

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 02, 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 meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed the audience.

GUBERNATORAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Deborah Critchfield to the State Board of Education to floor with recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. Motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Patrick will be the sponsor.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Eric Kellerer**, Director, Center for innovation in Teaching and Learning, Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) presented the Kahn Academy (KA) which is in partnership with the Albertson Foundation. The Doceo Center of NNU houses the project. **Mr. Kellerer** explained KA's philosophy for learning. He presented the timeline of work in Idaho which began in 2012 and is now in its second year. He emphasized the number of teachers and schools that are participating in the KA. He discussed the challenges and successes of KA (see attachment 1). He introduced Danielle Desjarlais, Math Teacher, West Middle in Nampa to explain her experiences in the classroom.

Ms Desjarlais explained the make-up of her classroom students was what lead her to use KA. She explained how she learned the program, how she is using the program and how she is helping other teachers in her district with the program.

Vice Chairman Thayn remarked that on Friday he went with Dr. Kellerer to Riverglen International School and watched a class use KA. He explained the student learning that he witnessed. He said he thought with the KA system in place in more districts, Idaho could get to a mastery-based system with minimal struggles.

Chairman Mortimer asked how much time it takes to develop a lesson plan. **Dr. Kellerer** stated this is not a curriculum but a tool to aid curriculum. The assessment of the student's knowledge is then determined outside KA.

Ms. Desjarlais and **Dr. Kellerer** gave an example of what a student using KA would be seeing on the screen and how they work the program.

Senator Souza said she noticed the MAP test is used. She asked how and when students are tested. **Dr. Kellerer** replied they test in the fall, winter, and spring. They watch the students' progress getting the feedback from all the 10,000 students in the program. He stated they are not just interested if KA is effective, but how they are effective.

Senator Souza asked why they chose the MAP test. **Dr. Kellerer** stated because it was nationally normed.

Senator Patrick asked if there was a way to bypass the program. **Dr. Kellerer** replied the student cannot move forward at all until they have answered the question correctly. There is no way to bypass questions or manipulate the program into letting the student progress further than what they have mastered.

Senator Patrick said there is currently no cost with KA, but there are costs for the program. What is the plan for future funding? **Dr. Kellerer** explained KA is free, the cost incurred is for the hardware (computers) and professional development.

Senator Den Hartog spoke about the merits of KA based on the experience of her fourth grade child.

Chairman Mortimer asked him to explain the cost per classroom for hardware and the two year professional development. **Dr. Kellerer** stated the hardware costs average \$27,000 per classroom; that is for a one-to-one computer to student ratio. He then outlined the process that teachers should go through to make KA work for their classroom. He stated the profession cost for the whole staff of a building would average \$1,700.

Senator Thayn asked what age level is the ideal to start the KA program. **Dr. Kellerer** replied in the third and fourth grade through middle school. The most gains are made in those years.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1402:

Vice Chairman Thayn welcomed Tim Corder, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, State Department of Education (SDE), to present **Docket No. 08-0203-1402**. Dr Christina Nava was scheduled to present this docket but was unable to attend the meeting. **Mr. Corder** stated he was here today to speak to the rule that is being amended and the rule the Committee is bothered by, the 95 percent. He said there are people in the audience to address any questions. **Mr. Corder** explained the changes in Section D iv of the docket remove ambiguity.

MOTION:

Senator Ward-Engleking moved to adopt **Docket No. 08-0203-1402**. **Senator Keough** seconded the motion. Motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Vice Chairmen Thayn returned the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

Chairman Mortimer said because the Committee had so many questions about testing, SDE brought Angela Hemingway, Assessment and Accountability Director, SDE, to respond. He opened the floor to the Senators to ask questions. Those questions were regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC), MAP testing, and the Iowa Test.

ADJOURNED:

Chairman Mortimer thanked the SDE for answering all the questions. There being no more questions or business, he adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn South
Secretary