

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 08, 2014

**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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None.

**GUESTS:** Rob Winslow, and Phil Homer, IASA; Tracie Bent, Marilyn Whitney, and Amy Nelms, State Board of Education; Herold Ott, Rural Schools; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Jane Wittmeyer, Coalition of Charter School Families; Robin Nettinga and Matt Compton, IEA; Colby Cameron, Sullivan and Reberger

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** spoke of the departure of **Rep. Ward-Engelking** to the Senate. He asked each member to briefly describe their interim activities and to reference those activities relating to the Education Committee. He welcomed returning Committee Secretary, **Jean Vance**, and asked **Rep. Shepherd** to introduce his granddaughter, **Abby Shepherd**, the new Committee Page.

**Rep. Agidius** introduced University of Idaho student, **Josh Weistaner**, Intern for the Majority Caucus.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** turned the meeting over to **Vice Chairman Nielsen** who assigned **Rep. Sheperd** as Subcommittee Chairman for the State Board of Education Rules and **Rep. Harris** as Subcommittee Chairman for the State Department of Education Rules. He explained the process involved in rejecting Rules. He reminded Committee members that all Education Agency Rules can be reviewed during the Rules process, not just those rules on the agenda.

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

**Chairman DeMordaunt** addressed his goals for the Committee during the 62nd Legislative Session. He said the Governor's Task Force Recommendations are in the Committee to be carefully examined. He indicated the Committee would study how the recommendations match up with the educational allowances from the Governor's Budget. He said the Committee will meet in joint session with the Senate to hear State Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Tom Luna**, and **Richard Westerberg**, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Education. The joint session will be held January 15th at 3:00 p.m.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** described the Common Core Forum. He said the Forum would be a joint session of the House and Senate Education Committees, and will be held on January 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Auditorium. In an effort to get proper information on the realities and challenges of the Common Core to the public, the Forum will feature a panel composed of both opponents and proponents. Teachers, school administrators, State Department personnel, and others will be panelists. They will receive questions from the public in advance of January 22nd. These questions will be sent to the House Education Committee in order for panelists to do proper research. The Forum will be streamed live on audio and video so that constituents will not be required to travel to hear their questions answered. Chairman DeMordaunt explained that questions will not be taken from the audience on the day of the Forum. However, the members of Legislative Committees would be able to question the panelists.

In response to a question about social media use in getting the information to the public, **Rep. Horman** explained that the Legislative Services Office had capabilities for Twitter feeds and other social media.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** told the Committee a third joint session would be held on January 27th. This listening session would provide for public comment on the Governor's Task Force Recommendations.

**Rep. Pence** indicated a small group of bipartisan legislators who had drafted four bills addressing some of the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force. **Chairman DeMordaunt** expressed appreciation for the work accomplished by the legislators. He also told Committee members their effort to improve education in Idaho during the interim was commendable.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary