

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 29, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Keough, Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Buckner-Webb

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 Deborah Critchfield of Oakley, Idaho, who was appointed by the Governor to the State Board of Education to serve a term commencing July 16, 2014, and expiring July 1, 2016.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING: **Ms. Critchfield** introduced herself and described her professional background. She expressed an ongoing interest in education and said she is currently public information officer for the Cassia School District. She was elected School Trustee, Cassia County School District from 2001 to 2011, four years of which was as chairman. She also served on the Executive Board of the Idaho School Boards Association, the State Dual Credit Task Force, and the State Technology Task Force, among others.

Ms. Critchfield answered questions posed by Committee members. **Chairman Mortimer** thanked Ms. Critchfield for introducing herself to the Committee.

PRESENTATION: **Dwight Johnson**, Administrator of Professional-Technical Education (PTE), State of Idaho, introduced the PTE staff and students in the audience.

Mr. Johnson said PTE is important because it makes education relevant for students. He discussed available jobs through PTE courses and reviewed the information contained in the handout (see attachment 1). He said by the year 2020, two of three jobs in the United States will require some type of postsecondary degree and noted that technical training and academic training are not mutually exclusive.

Mr. Johnson discussed the funding formula, the bulk of PTE's budget is from the general fund and the need to enhance the image of PTE occupations. He said PTE is working with the Department of Education to achieve credit value transfers. He said Rural schools need greater access to PTE, and he gave examples of how students can attain part of their degree with IDLA and PTE digital courses. He said PTE's key issues are funding for equipment and improved recruitment of quality teachers.

Committee members posed questions and made comments about rural connectivity, counseling costs, grants, and the ratio of counselor to student and school facilities.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Mr. Johnson for his enthusiastic and informative presentation and called on Craig Miller.

PRESENTATION: **Craig Miller**, Principal, Technical Careers High School (TCHS) in Idaho Falls took the podium and introduced Angie LeBlanc, School and Industry Liaison; BreaAnna Miller, Student Body President; Clayton Steen, Student Body Vice President; and Scott Miller, Student Body Activities Director.

Mr. Miller described the program as a professional-technical magnet school of choice located in Bonneville Joint School District No. 93 (see attachment 2). He reviewed the school's background and accomplishments and called on the students to describe their career goals and educational experience at TCHS.

Each student spoke with enthusiasm for and appreciation of their experience at TCHS, including the career-oriented courses and meaningful relationships with faculty and students. They also answered questions and received comments posed by Committee members during their presentations.

Chairman Mortimer thanked the group for their presentations and welcomed Dr. Steven Albiston.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Steve Albiston**, President, Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC), reported on the school's history, location and demographics (see attachment 3). He outlined the EITC's 2014 enrollment (1196), graduation rates, retention, training placement trends, apprentice programs, and adult basic education. **Dr. Albiston** said EITC adjusts its curriculum as industry trends change and noted that enrollment has declined as the economy has become more robust. He said they need to be more aggressive in recruiting students directly out of high school.

Dr. Albiston spoke of EITC's corroboration with the University of Idaho and its fire service technology program, which was transferred to EITC . He concluded his presentation with a video clip illustrating fire service training.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Dr. Albiston for his presentation and called Ms. Emily Bybee to the podium.

PRESENTATION: **Emily Bybee**, Area Partnership Manager, Imagine Learning (IL), introduced herself and presented an overview of the Imagine Learning Language Literacy Program (see attachment 4). Imagine Learning's stated mission is to teach language and literacy to the children of the world, changing lives and opening doors of opportunity.

Ms. Bybee said the program offers one-on-one tutoring for children and includes peer-to-peer modeling, where students teach other students. She said in 2011 IL had just one participating school and is now in partnership with 20 districts. She said data from Twin Falls shows that IL students outperform the state's average test scores. Ms. Bybee also spoke of Utah's success with the program.

Ms. Bybee invited Committee members to visit a classroom to see the program in action and talk to the teachers. She answered questions and accepted comments from Committee members and ended her presentation with a video showing the peer-to-peer teaching method.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn South
Secretary

Jeanne' Clayton
Assistant