

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Tim Hill, Julie Oberle and Camille Wells, SDE; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Robin Nettinga, IEA; Audrey Ditlefsen; Kristyn Kirschenman, Risch-Pisca

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

RS 22893: **Rep. Clow** presented **RS 22893** and explained the proposed legislation provides for leadership premium payments for public school educators identified by local school districts as serving in a leadership capacity. He said many teachers already provide leadership in their schools by performing services such as mentoring new teachers, providing professional development for their peers and teaching dual credit courses, for little or no additional compensation. He said **RS 22893** satisfies the "Leadership Awards" component of the career ladder recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on improving education. Rep. Clow addressed the fiscal impact for **RS 22893** of \$15.88 million, beginning in FY15. He said by implementing the leadership component of the task force's career ladder recommendation this year, it will reduce the estimated costs of implementation of a career ladder from \$42.4 million to \$26.5 million in FY16. He also said the awards would not be subject to negotiations bargaining.

Rep. VanOrden explained the parameters and conditions set for school boards and administrators when looking for instructional staff demonstrating leadership qualities. She suggested: instructors of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, teachers who successfully counsel students in academic and career decisions, or an agriculture instructor with an endorsement in science as possible criteria. She also included mentors for beginning teachers and instructional employees who serve in hard to fill positions. She said being a coach or a club advisor does not fit within the parameters for the Leadership Premium Awards. In addition, the State Board of Education will be expected to promulgate administrative rules in order to implement the statute. Rep. Van Orden explained school district accountability would be accomplished through annual reports to the legislature and governor from the State Department of Education which would include by district: number of premiums issued, average dollar amount, highest and lowest premiums, percentage of instructional staff receiving premiums and the cumulative amount of such premiums.

MOTION: **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to introduce **RS 22893**.

In response to questions, **Reps. Clow** and **VanOrden** said the minimum amount of the Leadership Premium Awards would be \$850, with a maximum of \$5,780 within a school year. These awards would be contracted in advance to those wanting to perform exceptional leadership tasks, with the award monies being part of the monthly salary. The award would be contracted on a year-to-year basis. They said those teachers developing curriculum and teachers serving as department chairs could qualify based on the Board of Trustees' discretion. The awards are not subject to average daily attendance counts. Rep. VanOrden told the committee the proposed legislation was supported by all stakeholders involved in the Governor's Task Force.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Chairman DeMordaunt called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 22893**.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Tim Hill, Deputy Superintendent, State Department of Education (SDE), provided an overview of the Idaho Public School Funding process. Mr. Hill explained the largest part of the FY14 General Fund comes from individual income tax (47.2 percent), followed by sales tax (40.8 percent), corporate income tax (7 percent) and other sources (5 percent). Mr. Hill stated that from the General Fund, public schools receive 47 percent, approximately \$1.3 million.

Mr. Hill stated the average daily attendance (ADA) for a given school is the aggregate days attendance divided by the number of days school was actually in session. For funding purposes, there are two calculations of ADA: 1) from the first day of school through the first Friday in November, and 2) the best 28 weeks of the school year. He stated a day of attendance is defined in SDE rules and is a minimum of 2 ½ hours for kindergarten students and a minimum of 4 hours for grades 1-12. Mr. Hill explained the first 10 weeks is critical for funding and has generally has the highest attendance for the school year. He stated he provides guidance to schools on how to maximize their budgets with respect to ADA.

In response to a question regarding the change in calculations for ADA, **Mr. Hill** stated the first calculation produces the highest funding results, and to change the time frame would probably reduce funding.

Mr. Hill stated ADA is converted to support units as outlined under 33-1002 (4), Idaho Code. He explained the divisors take the size of the school district or charter school attendance categories into consideration. He stated the larger the ADA, the larger the divisor; the smaller the ADA, the smaller the divisor. He explained smaller programs will require less ADA to generate a support unit, and larger programs will require more ADA to generate a support unit. This results in more funding per student for smaller programs, taking into consideration smaller class sizes that still require full-time staffing costs. He also stated divisors are a factor in how much is distributed by grade category.

Mr. Hill explained support units are used to calculate salary and benefit apportionment and discretionary funds. He stated support units based on the first reporting period are used to calculate salary and benefit apportionment, and support units based on the best 28 weeks are used to calculate discretionary funds.

In response to questions, **Mr. Hill** explained staffing is categorized into three areas: Instructional, Administrative, and Classified. He stated each support unit is assigned a staffing ratio which is used to calculate staff allowance. He stated a school district or charter school salary apportionment is: support units x staff allowance ratio x index (except Classified) x base salary. Mr. Hill explained if a school did not use the entire full-time equivalent (FTE) in a school year, it was forfeited. There is now 9.5 percent flexibility within the FTE which allows the school to determine how to utilize the funds.

In summary, **Mr. Hill** stated the amount per ADA that a school district or charter school receives is generally based on: size (in terms of ADA); student mix (grades served); and staff hired (experience & education multiplier).

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary