

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 28, 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:** Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Tracie Bent and Blake Youde, SBOE; Robin Nettinga and Matt Compton, IEA; Jane Wittmeyer, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families; Phil Homer, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural schools; Dwight Johnston, Heather Luchte, Kristi Enger, Steve Rayborn, P-Tech Ed; Steve Albiston, Eastern Idaho Technical College; Brady Aston, Lobby Idaho; Ben Brocksome, Kestrel West; Jess Harrison, ISBA; Shawn Dygert, Idaho Agriculture Teachers; Allen Spurgeon

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

**H 20:** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Policy and Planning Officer, State Board of Education (SBOE), presented **H 20**. She said the proposal is to amend language in Section 58-335 of the Idaho Code to include property owned by the State Board of Education to be listed as "exempt property." This will clarify the Board will not need to go through the Idaho Land Board process when disposing of surplus property. She said Section 33-107, Idaho Code already gives the Board the authority to "acquire, hold and dispose of title, rights and interests in real and personal property." Ms. Bent indicated the two sections of Code are currently in conflict.

Responding to questions from the committee, **Ms. Bent** said the Board cannot approve the sale of property for less than the appraisal price. She said if a university is wanting to dispose of a piece of property that is no longer in use, the money goes back to the individual institution. She explained there were two laws in existence. One said the Land Board had to give its approval before the State Board of Education could sell the property. The other states the SBOE can dispose of the surplus property. Ms. Bent said the property parcels are usually small, but can bring a high price.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **H 20** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Dixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 21:** **Tracie Bent**, SBOE, presented **H 21**. She said the proposed legislation would remove the requirement that the Board must approve any curriculum change in a nursing program that may alter existing articulation agreements between educational institutions.

To a question regarding a similar piece of legislation forthcoming from other instructional programs in the state, **Ms. Bent** said there was none.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 21** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 22:** **Tracie Bent**, SBOE, presented **H 22**. She explained the proposed amendment would repeal Section 33-503A, Idaho Code which laid out timelines for public school Boards of Trustees to transition from three year terms to four year terms. Since the final date specified the process would be completed by July 1, 2013, the Section is no longer necessary.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to send **H 22** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Zach Wesley**, President Idaho Parent-Teacher Association, appeared before the committee as part of the annual Legislature Day for the 120 schools participating in the PTA program. He said their priority for the year was to focus on early education and education funding.

In response to a question from the committee, **Mr. Wesley** said the PTA supports Pre-K education. He said the current literature supports early intervention. His organization supports a Pre-K pilot program that would be funded separately from the general fund.

**Dwight Johnston**, Administrator, Division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE), described the role of PTE in meeting the 60% goal set by the State Board of Education. He said PTE is especially successful in setting career pathways for students, plus graduating skilled technicians who are critical to the workforce. He stated the percentage of job placement or "going on" students from PTE colleges is at 92 percent. He also expressed a goal to enhance the image of PTE. **Mr. Johnston** explained PTE's funding requests. In addition, he introduced the SkillStack program and shared his vision of increased access for rural school students, plus strengthening the teacher pipeline.

Responding to questions from the committee, **Mr. Johnston** said PTE schools focus on careers in health professions, pharmacy technician, computer programs, advanced engineering and more traditional occupations such as welding and culinary arts. He explained that students are able to register at one of the six PTE colleges across Idaho. He indicated PTE schools do career counseling and are presently exploring best practices from other states in aligning with secondary schools. He said exploratory classes targeting careers should be offered in middle school and high school. To implement those classes the PTE community is researching different models. He said some of their online classes are delivered through IEN and IDLA.

To further questions, **Mr. Johnston** said the Division of PTE acknowledges a problem with high school dual credits transferring to institutions of higher education. He indicated PTE is working with the Agricultural and Natural Resources Initiative for increased funding and to incentivize the teachers to apply for those funds. He also acknowledges the lengthy application process needs refining. He said the PTE colleges follow their students for one year post graduation, with the information being fed into the longitudinal data system. He said their goal is employment for all graduates.

**Steve Albiston**, President, Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC), explained the overall enrollment, adult basic education services, outreach programs, collaborations and new programs. He discussed the alternative approach of EITC in meeting financial needs and in scheduling learning hours for students. He said in 2014, EITC had a record breaking year meeting 100 percent of their academic targets. EITC also had a record percentage of students retained and post-tested; and, a record percentage of students with academic level gains. In addition, student contact hours increased from 88 hours per student to 102 hours per student. He told legislators EITC turns away potential students because there is not enough room for more students nor funding for more teachers. He said the student body includes many part-time students who come for certificates and licences in a variety of professional-technical courses. However in 2014, EITC also awarded 104 Associate Degrees.

In response to questions from the committee, **President Albiston** said EITC certifies firefighters for both structural and wildland fires. Many fire departments in Idaho send firefighters for courses required for upward mobility. He said there is no federal financial aid for the truck driving school. The truck driver's company will usually pay half the tuition. Also, the Veterans Administration will pay for veterans enrolled in the program. He indicated there is a shortage of truck drivers. To a question regarding re-mediation rate, President Albiston said few incoming students require developmental English, however, many incoming students need re-mediation in math. To further questions, he stated the predominate factor in getting students enrolled in post-secondary education is counseling. High School teachers can play a role, higher education can extend career pathways information, but ultimately, parents need to take time with kids talking about realistic goals. He said all segments of society "own" it.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary