are applied to prior years' values, the exceptions being Boise and Lewiston school districts, which are charter districts. Mr. Dornfest said that the state could provide replacement, but if not, levy rates would increase. The emergency fund levy limit might prevent a rate increase in that fund." **Chairman Goedde** asked if the taxes would be on a reduced basis if personal property tax base were to be eliminated, thereby raising the rate. **Mr. Dornfest** said that the deficiency would be replaced with the emergency fund rate. **Mr. Dornfest** answered questions regarding rate capping and levies. In summary, **Mr. Dornfest** said that if the personal property tax were repealed, education dollars would either be lost, replaced or redirected.

**Chairman Goedde** thanked Mr. Dornfest for the information, which he said would provide an overview for the committee when new provisions on personal property taxes were made in the future.

**PRESENTATION: Ms. Sharon Harrigfeld**, Director, Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, provided an overview of the history of the Juvenile Corrections Department and reviewed the 2012 annual report on education programs and student achievement. She also described in detail the daily structured curriculum and activities for juvenile correctional facilities. **Mr. James Pannell**, Director of the Juniper Hills School, presented information on his facility. Idaho Juvenile Corrections currently has 186,000 children aged 10 to 17 in three state-run institutions and 5,000 children on probation. The three facilities consist of fully accredited schools.

Committee members asked questions relative to mental health, substance abuse, cost-effectiveness of in-house staff versus outsourcing, training for clinicians and socialization programs. **Chairman Goedde** thanked the presenters for the information.

**PRESENTATION: Mr. Nick Smith** of the State Department of Education, presented an overview of Idaho's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Waiver and the Five Star Rating System. The purpose of the Waiver from a federal standpoint is (1) to bridge the gap while congress works to reauthorize No Child Left Behind (NCLB), (2) to provide additional flexibility to states and districts, and (3) to align states to Race to the Top initiatives. From the state's standpoint, the purpose is (1) to establish a new higher level of accountability in determining a school's performance, (2) to align Idaho's accountability system with Students Come First, Race to the Top, and ESEA components and (3) to implement a comprehensive plan for public education in Idaho.

A thorough question-and-answer period ensued relative to the rating system, awards, scoring of urban versus suburban populations, student growth, timing and process. **Mr. Smith** said student achievement and growth are a large part of the evaluation. Teacher and principal evaluation was discussed at length, including multiple measures of evaluation, student input and portfolios. He stressed that all measures must be valid and reliable and will include proficiency assessments for both teachers and administrators or required training.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business to come before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

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Senator Goedde  
Chairman

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Elaine Leedy  
Secretary