

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 15, 2014

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium (WW02)

MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini (Nonini), Thayn, Patrick, Buckner-Webb, Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Wills and Senator(s) Cherie Buckner-Webb

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet 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 sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Goedde call the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education (SDE), presented the "State of Education" address to the Joint Session of the House and Senate Education Committees. He said that the question for education in Idaho is: Are schools improving fast enough to compete with the fast-paced change of the world around us? He indicated the answer is: No. He explained the work of the those involved in the Governor's Task Force on Education plus the contribution of educators and administrators across the state. He also gave suggestions for the 2014 Legislature's action in support of education. He directed comments to the Common Core Standards and the many recent accomplishments of schools and students in Idaho, as well as those states in partnership with Idaho. He spoke to guarding student privacy and other pressing issues. In addition, he stressed implementation of the Task Force's recommendations for transforming schools and educating students. (See Attached.)

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Luna**, said that it is the local district's decision but often, after students and parents have been educated to the protocol, the electronic books given to students are allowed to go home. He indicated that the career ladder and tiered licensure were compatible. He said the salary grid is in place and the money is available to give leadership bonuses. He stated this year it could be phased in and next year the complete implementation could begin.

In response to a question regarding more money for pilot programs and maybe less money for technology, **Mr. Luna** said when the educational budget was due, the SDE was in the middle of the pilots and did not know the results. He said the SDE knows more today and will put those recommendations before the committees during the session. To a further question, Mr. Luna said the 5-Star Schools are announced throughout the state. The principals, teachers, programs and teaching successes are published and all schools are encouraged to link together and share their best practices. In the past two years this procedure has been followed and currently a 24-person committee is focusing on how better to share and promulgate success.

Responding to additional questions, **Mr. Luna** said the End of Course Assessments are not to be replaced by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Test. The SBAC is for Math and English only.

Sen. Pearce quoted US Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, "The Common Core Standard (CCS) is an experiment." Sen. Pearce asked how SDE can take Idaho into an experiment. **Mr. Luna** said the experiment is that states are working together. With No Child Left Behind, the federal government imposed the standards. With CCS the states are leading out, working together to provide standards and raise student learning. He added that Idaho is not experimenting with the standards.

To a question regarding a survey of data points being mapped, **Luci Willits**, Chief of Staff, SDE, was called upon to explain to the committees that the report was "in hand" and could be electronically sent to the Legislators.

In response to a question regarding bringing "public buy-in" on board with CCS, **Mr. Luna** said public buy-in is critical and SDE is involved in winning public support. He said 100 teachers were involved in writing the tests. He said the process has been unifying in education. The business community is coming out in full force to support the standards. As employers, they have been asking for improved standards and the SBAC is part of the discussion. He also indicated that there was flexibility in administering parts of the SBAC. He said there is already a considerable amount of buy in and people are working to secure more.

Richard Westerberg, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Education and member of the State Board of Education, explained the process used to narrow the concerns. He said two committees were formed focusing on fiscal stability, structural change, teacher/administrator effectiveness, professional development and technology. He said the guiding principles of two committees were: (1) structural changes are required to achieve the 60% goal and (2) high performance schools require a high performance work environment for our teachers and administrators. He then reviewed the summary of recommendations from the Task Force. (See Attached.)

In response to questions from the committees, **Mr. Westerberg**, said he did not have a first step to start down the road to the mastery-based system, but the Governor has recommended a committee work on it with the State Board of Education. He said the preschool issue had not garnered the votes in committee for further study. He told the committees the local districts must deal with the issue of no wireless connection in the homes of students.

Mr. Westerberg told committee members that what was done by the Task Force was not new, however, taking it as a whole and implementing as a whole, is new. He said it is transformational. He said funding is a legislative task.

Responding to further questions **Mr. Westerberg** indicated the Task Force committees discussed the training of school board members. They had a discussion with the Idaho School Boards Association who indicated some school board members desired training. He said it needs to happen.

Chairman Goedde explained training for elected school board members cannot be required.

In response to a question, **Mr. Westerberg** said he did not know the cost to establish the recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Education.

ADJOURN: There being no business to come before the committees, the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary