

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 19, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Keough, Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, 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 Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He explained that this week and next week the Committee will be reviewing rules. The Vice Chairman of the Committee will conduct that process.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

DOCKET NO. 08-0202-1404 **Lisa Colon**, Coordinator, Education Effectiveness for the State Department of Education, presented **Docket No. 08-0202-1404** Rules Governing Thoroughness, Educator Evaluation. **Ms. Colon** stated the change waives the No Child Left Behind requirement of having three evaluations to two documented classroom observations, due to specific situations detailed in the rule. The revision was written as a clarification for those who measure teacher performance. **Senator Nonini** asked who the ISAT vendor is. **Ms. Colon** responded it is Smarter Balance.

Ms. Colon explained the reasoning for special circumstances for teacher evaluations: long-term illness or late-year hiring. She then directed the Committee to page 62, explaining the wording changes are the same and then there is additional clarification as to whom will be responsible to complete teachers' evaluations.

Chairman Mortimer asked if there were other administrators who can help with evaluations. **Ms. Colon** stated the phrasing allows for all types of principals; vice or assistant, but no other administrators.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the same person does both observations. **Ms. Colon** responded this rule doesn't address that issue.

MOTION: **Chairman Mortimer** moved to approve **Docket No. 08-0202-1404**. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1402 **Dr. Christina Nava**, Coordinator – LEP Title III, State Department of Education presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1402**, Rules Governing Thoroughness-Accountability. She described the changes proposed beginning on page 76. She stated that Section 112.d.iv clarifies the definition for those with limited English proficiency. **Vice Chairman Thayn** said that Section 112.1404.d.1 speaks to proficiency, yet he wondered about the waiver and would like the specific language so he could see how it addressed the rule.

MOTION: **Senator Nonini** moved to hold **Docket No. 08-0203-1402**, pending information from the State Department of Education. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO: **Rhonda Heggen**, Coordinator, Physical Education, State Department of Education to presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1404**, Rules Governing Thoroughness-Physical Education and Professional Technical Education. She referred the Committee to page 86, and stated that this change was to correct a mistake. Section 03 was inadvertently left out during high school redesign of required instruction. **Traci Bent**, Policy Officer, State Board of Education, stated that Subsection B addresses the requirements for high school and parent approved learning plans. Physical Education is required in high school, so this needs to be added to the Subsection.

Chairman Mortimer asked Ms. Bent if she had any idea how many high schools were reviewing these requirements with parents. **Ms. Bent** stated the Department doesn't know but believes it is very low. **Vice Chairman Thayn** suggested that counseling could be done during parent teacher conferences or when creating the plan at the 8th grade level.

MOTION: **Senator Patrick** moved to approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1404**. **Senator Buckner Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairmen Thayn returned the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

PRESENTATION: **Richard Anderson**, FIRST Robotics, Regional Director stated that FIRST Robotics is the STEM program in America. He explained the origin of FIRST Robotics and its 25 years of proven results. Competitions begin in elementary schools with Lego teams and complete in high school with robotic teams. He believes this is the varsity sport for the mind (see attachment 1). Robotics should be added as part of schools' activity clubs. He hopes that Boise will be a host of a regional competition. Because time and funding are issues, there is a desire to have help to defer the costs with grants from state government and local businesses.

Dr. Holly Maclean, Principal, Treasure Valley Math and Science Center, Boise School District, stated that her school has directed students to this program. She spoke on the merits of STEM education and to why FIRST Robotics works well for her school.

Dean Kline, VP Advanced Memory Systems, Micron Technology said the Micron Foundation is a big sponsor of FIRST Robotics and hopes that others, including the State, would contribute to this program. He introduced robotic team members: Lauren Beets, Grace Rosenvall, John Skogsberg, Wesley Wong, and Justin Rueb.

The students explained their involvement with FIRST Robotics and what they learned while participating.

Senator Nonini asked if they had friends who didn't excel in science or technology participate. **Ms. Beets** replied that she was that person. She explained she had no real interest in those areas but was looking for some more activities. She became involved because of her brother and now enjoys and looks forward to the six week competition period. **Mr. Wong** replied that the process taught him more about team work and problem solving and less about science and/or technology.

Senator Souza commented on the professionalism of each team member. She stated it was so nice to see young people be able to present FIRST Robotics to the Committee.

Mr. Kline concluded the presentation expressing his joy working with FIRST Robotics and being a mentor to students. He stated that Micron Technology is concerned about the next generation of employees. Teamwork capabilities are a quality, industries look for when hiring.

Senator Patrick asked for an explanation regarding safety issues when working with different machinery. **Mr. Wong** specified there are strict rules regarding the use of equipment. All must be taught how to use the equipment before they can begin. Everyone is also required to wear safety glasses and ear protection. Safety is a high priority.

Senator Nonini agreed with the presentation's video narrator, saying every kid that participates in this program can get a job. He then stated his frustration with the State not doing very much with STEM, yet the Micron Foundation in one year with their STEM bus does so much and touches so many students. He has collected many articles about Idaho's economy and starting a STEM caucus. A caucus which is not a party issue would be a great start to getting more STEM activity in Idaho. The discussion must continue to make it happen in the State. He concluded that Utah has a STEM Action Center, and that maybe a team in the Governor's office, Department of Education and/or the State Board of Education, could develop something similar for Idaho.

Mr. Anderson concluded the presentation and thanked the Committee for the opportunity to showcase some smart kids. He also asked the Committee to please consider what Senator Nonini suggested; It would be nice to see the state of Idaho move forward with this program.

ADJOURNED: **Chairman Mortimer** thanked all the presenters and adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn South
Secretary