

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 25, 2014
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium
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: Lisa Kinnaman and Karen Rice, Idaho Leads Project; Karen Pyron, Mackay School District; Michelle Zettel, Challis School District #181; Eric Jenson and Cory Bird, Leadore School District #292; Scott Tuerty, Dave King, and Ron Anthony, Buhl School District; Carol Sayles, Trustee, Meridian School District; Anne Ritter, ISBA; Brian Pyper, Madison School District Trustee

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed the Idaho School Boards Association and thanked them for all the hours they spend working to ensure Idaho students and schools are given high priority.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2014 and the February 18, 2014 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Todd Wells, President, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), Castleford School District #417, addressed the committee. He introduced the ISBA Executive Committee. He asked committee members to review the ISBA's resolutions, which are approved at the annual meeting in November and remain active for two years. He indicated ISBA supported the findings of the Governor's Task Force, Idaho Core Standards, and restoring operational funds before specifically funding any new programs. Mr. Wells said ISBA favors the development of a knowledge and skills-based salary reimbursement, appropriate state funding for salary schedules, and placing an emphasis on mastery learning and achievement rather than just seat time by students. He also encouraged funding professional development for trustees.

RS 22830C1: **Rep. Harris** presented **RS 22830C1** to the committee. He said Administrative Rule, **Docket No. 08-0202-1300** brought to the House Education Committee had raised concerns in the section labeled: Evaluation Policy. He explained the section for evaluating certified instructional employees had stricken out Section 02: Parent Inputs. He said the new section of rule changed the language to say 67 percent of the evaluation results for certified instructional employees is based on professional practice with two documented observations by school administrators. Optional were parent, student and/or portfolio input.

The proposed legislation would bring back into the Administrative Rule, **Docket No. 08-0202-1300**, the student and parent input. Also, from the Governor's Task Force Recommendation on tiered licensure, it would add "measures of growth."
Rep. Harris gave the members of the committee a table (See Attached.) showing the two year incremental changes in the areas of measures of growth, parent and student input and professional practice. By FY20, the evaluations would be scored using at least 50 percent based on measures of growth, at least 15 percent based on parent and student input, and at least 25 percent on professional practice. The percentage remaining for district flexibility would decrease from 35 percent in FY16 to 10 percent in FY20.

In response to a question from the committee concerning the Measures of Effective Teaching or MET Study, **Rep. Harris** explained the MET project was a research partnership between 3,000 teacher volunteers and dozens of independent research teams. The project's goal was to build and test measures of effective teaching to find out how evaluation methods could best be used to tell teachers more about the skills that make them most effective and to help districts identify and develop great teaching. He indicated the study found student surveys to be as reliable as professional practice observation by peers and/or administrators. To a further question regarding the students who did not like a particular teacher or received bad grades, and their ability to evaluate accurately, Rep. Harris said the data does not show that students discriminate.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 22830C1**.

Rep. Bateman spoke in favor of **RS 22830C1** and said the program of grade inflation and teachers vying for popularity must end. **Rep. McDonald** cautioned that evaluations must be transparent for the instructional employee with no surprises.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 22830C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dr. Lisa Kinnaman, Idaho Leads Project, reported to the committee, the findings of 66 Idaho districts who worked to find the best place to spend their technology dollars. She said the program Clarity for Schools proved to provide accurate data and reliable support. She indicated the reports given to school districts were never longer than four pages and Clarity for Schools was committed to work with the individual districts to help them understand and use the data. She gave examples of successful usage of the program plus demonstrated the readability of the data.

A discussion was held regarding the student population, average price and results of student growth. **Dr. Kinnaman** said grades 3 through 12 are involved in the surveys and data collection; however, teachers of lower grades are involved. She said the cost per school is \$135. Private schools, wanting to pay the price, can also be involved. She indicated the data prompts teachers and students to use technology for deeper learning. To further questions, Dr. Kinnaman stressed the need to protect the digital footprint. Students are taught to comfortably, but judiciously engage online. She said Clarity for Schools, is part of the community; it is embedded with the district, tailoring the support to the individual needs.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary