

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 07, 2014
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: Room WW55
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini(Nonini), Thayn, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Patrick
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** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m., and a silent roll was taken.

Chairman Goedde announced that the purpose of this introductory meeting was to briefly discuss anticipated legislation and presentations before the Committee, and to assign rules for review to 3-person teams.

Chairman Goedde began by suggesting that the major focus would likely be devoted to reviewing all twenty recommendations from the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education (Task Force), which held hearings throughout 2013, and the report from the K-12 Educational System Interim Committee which held hearings during Fall 2013.

Chairman Goedde announced that he would be bringing forth legislation to address concerns with data security issues in Idaho Core Standards (ICS), and would have drafts available shortly. He further anticipates that several sessions of the Committee's work would review all 20 of the recommendations made by the Task Force. SchoolNet and Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE) would need to be reviewed again. **Chairman Goedde** advised that Senator Mortimer has been in touch with a company that tracks usage by students. One concern in deployment of SchoolNet and ISEE has been inappropriate usage, with the thought that monitoring could produce less inappropriate usage.

The Chairman added that Senator Patrick has information on a secondary agricultural education program which will be introduced in legislation. **The Chairman** expects reports on the 2013 technology grants and what progress and successes came from those grants. He further expects reports on the money which was allocated to develop differential pay at the local level.

Chairman Goedde advised that Chairman DeMourant is coordinating a joint session of the House and Senate Education Committees to address Idaho Core Standards, and will create a pro/con panel discussion to flesh out truth from fiction. Another joint session will address the Smarter Balanced Assessments to address concerns expressed by various school superintendents. Further discussions will address concerns expressed by the community colleges on how professional-technical standards are adopted and funded by the State Board of Education.

Chairman Goedde then invited members of the Committee to continue with a discussion of their goals and interests. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** expressed interest in studying professional-technical opportunities in light of Idaho's goal of reaching 60% of adults achieving some level of post-secondary education, with emphasis on the job placement rate and how Idaho can best use its professional-technical resources. He is also interested in redefining "discretionary" to "operational" spending, particularly in relation to health care costs. He further wishes to address the need for more school counselors in order to get young people headed in the right directions. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** expressed concern that improved transferrability of general education requirement credits has not yet occurred and believes that we may need to define general education requirements in statute.

Senator Fulcher was pleased with many of the ideas already expressed, especially the pro/con panel discussion of Idaho Core Standards. He also would like an update on the Idaho Education Network, whether it is working or not and what hurdles exist. **Chairman Goedde** added that the wireless deployment might also be included in that discussion.

Senator Thayn agreed with Senator Mortimer's concern over the portability of general education requirements, the "one-half attendance rule," and mastery requirements. He indicated that legislation is being drafted to address those concerns. **Senator Thayn** also advised that legislation would be forthcoming to fund dual credits for junior and senior high school students.

Senator Pearce elaborated on Senator Thayn's interest in dual credits and felt that it was an area in which great progress could be made, as it allows students to accelerate at their own speed. He expressed that the goal of having 60% of students graduate with 30 college credits – the equivalent of their first year of college – was very important. **Senator Pearce** looked forward to discussions on the Idaho Core Standards, and suggested that perhaps the standards could even be higher, as in Massachusetts.

Senator (Nonini) Nonini said that her primary goal was to get the "real" Senator Nonini back to the Senate.

Senator Buckner-Webb expressed interest in the discretionary spending budget, having spent time with nine schools who were concerned about the timetable. Smarter Balanced Assessments was another issue, and she wished for greater clarification of dual college credits for high school students.

Senator Ward-Engelking was encouraged that the various bills being drafted to implement recommendations from the Task Force have left great room for collaboration. She is also looking at a pre-school pilot program.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Chairman Goedde then turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Mortimer to discuss rules review. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** advised that three days were planned for rules review, and that 3-person teams had been assigned. While all senators were expected to review all rules, he asked that the assigned team members "delve into the weeds" and be prepared to make the motions. The goal was to finish rules review by next Tuesday.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Mortimer returned the meeting to Chairman Goedde.

ADJOURNED: There being no further questions or business before the Committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary