

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 19, 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:** None.

GUESTS: The sign-in sheets will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheets will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1133aa: **Chairman DeMordaunt** explained that **Senator Hagedorn** would not be able to present **S 1133aa**. He said it would be moved to the March 20 Agenda.

H 295: **Jason Hancock** presented **H 295**. He explained the legislation restores the ability of the State Department of Education to calculate support units to the nearest hundredth, rather than the nearest tenth. This ability was lost through the repeal of **S 1184**, and related laws. He added, calculating to the nearest hundredth allows funding to more accurately follow each student.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **H 295** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kloc** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman DeMordaunt turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Nielsen**.

H 307: **Rep. DeMordaunt** said the purpose of **H 307** is to direct funding that is included in the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee's (JFAC) proposed education budget. The legislation is to stipulate that 1.67 percent will be used for either reducing class size by hiring new teachers, or adding back teaching days; or, a combination of both.

Responding to a question, **Rep. DeMordaunt** said the 1.67 percent came from the salary-based apportionment (SBA). He related that if we increase days, that percentage will go directly to teachers. The district has a choice to add employees or add days. He indicated the 1.67 percent should not be discretionary funds. He added, JFAC's purposed education budget recommended restoring two steps back to the salary grid.

Jason Hancock was called upon to answer a question regarding furlough days and cuts to certificated staff. He said he was not aware of any districts that did not have to make some cuts in days or staff.

In response to a question, **Rep. DeMordaunt** clarified that the "5th factor" is part of a proposed restoration through JFAC in the education budget for FY14. He also clarified that the House has not yet voted on that budget.

Robin Nettinga, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association (IEA), said the IEA **opposes H 307**. She explained that prior to 2011, the 1.67 percent was included in the SBA that flowed to school districts. In 2011, the Idaho State Department of Education's proposal in **S 1184** moved the money out of SBA and used it to pay for some of the components of the Education Reform Laws. She reported, at the time that **S 1184** was introduced, it required that the amount of money increase each year from the 1.67 percent. She noted that last year, the Legislature introduced and successfully adopted **H 698** which eliminated all future increases in SBA, as outlined in the law. However, the 1.67 percent did remain in place and is in place for this fiscal year. In November 2012, when the voters repealed **H 698** and **S 1184**, it assured that the remaining 1.67 percent (\$12.8 million) would flow back through the SBA to districts. She said **H 307** would limit how districts could spend that SBA money. She related that the need to hire more staff and to increase contract days are both worthy of expending extra dollars. However, individual teachers should not have to pay for these important items. She noted if the State believes that districts should have funds to hire more staff, and increase contract days, then additional monies should be provided for those purposes by the State. She asked that **H 307** be held in committee.

In response to a question from the committee, **Ms. Nettinga**, said the option to use these monies for an increase in teacher salaries should be left open, and that decision should be made by local districts.

Cherlyn Paris, a teacher in Boise, spoke **in opposition to H 307**. She said the State should not take away local control, nor micromanage the distribution of funds. She said the 1.67 percent SBA should be restored to its original placement in school budgets. She illustrated her situation with an example of health insurance and deductible increases.

In response to a question from the committee, **Ms. Paris** said the \$12.8 million would go into the negotiation process on a local level.

Mr. Hancock related two points: (1) Putting the \$12.8 million back into negotiations would divert monies from the SBA, and (2) If the districts restore the furloughed days to the school calendar, teachers get a raise.

Angelina Wilson, teacher and parent, spoke **in opposition to H 307**. She explained her situation being the main source of income for her family. She argued that teachers are being asked to do more with less. She said she does not want her family to leave Idaho.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Wilson**, explained the reduction in the base salary had not been restored, thus teachers lost days and wages, even if the State is planning make a positive change in the base salary for FY14.

Responding to a question, **Ms. Nettinga** clarified there was a reduction in number of days, but in addition, the minimum salaries were reduced.

Adria Holzburg, **Sandra Merrick** and **Jordan Sims** spoke **in opposition to H 307**. They agreed that local control would more likely compensate for lost opportunities to pay for advanced degrees and/or student loans. **Ms. Holzburg** and **Ms. Merrick** explained the position of those teachers who earned advanced degrees during the "salary freeze" years. **Ms. Sims** asked lawmakers to make Idaho more competitive.

Rep. DeMordaunt was called upon to close debate. He said **H 307** does not reduce salaries. The JFAC Education Budget for FY14 will restore two steps to the salary schedule and it restores education credits payments. He indicated that during the economic downturn, everyone has experienced a decrease or stagnation of salary.

MOTION:

Rep. Clow made a motion to send **H 307** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Clow spoke in opposition to **H 307**. He said the bill did not allow local school districts to determine their best use for restored "fifth factor" funding. The decision on distribution of the 1.67 percent should remain with the local school districts. **Reps. Wills, Harris, and Pence** spoke in favor of local control. **Rep. Ward-Engelking** objected to the micro-management by the State.

Rep. VanOrden debated in support of **H 307**. She said that during the listening hearing, she heard comments from individuals that some school districts had increased their class size to adjust to the reduction in state appropriation. She noted the bill would hopefully help with that situation. She also indicated, when talking with local school boards and superintendents, there was support for the bill. **Rep. Nielsen** also spoke in support of **H 307**.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:**

Rep. Ward-Engelking requested a roll call vote on the motion to send **H 307** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion failed by a vote of 8 AYE and 8 NAY.** Voting in favor of the motion: **Reps. Nielsen, Shepherd, Bateman, Boyle, Gestrin, Horman, VanOrden** and **DeMordaunt**. Voting in opposition to the motion: **Reps. Wills, Agidius, Clow, Harris, Mendive, Pence, Kloc,** and **Ward-Engelking**.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary