

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 20, 2015  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW41  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representative(s) Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Shepherd  
**GUESTS:** Richard Westerberg, Don Soltman and Tracie Bent, SBOE; Jerry Helgeson, Idaho Academy Decathlon; Tom Taggart, Lakeland School District; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Rob Winslow and Phil Homer, IASA; Robin Nettinga and Matt Compton, IEA; Elli Brown, Veritas Advisors; Ben Brocksome, Kestrel West; Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office; Suzanne Budge, SBS Association; Heather Williams, BSU Idaho Leads; Tim Corder, SDE

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Richard Westerberg**, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Education and member of the State Board of Education provided an overview of the 20 recommendations put forth by 31 stakeholders in the year 2013. He said the three focus areas were: fiscal stability, structural change and effective teachers and leaders. In 2014 the first year's collaboration brought forth executive and legislative action which included partial restoration of operational funding and funding for professional development. He said it also included funding for high school juniors and seniors to take dual credit, plus Advanced Placement exams and Professional-Technical certificate exams. Additional funding was legislated for local boards of trustees to receive training and for leadership premiums to compensate teachers for leadership duties. Increased technology funding legislation was also approved.

In 2014, three committees were created and given the task to develop and refine the Governor's Task Force Recommendations. Those committees were: (1) structure and governance, (2) career ladder and tiered licensure, and (3) literacy. **Mr. Westerberg** said the committee membership broadened the diversity of the stakeholders and 34 public meetings were held. He reported that from the committees, came legislative proposals for advanced opportunities consolidation, strategic planning and continuous improvement plans in addition to a proposal for a career ladder. There were also proposals for rule changes in student learning plans and the incorporation of tiered certification. All proposals will come before the 2015 Legislature.

**Don Soltman**, State Board of Education Secretary, reported on the ten recommendations from the Governor's Task Force provided by the three committees. He described the process and the results.

**Tom Taggart**, Director of Business and Support Services, Lakeland Joint School District #272, presented the High Expectations recommendations from the Structure and Governance Subcommittee. The first specific recommendation is to shift to a Mastery-Based System where students advance based upon content mastery, rather than seat time requirements. He said it would involve implementation of pilot programs, funding for professional development programs and adopting of a competency-based education model. He indicated Idaho law does not prevent districts from advancing students based on mastery or competency.

**Mr. Taggart** said the Task Force subcommittee advises the State Department of Education prioritize federal or other grants to support districts who are engaged in mastery programs with preference, where appropriate, given to rural districts. In the area of Advanced Opportunities, the subcommittee advises relevant sections of Idaho Code be consolidated and, in addition, those existing advanced opportunities programs be accelerated. The subcommittee also recommends re-emphasis put on the 8th Grade Learning Plan and that it be reviewed annually throughout the high school years. Recommendations were also made to create a position within the State Department of Education to prioritize college and career counseling, plus provide funding specifically for districts to implement college and career counseling.

To a question regarding feedback on the reaction from school districts, **Mr. Taggart** said the districts cite lack of resources for implementing the changes. He also said parents need to understand how the learning plans work. To further questions, he said the fast forward programs are popular but difficult to administer. Responding to further questions, he said the goal for mastery-based education is not to get students to leave high school early, but to spend their time in high school earning dual credit and/or advanced certifications.

**Mr. Taggart**, speaking of additional recommendations, said the subcommittee had serious discussion over changing the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) to enrollment numbers within the public schools funding model. However, the subcommittee advised ADA updates instead. Highlighted in those recommendations is removing the current restriction on funding more than one FTE and removing "the best 28 weeks" as a factor in determining funding.

**Mr. Soltman** reported on the Innovation and Collaboration portion. He said the subcommittee wants to encourage a statewide electronic collaboration system, educator and student technology devices with appropriate content, site-base collaboration, and training and development of superintendents and school boards.

**Mr. Taggart** was called upon to answer a question regarding funding of summer school for students. He said the State only has funding for alternative high school summer school programs, however, other summer enrichment programs are being considered.

**Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, SBOE, was called upon to answer a question from the committee. She said there is presently no data to track student learning taking place during the four-day week implemented by some Idaho school districts.

Responding to other questions pertaining to staggering students in waves and hiring teachers for separate times of the day, **Mr. Taggart** said issues of transportation tend to drive what our school schedule looks like. He added that regional-workforce demands can also mandate the school year start time.

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

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary