

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 17, 2014
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Johnson(Fulcher), Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- 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 3:05 p.m., and a silent roll was taken.
- PRESENTATION:** **Tom Luna**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education introduced the 2014 Idaho Teacher of the Year, Jamie Esler, and the Milken Award Recipient, Katie Graupman.
- Mr. Esler** thanked the many colleagues who have contributed to his success and love of teaching. **Mr. Esler** said he brings a clear theme and message to the Committee: "The public education system in our state is in great need of your confidence and your support." He described The Confluence Project which was funded largely through grants and outside donations. Yet that funding is uncertain and requires time and effort away from the classroom to apply for additional grants. Class sizes, diminishing paraprofessional support staff, dwindling building budgets and the critical need for supplemental levies further illustrate the economic strain placed on communities which jeopardizes the State's constitutional responsibility to provide a "uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools." **Mr. Esler** urged the Committee and the Legislature to reinvest in the operational funding for public education. Mr. Esler's complete remarks are attached.
- Senator Patrick** asked Mr. Esler to describe the Confluence Project. **Mr. Esler** replied that in the fall, students go out in the field to collect and analyze water quality. In the winter, they measure and chart snow pack. Because 85 percent of Idaho's precipitation falls as snow, snow quality and quantities are important measures. In spring, students participate in projects to improve an aspect of their local community. **Chairman Goedde** asked about Mr. Esler's usage of the Idaho Education Network. **Mr. Esler** replied that he uses it primarily for video conferencing. **Chairman Goedde** stated that grant money for technology pilots had worked well. **Mr. Esler** responded that his reference to reliability of funding was to growth and sustainability for education programs as a whole.

**Ms. Gaupman** thanked her colleagues and supporters. She described the roots of her passion for education and teaching. She believes that Idaho faces a challenge in inspiring Idaho youth to choose the teaching profession, and in retaining good teachers. **Ms. Guapman** said that she is encouraged by the Governor's Task Force recommendations, particularly No. 6 - empowering autonomy; No. 11 - restoring operational funding; No. 15 - mentoring for new teachers; No. 16 - ongoing professional development; No. 17 - site-based collaboration; No. 18 - training and development of school administrators, superintendents and school boards; No. 19 - enhanced pre-service teaching opportunities through the State's colleges and universities. Ms. Graupman's complete remarks are attached.

**S 1275** **Senator Patrick** summarized **S 1275** which provides start up grants for new agriculture and natural resource programs in secondary schools, as well as enhancing a proven, existing program. Extensive testimony was heard on Thursday, February 13, 2014 and is available in the Minutes of that date.

**Steven Braun** from Troy High School spoke briefly in support of **S 1275**. **Dennis Tanikuni**, Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs, Idaho Farm Bureau also spoke in support.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Mortimer** made a motion to send **S 1275** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. **Senator Pearce** and **Vice Chairman Mortimer** briefly enumerated the skills that they had learned early in life from the FFA program. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1327** **Senator Heider** explained that **S 1327** would authorize schools to voluntarily maintain a supply of epinephrine auto-injectors for the treatment of life-threatening allergic reactions, and to hold harmless from civil liability schools and staff who administer an epinephrine auto-injector in good faith. An existing manufacturer has agreed to supply the auto-injectors (Epi-pens) to schools for free. Training is minimal. **Senator Heider** pointed out that allergic reactions from food or bee stings can be life-threatening.

**TESTIMONY:** **Starla Higdon**, head of the Treasure Valley Food Allergy Network, stated that she is a licensed pharmacist and has potentially life-threatening allergies, as does her child. Epinephrine is used to treat anaphylaxis, which is a severe allergic reaction that can progress very rapidly and can cause cardiovascular or respiratory collapse in as little as 30 minutes. Food allergies have increased over 50 percent in the past 15 years, and many parents do not know that their child could react in a life-threatening manner. Epinephrine is a safe and effective treatment for anaphylaxis, and because the body can eliminate it in about 15 minutes, no danger exists should it be used on a student who is not in a life-threatening situation. First responders do not always carry epinephrine, especially in rural areas, and might not always respond as timely as needed.

**Berkeley Fraser**, Deputy Executive Director, Idaho Board of Pharmacy, described the pharmacy portion of the bill and the language which had been satisfactorily corrected to satisfy the Idaho Board of Pharmacy. Changes were made to (1) dispense in the name of the school rather than a specific person; (2) allow exception to the prescriber-patient relationship with a documented patient evaluation; and (3) allow agents or employees of schools to possess epinephrine. The Idaho Board of Pharmacy supports **S 1327**.

**Alicia Jordan**, a school nurse for the Kuna School District and the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) Epinephrine School Resource Nurse for Idaho, stated that she has first hand experience with a reaction to an unknown allergy and responded by calling emergency services to administer epinephrine. Having epinephrine available in schools can save lives. The NASN program offers a scripted training for unlicensed school staff to administer epinephrine using an auto-injector during an anaphylactic emergency. The NASN supports **S 1237**. **Senator Pearce** asked what other drugs schools are allowed to stock. **Ms. Jordan** replied that they only stock Benedryl and need permission from parents to administer it.

**Senator Heider** reminded the Committee that epinephrine auto-injectors are safe, free, easy to use, and they save lives. Schools may choose to participate if they wish.

**MOTION:** **Senator Pearce** made a motion to send **S 1327** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** Having no further business before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

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Senator Goedde  
Chair

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Elaine Leedy  
Secretary