

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 12, 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 3:00 p.m. and welcomed Ms. Julie Best, Communications Director, Idaho Education Network (IEN).
- PRESENTATION:** **Ms. Julie Best** opened her presentation by stating that IEN is first and foremost a network that provides access, collaborations and opportunities for students in Idaho. She recognized the IEN team, the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) and students at Homedale High School and referred the committee to the IEN handouts (Attachment No. 1).
- Ms. Best** gave an example of how the Homedale school has used IEN technology to provide students with dual credit Calculus and dual credit science classes via two effective Idaho teachers, Dave Gural and Sandy Powell. Using the overhead projector, she illustrated how an IEN classroom works in a "receive room" layout in the library. The IEN has deployed 241 video teleconference units. This school year is the IEN's first full year with all video teleconference units deployed. Last fall over 60 percent of the units deployed were used regularly; about 30 percent were used occasionally; and fewer than 10 percent of the units were not currently in use.
- Dave Gural uses IDLA's video teleconference room on a daily basis, which allows him to accommodate Homedale's schedule. He is currently teaching seven students dual credit Calculus 1. Sandy Powell provides dual credit physics to Homedale students using video conferencing. She teaches 12 students in Emmett and three in Homedale. Both of these teleconferencing teachers are adjunct faculty at Boise State University (BSU). BSU offers dual credit courses to students around the state. This fall, 1,850 students participated in 178 classes of which over 65 percent were dual credit or advance placement, and awarded 3776.5 credits and with 94 percent student retention rate. Dual credit courses currently cost \$65.00 per credit, which reflects an average per credit savings of \$153.00. This savings totaled \$432,990 in the fall of 2012.
- Ms. Best** reminded the committee that IEN also provides 132 districts in the state with high speed bandwidth. She concluded her presentation with a brief clip of students' remarks about their first experience with IEN classes. In answer to questions from committee members, she said IEN has enjoyed a stellar fall; IEN continues to reach out to those who are not taking advantage of this system by continual monitoring and identification of interest, along with community outreach programs and webinars. She said IEN operates sparingly with a staff of five.
- Chairman Goedde** asked about scheduling conflicts of the classroom bell. She said scheduling is a challenge and rests in a willingness to modify those schedules. **Chairman Goedde** thanked Ms. Best for her presentation and recognized Mr. Brent Reinke, Director of the Idaho Department of Corrections.

PRESENTATION: **Mr. Reinke** referred the committee to his handouts (Attachment No. 2) along with a "Challenge Coin," which has a military tradition. He said when a staff member has done something "above and beyond," he or she is given a coin as thanks for doing the right thing for the right reason. Each committee member was given a Challenge Coin for their significant work. **Mr. Reinke** reviewed the latest status of the Department and its 11 facilities. He said the prison population is currently at 8,026. Over 13,000 individuals were incarcerated last year. The prisons operate at 99 percent of capacity, which makes the task of maintaining a focus on education difficult. **Mr. Reinke** said he is at today's meeting because of his Department's commitment to education and said the Department's primary goal is to find ways to bring the prison population down and to maintain a strong focus on education.

Mr. Reinke introduced his associate, Mr. Shane Evans, Chief Administrator of Education. **Mr. Evans** took the podium to present a brief overview of education successes and outlook for the coming year. The Department of Corrections has 2,700 individuals going through the educational programs, which are offered in collaboration with federal partners and private employers. He introduced one of the education program's successes, Mr. Scott Davis. **Chairman Goedde** welcomed Mr. Davis to the podium. **Mr. Davis** described his criminal mentality from an early age and explained how the prison's educational program had helped him. He said he took advantage of every program available during his six years of incarceration and was employed two days after graduation. In answer to questions from committee members, he said it is up to each individual to take advantage of these programs. **Chairman Goedde** asked Mr. Reinke what percentage of prisoners lack a high school diploma. **Mr. Reinke** said 50 percent of the prisoners do not have a high school diploma and 45 percent of those do not read above the 6th grade level. **Chairman Goedde** thanked the presenters, after which Mr. Davis and his wife were given a round of applause.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Chairman Goedde turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Mortimer to lead the rules review.

**DOCKET
47-0101-1202**

Vice Chairman Mortimer welcomed **Ms. Tracie Bent**, Management Assistant, State Board of Education, who presented **Docket No. 47-0101-1202**, relating to the Idaho Division of Rehabilitation; mediation and formal hearing processes, and field service manual incorporation. The committee had delayed a vote on this rule until such time as the members had an opportunity to review the manual.

MOTION:

Senator Thayn made a motion to adopt **Docket No. 47-0101-1202**. **Senator Durst** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET
08-0202-1203**

Vice Chairman Mortimer welcomed **Mr. Nick Smith**, State Department of Education, to the podium to review **Docket No. 08-0202-1203**, which relates to Core Teacher Standards (including world language teachers) and Teacher Leader Standards.

MOTION:

Chairman Goedde made a motion to adopt **Docket No. 08-0202-1203**. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET
08-0203-1203**

Mr. Smith presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1203**, which relates to online learning requirements adopted by "Students Come First." The section will be eliminated to align the rule with Proposition 3. **Chairman Goedde** informed the committee of a letter from the State Board of Education, which indicates the rule will be revisited over the interim and sent back to the committee the next legislative session.

Senator Pearce questioned the repeal of this part of the rule if it is going to be brought back next year. **Chairman Goedde** said one piece of the rule needed to be eliminated.

MOTION: **Senator Durst** made a motion to adopt **Docket No. 08-0203-1203**. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** turned the meeting back to Chairman Goedde.

S 1028 Senators Thayn and Durst presented **S 1028**, which ends the pilot phase for the Mastery Advancement Program.

A brief question-and-answer period ensued regarding frequency of reporting, participation of schools and fiscal impact. **Senator Thayn** reminded the committee that of 71 eligible students, 41 had enrolled in the program, resulting in \$55,000 in scholarships. The school districts received \$99,000; 35 percent going to Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and 35 percent to the school. The Department of Education is prepared to report on the program every two years. **Senator Durst** said the program allows students to leave for other commitments and return later to take advantage of the scholarship. **Senator Thayn** said approximately 17 districts and charter schools are participating at the present time. The removal of the pilot program and sunset clause would lend permanence to the program which, it was felt, would increase participation.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** made a motion to send **S 1028** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Pearce** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senators Thayn** and **Durst** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Goedde** asked Vice Chairman Mortimer to lead the discussion on funding appropriations prior to his JFAC presentation. An itemization of FY 2013 appropriations, FY 2014 requests by the Superintendent of Schools and the Governor's recommendations was distributed for the committee's reference. Vice Chairman Mortimer reviewed each line item on State Appropriations, Program Distributions, Statutory Requirements and other program distributions. **Mr. Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Department of Education explained some of the more complex questions posed by committee members.

Chairman Goedde said he would put the discussion in writing and bring to the next committee meeting for further discussion.

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

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary