

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2015

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Tracie Bent and Blake Youde, State Board of Education; Robin Nettinga and Matt Compton, IEA; Rob Winslow and Phil Homer, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Brody Aston, Lobby Idaho; Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

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

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman DeMordaunt acknowledged the letter submitted by **Rep. McDonald** reporting on the action taken by the McDonald Subcommittee on Administrative Rules.

Bob Lokken, CEO, White Cloud Analytics, Vice President Idaho Business for Education, and Governor's Task Force Subcommittee Co-chair, presented the committee recommendations for structure and governance. He said the committee spent one year, and countless hours, in research and deliberation. He said their goal was to create specific directives from conceptual ideas. The committee agreed to keep as their top priority, the State Board of Education goal of 60 percent of Idaho's population, ages 25-34, will have a post-secondary degree by 2020. Mr. Lokken indicated such success hinged on standards and public support. He said the wake-up call for Idaho's high schools is centered around what constitutes "student proficiency." While statistics from Idaho's high schools report student proficiency at 80 percent, Idaho's colleges and universities report only 17 percent of Idaho's high school graduates are proficient, without re-mediation, to enter post-secondary institutions.

Mr. Lokken said the recommendations from his committee focused on Autonomy and Accountability, High Expectations, plus Innovation and Collaboration. Accountability recommendations include revising and refining the 5-Star Rating System to more accurately measure and rank schools in the area of student learning. He said scores should reflect the readiness of graduating students that are prepared to continue to the next level, and include the year-over-year improvement in the level of readiness produced by each school. Regarding the Autonomy element, the Task Force recommends review and pruning of bureaucratic elements of Idaho's K-12 system that require overhead and add little value to student achievement. To simplify and streamline reporting and rules, were additional recommendations. Mr. Lokken indicated local people need freedom to focus on student learning. He said strategic planning should put total focus on continuous student learning and improvement: from the janitorial staff, to the teaching staff, to the administrators, to the community members. He added that professional

development and training should support local boards and local leadership to develop awareness of, and competencies in, continuous improvement practices.

Mr. Lokken reported the recommendations under the topic of High Expectations center around mastery-based education, advanced opportunities; and, restructuring the funding model. He said this would include removing some of the clutter. That would include removing some Administrative Rules, but emphasizing learning plans which included parents and students in conjunction with counselors trained in college and career counseling. He said the funding model of Average Daily Attendance needs modifications and updates.

To incorporate the changes in Innovation and Collaboration, **Mr. Lokken**, said the committee recommends a state-wide electronic collaboration system, educator and student technology devices with appropriate content, site-based collaboration among teachers and leaders, and training and development of superintendents and school boards. He indicated that the State Board of Education Data Management Council should require data management to oversee the longitudinal data system in Idaho and should report annually to the State Board and the Legislature on the project, the accuracy of data and the future needs/plans. He said the time for pilot programs is over. School districts should expedite providing broadband access and wireless infrastructure to all Idaho schools. In addition, the committee recommends changing how information-technology personnel are funded in order to allow districts the ability to pay those professionals commensurate with market rates. The recommendations also include increasing the instructors-only school year by three days to allow for additional paid time for job-embedded professional development and collaboration.

In response to concerns from the committee, **Mr. Lokken** said the goal of 60% of Idaho's young adults to be enrolled in post-secondary education by 2020 may not be achievable, but with a Herculean effort, it might. Other concerns from the committee centered around the education budget for 2016 cutting career counseling. Mr. Lokken reemphasized the necessity of the goal for government and local communities to "get real" and to get focused. He said the goal has to be in front of the public; it is a goal our economy needs. He told committee members a stake must be put in the ground; the entire education community has to start there.

Responding to a question regarding the concern that "teaching to the test" may become the mind-set, **Mr. Lokken**, said it will take leadership. The emphasis must be on getting students to think. He said if he wants facts, he can "Google-it", instead the emphasis needs to be on college writing and critical thinking. To a question regarding the large number of rural schools in Idaho being a hindrance to goals, he said the rural schools need to focus on doing a little bit very well instead of trying to take funds and make themselves look like big schools.

Responding to a committee discussion on achieving successful student learning as shown in the example of the top schools for "go on" rates, **Mr. Lokken** said educators need to look at Coeur d' Alene Charter Academy and Kootenai Junior/Senior High School as learning models.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary