

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 05, 2013

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Patrick, Thayn, 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 3:10 p.m. and reviewed handouts. A silent roll was taken.

RS 21773 **Senator Heider** presented **RS 21773** which amends Idaho Code § 33-205 giving authority to the board of trustees to deny enrollment to any pupil found guilty of a crime of violence or who was imprisoned for one year or longer. **Senator Heider** said this legislation would alleviate problems encountered when felons return to the school system and engage in gangs, drugs and other harmful behavior. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

MOTION: **Senator Fulcher** moved to print **RS 21773**. **Senator Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 21833 **Senator Thayn** presented **RS 21833** which amends Idaho Code § 33-1004 so that a district may use a portion of instructional staff allowance for visits between the teacher and the parents or guardians. The legislation also makes a technical correction. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

Senator Thayn said the legislation will allow time during the first week of kindergarten for a visit between parents and teachers as a way to form a partnership. He said the bill is not mandated and may be used at the teachers' discretion. Vice Chairman Mortimer questioned the one-week time frame and said that two or three weeks would perhaps be better. **Senator Thayn** replied that teachers do use more time on their own when needed, but a paid week of parent-teacher visits would be of additional help.

MOTION: **Senator Nonini** moved to print **RS 21833**. **Senator Fulcher** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman Goedde turned the meeting over to **Vice Chairman Mortimer** in order to present the next two RS's.

RS 21889 **Senator Goedde** presented **RS 21889** which relates to education and graduation requirements and amends Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code by the addition of new section, § 33-1614A, to provide for the reading and comprehension of "Atlas Shrugged," as a requirement for high school graduation. There is no fiscal impact to the state. At the local school district level, the cost of the book, either paper or digital, would have an impact, but the instruction time could be incorporated into both economics and English instruction.

Senator Goedde said this requirement would help combat society's growing indifference toward accepting personal responsibility. **Senator Nonini** asked about, and the committee discussed, the selection of this work.

- MOTION:** **Senator Fulcher** moved to print **RS 21889**. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 21779** **Senator Goedde** presented **RS 21779** which amends Idaho Code § 33-357 to provide that both a district's annual budget as well as certain master labor agreements be included on the district's website. Fiscal impact would include minor cost of including digital copies.
- MOTION:** **Senator Pearce** moved to print **RS 21779**. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. the motion carried by **voice vote**.
- Vice Chairman Mortimer** returned the meeting to **Chairman Goedde**.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Todd Schwarz**, Administrator of the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE). **Dr. Schwarz** described how PTE focuses on skills and careers in the real world.
- Dr. Schwarz** referred the committee to the 2012 Annual Report (Attachment No. 1) and reviewed programs of study, study framework, services, enrollments and funding. The State General Fund and federal resources were the two primary funding sources for PTE, including funds appropriated by the Idaho legislature (81.75 percent of the PTE budget).
- Postsecondary professional-technical education is delivered through Idaho's six technical colleges. Over 6,300 students participated in Adult Basic Education (ABE) through six regional ABE centers, 40+ outreach centers, department of correction institutions, jails and juvenile corrections facilities. **Dr. Schwarz** said placement statistics are positive; 54.5 percent of students obtained training-related employment, and students pursuing additional education increased by 4 percent from fiscal year (FY) 2007 to FY 2012. He said PTE's goals include hands-on education, critical thinking, innovation, workplace readiness and increased earning capability.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Steve Albiston**, President of the Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC), reviewed the mission of EITC to provide superior educational services in a positive learning environment that champions student success and regional workforce needs. EITC's geographic reach includes the nine adjacent counties and Bingham County. He described the outreach and instruction programs, enrollment and graduates for FY 2012. Scholarships for FY 2012 were funded by the EITC Foundation and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation.
- Questions were asked regarding enrollment, waiting lists, GED graduates' appreciation of higher education and the potential for establishing a community college in eastern Idaho.
- PRESENTATION:** **Mr. Peter Morrill**, General Manager of Idaho Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) reviewed the broad range of services and entertainment provided by the PBS station, including full coverage of the Idaho Legislative sessions, which now includes reception via portable devices. He said local funding provides 65% of its revenues. In November Idaho PBS was rated the number one most viewed station per capita in the nation. Several local programs also have won numerous awards. **Mr. Morrill** said he had requested a budget increase, which was not approved by the governor. Areas at risk are in capital replacement, repairs and maintenance. The station will be completely digital in two years, which will require analog deconstruction projects. He said the station's business model is lean to provide quality programs at the least cost possible.

Senator Durst asked about the possibility of providing a channel specifically for children that airs during the most suitable time for children. **Mr. Morrill** said the station does have one channel that provides this service but it is distributed only to cable subscribers. Overall, however, he said 10.5 hours of children's programming are aired daily. **Mr. Morrill** closed his presentation with a brief clip on the Oregon Trail from Outdoor Idaho. **Chairman Goedde** thanked Mr. Morrill for his informative and entertaining presentation.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary