

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2013
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc, Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Nielsen

GUESTS: Mike Rush, State Board of Education; Glen Zollman, Think Through Math; Byron Yankey, Idaho Business Coalition for Educational Excellence; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Association; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education; Tracie Bent, State Board of Education; Dennis Stevenson, Rules Coordinator; Brad Hunt, Office of Administrative Rules Committee; Jess Hansan, Idaho School Boards Association; Tyler Mallard, Risch Pisca; Tony Smith, Benton Ellis

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

DOCKET NO. 08-0202-1204: **Luci Willits**, Chief of Staff, State Department of Education, explained there were some issues with this rule when it was first presented, it was an inaccurate copy. She said it was replaced with the correct version that the board approved. She explained they have added the definition to the term Teacher Leader. She said it makes the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Course requirements more consistent. She detailed what is required for bilingual, business technology and English as a New Language (ENL) education. She explained the Professional Standards Commission looked at creating these changes, and this was determined the best direction for these new rules.

Ms. Willits responded to questions regarding the scope of the Comprehensive Literacy Course, stating it is how literacy is taught over the K-12 spectrum. In regards to out of state applicants, she said there is an interim certificate that is good for up to three years.

MOTION: **Rep. Horman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0202-1204. Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1203: **Chairman DeMordaunt** gave some background, explaining that as part of the Students Come First initiatives there was an online class requirement, but the repeal took the requirement away. He explained that the state board has decided the best course of action was to seek additional input and will revisit this issue.

Luci Willits, Chief of Staff, State Board of Education, explained this is a temporary rule that has been in place. She said it sets the minimum graduation requirements at the state level. She said it removes definitions for various types of online courses. She explained the math exemption portion for high school seniors that have completed six semesters of math to include either an advanced placement or dual credit course, they can opt out of taking a math class in their last year. She said it would only apply to a small number of students.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1203. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman DeMordaunt reminded the committee how a bill can be amended and explained General Orders.

RS 22053: **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education, explained this proposed legislation would provide clarity for school districts regarding which set of laws they should follow in terms of contracts. He said when contracts are signed at the end of the year for the following year, it will be based on the laws that were in place at the time of signing. He said this follows the guidance from the Attorney Generals Office.

MOTION: **Rep. Horman** made a motion to introduce **RS 22053. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22066: **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education, explained this RS deals with clearing up uncertainty that resulted with the repeal of Proposition 1. He said it allows the established ADA funding protection of Idaho school districts to remain at 97%.

MOTION: **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to introduce **RS 22066. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22077: **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education, said this provides new language that deals with the issue of the Idaho Youth Challenge program. He explained how it will allow the State Department of Education to recognize the full body of students who attend the program, due to the programs cohort-based system of having new students each semester.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to introduce **RS 22077. Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1027: **Chairman DeMordaunt** explained this had originally passed out of committee but there was additional information that needed to be given to help clarify.

Mike Rush, Executive Director, State Board of Education, explained the legislature commissioned a group that recommended need based aid to students. He said the task force concluded that programs are fragmented and costly to distribute. He said this scholarship program was redesigned to target the right students and provide the right money.

In response to questions regarding a minimum grade point average requirement, **Mr. Rush** said there is no requirement specified now, but will be when rules are defined. He explained the funding numbers are yet to be determined.

Members of the committee spoke regarding the number of students receiving scholarships increasing while the funding has stayed the same. They spoke positively about the goal of this legislation to help students get through college, and in wanting to retain the best and brightest in Idaho. Some expressed concern about the move from a merit to a needs based type of scholarship.

Byron Yankee, Senior Policy Advisor from the Idaho Business Coalition for Educational Excellence, testified that the goal must focus on college access and completion. He explained that many agencies supported this legislation. He explained some of the key principles to include students who are not eligible, but have demonstrated a likelihood of success, and to provide a scholarship program that has the participation of community colleges and technical schools.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to send **S 1027** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Glen Zollman, Vice President of Implementation Services, Think Through Math, presented an update for the Think Through Math Program. He explained how they rebuilt the entire platform to ensure they were more aligned with the Common Core Standards. He said it was built around deep understanding that took what was good about APANGEA math and expanded upon it. He said it was originally meant for students that were struggling, and has now become a program for all students. He showed how the program works in schools and at home. He explained students have access to live certified teachers after regular school hours. He said it can also be used as a resource to teachers in their classrooms. He outlined the programs four key components, to include; student motivation, adaptive content, real-time instruction and actionable reports. He gave examples of some of the contest and rewards students can participate in that helps boost motivation. He outlined the program's metric information and accomplishments.

Mr. Zollman responded to question regarding their number of accounts by stating they have gone beyond the limit that was originally put in place, and will continue to sign up every student that requests an account. He said there are no fees associated with creating an account. He explained the program is designed for 3rd grade through algebra one and geometry. He said they are building to include 1st and 2nd grades. In regards to possible language barriers, he said they have bilingual teachers, and there is a text to speech function that will allow for the problem or explanation to be read in English and Spanish. He explained the program is optional for schools to participate in. In regards to allowing students to earn credits from this program, he said it is meant to be a supplementary program and does not cover 100% of the content required in all classes. He explained the State of Idaho pays \$1.15 million dollars for this program, which includes licenses for students and contests. **Luci Willits**, State Board of Education, explained the funds can be seen in the math initiative line of the budget. He said they are currently developing the process to give teachers bench marks progress reports.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jackie Wright
Secretary