

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2014

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Sen. Mortimer; Phil Homer and Rob Winslow, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Matt Compton, IEA; Jason Hancock, SDE; Marilyn Whitney and Amy Nelms, SBOE

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

S 1396: **Sen. Goedde** explained **S 1396** provides for the organization of a review committee consisting of parents, teachers and administrators representing public and charter schools in all six regions of the state. The committee will be comprised of 30 people serving staggered four-year terms. He indicated the committee will be charged with reviewing and suggesting recommendations to the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to revise or eliminate certain summative computer adaptive test questions. **Sen. Goedde** said the review of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) questions will allow Idaho to reject questions. It will empower Idaho citizens and make the SBAC more Idaho-relative.

MOTION: **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to send **S 1396** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Responding to questions from the committee, **Sen. Goedde** stated **Luci Willits**, Chief of Staff, State Department of Education, sits on the national board of the SBAC. She reported Idaho can reject up to 20 percent of the questions on SBAC. **Sen. Goedde** said there are 10,000 questions in the databank presently with the possibility of 80,000 in the final stage. He said the purpose of the committee is to remove questions objectionable to the sensitivities of a culture or region.

Reps. VanOrden and **Bateman** spoke in favor of the motion. **Rep. Bateman** said as a former advanced placement (AP) history teacher, he was frequently concerned regarding centralization of government questions appearing on the AP exams. He said the legislation is urgent.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bateman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1410: **Sen. Goedde** said the purpose of **S 1410** is to provide a pathway for those districts who wish to opt out of the statewide wireless contract. He said the legislation will keep the state standards for wireless in place, including the provisions outlined in the Children Internet Protection Act which is a federal standard for filtering. He indicated if the state standards are upheld, those districts opting out will qualify for the \$21 per student distribution from the state.

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to send **S 1410** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions, **Sen. Goedde** said the legislation will allow districts to receive E-rate dollars. However, districts will have to prepare a request for proposal (RFP) and be ready to meet the application deadline for receiving E-rate funding. He said every citizen is taxed in order to accumulate E-rate dollars, the federal government, however, chooses how they should be used. To another question referencing the federal funds forthcoming to reimburse the Idaho Education Network, Sen. Goedde said the Universal Service Administrative Company is not accepting the decision of Idaho courts. They are conducting their own investigation and if they find that Idaho took the correct steps in choosing an internet service provider, the federal funds will follow.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman DeMordaunt called for a vote on the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Rubel** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rep. Clow presented a model of a career ladder method of compensation for teachers. He said the Governor's Task Force Recommendations included the change from traditional funding for teachers to a career ladder, but created no concrete structure for implementation. He said the question remains: How do we build a workable ladder including: compensation, licensure and performance evaluation? He gave a Powerpoint presentation (See Attached.) showing a model with estimates of numbers and/or policies, which are not final, but need to be addressed by those individuals and agencies looking to future, and continuous, changes in education.

To a question from the committee, **Rep. Clow** said traditional teacher tenure is a challenge. It may be a school district starts new teachers on a career ladder compensation plan while leaving tenured teachers to finish their careers under the traditional compensation structure. A discussion was held regarding contract non-renewal consequences, keeping the value in the four levels of certificates, and reevaluation of career paths.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary