

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 20, 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** convened the meeting at 3 p.m. and welcomed the State Board of Education Board (Board) members in attendance.

**PRESENTATION:** **Richard Westerberg**, State Board of Education Board Member and Governor's Task Force Chairman, gave an overview of the process and history of how the Governor Task Force (Task Force) developed the recommendations. He stated the presentation was prepared to help people understand the process as legislators consider implementing the recommendations. The Governor announced the formation of the Task Force on Education in December 2012. Mr. Westerberg illustrated the details of the Task Force and their work (see attachment 1).

**Senator Nonini** mentioned he liked the mark of 60 percent of the workforce getting certificates or credentials, but he noticed those numbers being closer to the 50 percent mark.

**Mr. Westerberg** replied the institutions are handing out more diplomas and certificates thereby the graduation rates are up. Enrollment rates have been reduced due to the economy. The Board believes that will improve as the economy improves.

**PRESENTATION:** **Don Soltman**, State Board of Education, Secretary of the Board and Co-Chair of the Governance Committee, described the work of that committee. He stated they were charged with 10 of the 20 items from the Task Force. Timelines were provided for each of the deliverables. The committee was then divided into three subcommittees: High Expectation, Innovation & Collaboration, and Autonomy & Accountability. He detailed the work of each subcommittee (see attachment 2).

**Tom Taggart**, Lakeland School District, Director of Business and Support Services and Chairman of the High Expectations Subcommittee, completed the presentation. He reported on the three tasks they undertook. He stated that this is a complex process and to begin the process they have looked at other states for good examples of mastery based education. He encouraged patience to give the process time because each district will need to work at their own pace to make the recommendations work. He stated there are a few different programs that are working and with time the best program will surface (see attachment 2).

**Chairman Mortimer** asked Mr. Taggart if there was specific legislation being brought forward because of the Task Force recommendations. **Mr. Taggart** referred that question to Traci Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (Board).

**Ms. Bent** answered there is legislation rolling out to addresses the recommendations. The Board will also streamline the language where the processes are similar.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if pilot programs and funding will be provided for the assessments. **Ms. Bent** explained the budgeting process is a bit different and that would come from the Superintendent's budget for public schools. The Governor did make a number of budget recommendations. The Board supports the recommendations.

**Mr. Soltman** explained the Innovation and Collaboration Subcommittee. They were charged to refine Task Force recommendations numbers 8, 10, 17 and 18 (see attachment 2). He continued his presentation defining and explaining each recommendation's purpose.

**Mr. Soltman** introduced Carson Howell, Director of Research, State Board of Education, to explain further the details of the recommendations. **Mr. Howell** highlighted the proposed spending in the Governor's education budget to implement these recommendations (see attachment 2).

**Senator Souza** asked if the data the Task Force is talking about the data that is collected from testing students.

**Mr. Soltman** said there is data from several different areas. **Senator Souza** asked if the data is aggregate or is it individual data. **Mr. Soltman** referred the question to Mr. Howell.

**Mr. Howell** explained the data collection process and security of each student's information. A computer breach of data is highly unlikely. Individual names and data are secure.

**Chairman Mortimer** thanked the Board and emphasized his appreciation for all their work. He hoped that they would make up a bullet-point list of what they have accomplished and when they hope to implement the recommendations.

Chairman Mortimer turned gavel over to Vice Chairman Thayn for rules review.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0111-1401:**

**Tracie Bent**, Chief Policy and Planning Officer, State Board of Education (Board), presented **Docket No. 08-0111-1401**. **Ms. Bent** explained this rule regards registration of postsecondary educational institutions and registration proprietary schools. The Board has the authority by statute to register both a proprietary school and private post secondary institutions. If the schools have a physical presence in the state, they must be registered with the Board in order to grant students a degree. The changes allow consistency with other states and with the reciprocity agreements. There will be significant financial savings to the State.

**Ms. Bent** addressed the other rule change in the docket which is in reference to the Annual Financial Statement. This rule change adds language that would allow for the Executive Director of the Board to use other financial instruments to prove financial security to guarantee payment. The reason for the change is the annual audited financial statement from the private institutions is not in alignment with the registration deadline.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked for a point of clarification regarding how the online schools that provide courses are treated in the State. **Ms. Bent** replied if a school only provides online courses to Idaho residences and has no other physical presence, then there is no need to register.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Ward-Engleking** moved to adopt **Docket No. 08-0111-1401**. **Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 08-0201-1401:** **Ms. Bent** presented **Docket No. 08-0201-1401**, Strategic Planning. This docket is for a piece of legislation that passed from last year to allow for school districts to receive \$2,000 for training in specific areas. This is a new chapter regarding strategic planning and training. This sets out the process and what information the district must provide for receiving the funds for the training and finally what constitutes an eligible trainer. The remainder of the section restates the amount they are to receive and the Board's ability for a trainer to be audited to show that they have the proof to be a trainer. At the request of Senator Nonini, **Ms Bent** explained the necessary proof.

**MOTION:** **Senator Souza** moved to adopt **Docket No. 08-0201-1401**. **Senator Buckner Webb** seconded the motion. The motion was carried by **voice vote**. (Senator Ward-Engleking left the Committee meeting at 4:13 p.m.)

**DOCKET NO. 55-0104-1401:** **Ms. Bent** presented **Docket No. 55-0104-1401**. She said it is a new chapter in the rules. In 2015, a bill passed which created two grant programs: an incentive grant and a start-up grant for high quality agricultural programs. This rule sets out what the eligibility and application requirements are for the individuals applying for either grant.

**Senator Thayn** asked when the source of funding for this rule will be put in place. **Ms. Bent** stated there is no current funding. The division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE) has requested funding for fiscal year (FY) 2016.

**MOTION:** **Senator Patrick** move to adopt **Docket No. 55-0104-1401**. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Docket NO. 08-0501-1401:** **Ms. Bent** presented **Docket No. 08-0501-1401**, Rules Governing Seed and Plant Certification. This rule was passed in 1959 and it was amended in 1990 to authorize for the adoption of rules and regulations for the purposes of implementing an act. The act sets out to the Board of Regents of the University of Idaho (UI) the authority to oversee this rule. This rule has not been promulgated and is a new chapter.

**Chairman Mortimer** inquired as to why this rule is before the Committee. **Ms. Bent** responded that the section has to do with the UI. The UI works very closely with the State's Department of Agriculture which promulgated rules specific to this in a different section. That section however does not address the standards.

**MOTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** moved to adopt **Docket No. 08-0501-1401**. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

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

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

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Senator Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn South  
Secretary