

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 11, 2013

**TIME:** 4:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** WW02 Auditorium

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayne, Patrick, Durst, and Buckner-Webb

Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc and Ward-Engelking

**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 DeMordaunt** called the Joint Education Meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. He welcomed the guests and explained the rules and protocol of the hearing. He then yielded the floor to Co-Chairman Goedde.

**Co-Chairman Goedde** explained that the Idaho School Board Association brought seven proposed bills before the House and Senate committees for their consideration. Stakeholders involved were: Parent Teacher Association, Rural School Administrations, Urban School Administrators and the Idaho Education Association (IEA). He said the new proposed legislation contains better language, and, as the bills come through the two committees, a public hearing will again be held. He noted the Governor's Task Force has completed its third meeting. During those sessions, the task force determined that labor relationships were out of their scope of review. Presently, five subcommittees are looking at school improvements, and several good recommendation are coming out of those meetings.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY:** **Robin Nettinga**, Executive Director, IEA, said she respected and valued the legislative process. She said the task force needed time and space, and she felt that authentic discussion had not been provided. She stated that the defeat of Propositions 1, 2, and 3 during the November election suggested that public support would be lacking for the 2013 proposed legislation. She said that without public buy-in, change will not be embraced, and she fears that the task force risks failure. **John Olovich**, representing himself, told the committee that passing legislation prior to task force findings, would threaten success of representative reform. He said he was concerned that continued passage of legislation without stakeholder input would put a burden on school districts.

**Anne Ritter**, President, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) and Trustee of Joint School District No. 2, Meridian, explained that the governor has asked the ISBA to take the leadership role on labor issues. She said that if remaining funds from Students Come First were reallocated, the fiscal health of the school districts would be threatened.

**Rob Winslow**, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators, explained he represented the superintendents and principals of Idaho's school districts.

**Representative JoAn Wood** explained the challenges facing Idaho's rural schools. **Erika Kemery**, Superintendent and Principal, South Lemhi School District 292, also spoke of the problems facing the rural schools. She said South Lemhi is a 4-star remote district with two school buildings 25 miles apart: one is 100 years old and one is about 55 years old. There are a total of 82 students from an area of 22 square miles. She noted that passage of the 2012 propositions has left many districts in jeopardy. She also said House Bill 69 did not provide enough funding to meet the cumbersome, financial emergency conditions. She stated it is the legislature's constitutional duty to maintain the system of public, free common schools and urged lawmakers to provide the much needed fiscal stability and the critical flexibility in teacher contracts and operational funds. **Christy Castro**, Troy School District, said his district had 317 students. She focused on the problems of low income students and the need to cut services and positions in the rural schools.

**Amy Pancheri**, Butte County High School, **Sandra Merrick**, Boise School District teachers, **Deb Foster**, ISBA, Leadore School District, **Gail Chumbley**, Eagle High School, and **Chris Stokes**, representing himself, addressed the problem of retaining the best and brightest teachers in Idaho. They were concerned with class size, demands on teachers, low morale and failure to champion the great things teachers do for children and the community. **Ms. Chumbley** and **Mr. Stokes** expressed concern that an adversarial atmosphere existed between teachers and management during bargaining. **Ms. Merrick** asked lawmakers to restore respect for teachers and to prioritize children over politics. **John McCostie**, representing himself, said teachers and students should be given funding priority and that equality of opportunity is a basic public responsibility. He asked the committees to abide by the November election mandate.

**Spencer Larson**, Butte County, spoke of the dwindling tax base. **Karen Pyron**, Superintendent Mackay School District 182; **Scott Rogers**, **Ron Perrenoud**, Superintendent and principal, Ririe School District 252; and **Tammy Stevens**, Trustee Minidoka School District asked legislators to review the tax structure and provide adequate school funding. **Ms. Stevens** said technology was vital for poorer populations and districts. **Superintendent Pyron** supports new technology. She also said that pay for performance has been success in her district. She said equity in funding is partially achieved by providing local flexibility, but some form of equity in the tax base is needed. She cited the local taxing abilities, and agreed with **Dallas Clinger** and **Christy Castro** that the loss of business-personal property tax would put a burden on school districts.

**Dave Wagers**, **Scott Thomson**, **Dan Nicklay**, **Kelly Trudeau**, **Amber Scott Wilson**, **Allen Millar**, **Luda Miller**, **Heather Dennis** and **Troy Schultz** represented Idaho Charter Schools. They testified that Idaho charter schools are placed at a disadvantage without equal unit funding, without facilities funding, and with no ability to levy taxes. **Mr. Wagers**, Idaho Candy Company, said he sees the charter school business model as unsustainable. **Ms. Trudeau** said the charter school gives choice to parents whose children have different learning styles. She added charter schools cannot receive property taxes, only entitlement funds. The Albertson's Foundation and other benefactors were acknowledged for their contributions to keep some charter schools open.

**Jerry Helgeson** described his discussion with a Bosnian student. He told the committees that other countries have different ways of accomplishing student achievement. He asked for collaboration to continue and paraphrasing President John F. Kennedy, he told the committees: "We choose to become a leader in education change, not because it is easy but because it is hard." **Cherri Sabala**, Northwest Professional Educators (NPE), said that their survey showed that most educators support increased access to technology but do not support mandated online classes. She added that 61 percent of her organization does not support the policy retaining teachers solely on the basis of seniority, and 91 percent support requiring a local association. She did not support online schooling.

**Gloria Tortoriquena**, representing iSchool Campus, explained the importance of technology and suggested the use of pilot programs as a way of reducing wasteful spending redundancy.

**Brian Duncan**, Minidoka County Joint School District 331, said he favored Propositions 1, 2, and 3. **Mr. Duncan** noted good management practices have to be separated from personal relationships. **Todd Wells**, Castleford School District Trustee, said teacher negotiations since the propositions had been civil and more fiscally healthy for the district. **Superintendent Scott Rogers**, Minidoka County Joint School District 331, told the committees the funding of schools at an adequate level does not mean funding the status quo. He said schools are eager to implement technology, maintain higher learning standards, and reward good teachers. He added, when finances become scarce, energy is placed on survival, not change. He asked that "use it or lose it" be removed from school funding policy. He said reforms will benefit all stakeholders.

**Ryan Kerby**, Superintendent of New Plymouth School District, and **Galen Smyer**, Superintendent Cassia School District, described their success in implementing the Common Core State Standards. They agreed that districts must have control of funds and the ability to adjust of salaries. **Joesph Kren**, Superintendent, St. Maries Joint School District 41, described the challenges of running a supplemental levy in a period of declining enrollment. He said operational expenses do not go down. He asked for adequate funding.

**Laurie Kiester**, Columbia High School, told the committees she had spent several years researching school structure and achievement studying education in countries like Finland. She has formulated an educational plan and said she would like to present it before the education committees.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business to come before the joint committees, **Chairman DeMorduant** adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

---

Senator Goedde  
Chairman

---

Elaine Leedy  
Secretary