

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 27, 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) to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed Brenda Miller to the podium for her presentation.

**PRESENTATION:** **Ms. Miller**, Regional Director, Northwest Professional Educators (NWPE), referred to the handouts distributed the Committee (see attachment 1). She said NWPE is a nonprofit, nonunion, professional educators' organization that has served Idaho's educators for the past ten years. Membership is open to all educators of any educational entity, including teachers, administrators, and support staff.

**Ms. Miller** said NWPE supports teacher choice and choices that benefit both students and teachers. The organization supports the state's right-to-work statute, which helps make teacher choice possible.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if the results of NWPE's surveys were communicated to the legislature. **Ms. Miller** answered affirmatively. **Senator Souza** asked how NWPE conveys its services to educators. **Ms. Miller** said they use a variety of communication techniques but are still struggling to get the word out.

**Chairman Mortimer** welcomed Glen Zollman, Vice President of State Services, Think Through Math (TTM).

**PRESENTATION:** **Mr. Zollman** introduced himself and his colleague, Lou Piconi, Founder and Executive Vice President of Think Through Math.

**Mr. Zollman** reviewed TTM's methods, including the program metrics, training metrics, student and parent engagement, motivation, and feedback (see attachment 2). **Mr. Zollman** said he estimates that by the end of 2015, TTM will have over 300 training programs which are adapted to students' specific needs. He said technology analysts report there are more than 200,000 students using the program and they are on track to solve 20 million to 22 million problems. He added that TTM is tablet compatible, which increases access to programs.

Questions were asked and answered about TTM's (1) regional centers, (2) the correlation between math and test scores, and (3) TTM's association with the Kahn Academy.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked Mr. Piconi to explain his reasons for establishing TTM. **Mr. Piconi** said he wanted to do something socially relevant and saw tutoring as a great resource for students. **Mr. Zollman** played a brief audio video for the new Senators to give them better insights on how the program works.

**Chairman Mortimer** welcomed **Dr. Cheryl Charlton**, CEO and Superintendent of Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) to the podium and asked her to introduce members from her organization who were present.

**PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Charlton**, introduced Jacob Smith, Dr. Sherawn Reberry, and Ryan Gravette, and called on Jacob Smith for his part of the presentation.

**Jacob Smith** gave an overview of IDLA's mission, which is to educate, innovate, and elevate (see attachment 3). He said IDLA was established in 2002 as an educational organization to bring choice, accessibility, flexibility, quality, and equity in curricular offerings to the students. Since that time, IDLA has evolved as a more statewide partner capable of adapting to the needs of its stakeholders with new initiatives and programs. He said IDLA would not be where it is today without the support of the legislators, district leaders and charter school members.

**Dr. Sherawn Reberry** presented the innovation arm of IDLA's mission, its university partners, and on-demand tutoring. She said IDLA is considered a leader in online learning.

**Mr. Ryan Gravette** reviewed the elevating portion of IDLA's mission, which includes technology initiatives, such as coding instruction. He said more than 50 teachers will be teaching coding to students K through 12 by next year. He said IDLA is elevating the State with its data security standards, which are the same standards used in banking and e-mobile commerce.

**Vice Chairman Thayne** asked for and received elaboration on the K- 5 pilot program which is in partnership with the University of Idaho. **Senator Keough** asked how much difference the build-out of IEN makes. **Mr. Gravette** said it makes an impact on schools and their ability to access IDLA resources. **Senator Nonini** asked for a comparison between the use of IEN bandwidth versus video conferencing. **Mr. Gravette** was not able to provide a ratio at this time. **Chairman Mortimer** asked about year-to-year growth. **Mr. Smith** answered that growth was about ten percent over the last three years.

**Chairman Mortimer** called on Dr. Charlton to offer closing remarks. **Dr. Charlton** said IDLA works hard to remain nimble and flexible to meet the needs of the State. She said it tries to work with all stakeholders and serve all students.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayne.

**Vice Chairman Thayne** recognized Dr. Taylor Raney for presentation of **Docket No. 08-0202-1402**.

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0202-1402:**

**Dr. Taylor Raney** Director, Teacher Certification and Professional Standards, State Department of Education presented **Docket No. 08-0202-1402**, referred the Committee to page 45 of the rule book. He outlined the portion of the rule that relates to standards for certification in school counseling, psychology and special education.

**Audra Urie**, Coordinator, State Department of Education, took the podium to give an overview of **Docket No. 08-0202-1402** specific to public school districts' approval of a contract with private driving companies. She referred to Idaho Code, Section 7.1, where the last line item was changed to read, "if the value of the contract is in excess of \$25,000 in a fiscal year, you must procure such services in accordance with Idaho Code 67-2801 through 67-2809."

**Ms. Urie** also referred to Idaho Code, Section 7.3, which reads, "to be eligible for reimbursement, the public school must show a direct expense equal to or greater than the reimbursable amount of \$125 per student, and/or show the contractor has a reduced fee for instruction more than or equal to \$125 per student. The instructor fees must be paid directly to the public school that is requesting reimbursement." **Ms. Urie** said the reason for the change was to offset the funding for the schools so the schools can provide the program.

**TESTIMONY:** **Mike Ryals**, representing Idaho Association of Professional Driving Businesses (IAPDB) testified in opposition to **Docket No. 08-0202-1402**, which he said was not in the best interest of the students, school districts, or contractors.

**Mike Arnell**, representing IAPDB, also testified in opposition to **Docket No. 08-0202-1402**, emphasizing the rule is discriminatory and unnecessary.

**MOTION:** **Senator Patrick** moved to reject **Docket No. 08-0202-1402**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** moved to hold **Docket No. 08-0202-1402** in Committee until time certain for the call of the Chair. **Senator Keough** seconded the motion.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** called for a roll call vote. **Senators Mortimer, Thayn, Keough, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking** voted aye. **Senators Den Hartog, Souza, Patrick, and Nonini** voted nay. The motion carried.

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

**RS 23332:** **Chairman Mortimer** recognized Mr. Tim Corder, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, State Department of Education, to present **RS 23332**.

**Mr. Corder** gave a brief overview of **RS 23332**, which describes changes the Professional Standards Commission would like to see going forward.

**MOTION:** **Senator Patrick** moved to print **RS 23332**. **Senator Keough** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 23334:** **Mr. Corder** briefly reviewed **RS 23334**, pertaining to fingerprinting and criminal history checks for all school district employees having contact with children.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to print **RS 23334**. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the Committee at 5:00 p.m.

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Senator Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn South  
Secretary

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Jeanne' Clayton  
Assistant