

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 03, 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:** Representative(s) Boyle, McDonald

**GUESTS:** Rob Winslow, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Marilyn Whitney, Office of the Governor

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**Blossom Johnston**, J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation, Program Officer, introduced **Brandon Busted**, Executive Director, *Gallup Education*. She described ongoing involvement with the subject of student and teacher engagement in public schools.

**Mr. Busted** told lawmakers that according to the data collected it appears the educational community is aiming at the wrong targets. He explained as students move through the educational path from elementary school to high school, they become less engaged. He said the American public is beginning to lack confidence in public schools, in addition, there is a broken link between education and work. Statistically, 96% of chief academic officers rate their institution of higher education as very to somewhat effective at preparing students for the world of work. However, 14% of Americans strongly agree that college graduates in this country are well-prepared for success in the workplace and 11% of business leaders strongly agree graduating students have the skills and competencies that American business needs. Mr. Busted told the committee while the math scores from standardized math tests are on the rise, the perceived entrepreneurial capabilities are in sharp decline.

**Mr. Busted** stated the current education measures are insufficient. He said the focus has been on inputs instead of outputs. He said the data collected by Gallup, shows "hope" as a stronger predictor of college success than SAT and GPA. He discussed the ultimate outcome of an education which is a great life. He said a great life must include well-being in at least three of the following areas: purpose, social, financial, physical and community. Mr. Busted indicated well-being matters to organizations. In considering health costs, well-being in the multiple targeted areas, is economically critical for employers. He said employee "engagement" is also key to business vitality.

Key data from **Mr. Busted** shows in 2013, 33% of the students in grades 5 through 12 who took the Gallup Student Poll were classified as "success-ready." These students scored highly on all three dimensions the assessment measures: hope, engagement and well-being. He said students are 30 times more likely to be engaged at school if they believe the school is committed to building the strengths of each student; and, if one teacher makes the student excited about the future.

A discussion was held regarding student engagement, student mentors and school leadership. It was suggested the research seems to be focusing on what is not working. Legislators asked for direction in setting policy which will support what is working. **Mr. Busted** said leadership is a key component.

**Ms. Johnston** was called upon to give some specific Idaho statistics. She said 22 schools have "go on" programs. She indicated the Albertson's Foundation only funds those schools that do the courageous thing.

In response to a question, **Mr. Busted** said "hope" comes from one's ideas and energy for the future. He said many students have goals, but the pathways to achieve the goal, are what students do not have. He reminded lawmakers that 60% of Americans do not have a college degree. He said the challenge is to convince adults that college is worthwhile.

**Dr. Bob Kustra**, President, Boise State University (BSU), explained the changes being incorporated at Boise State. He said some degrees are no longer offered and BSU has added new departments including a new department head of innovation and design. He also described incentives and programs designed to assist in student success. Dr. Kustra spoke of the disparity between the land grant colleges and BSU regarding dollars-per-student funding.

Responding to a question from the committee, **Dr. Kustra** indicated that few of the students registered at BSU come under-prepared. To a further question he said BSU has located their 3+3 Program in the center of 80 software companies. This program allows students to go back and forth between work and education. He also said some of the students are hired-on before they finish their degrees.

In response to further questions, **Dr. Kustra** said the mission of the land grant colleges was carved out years prior to BSU becoming a university. He said the incoming freshman students are channeled through Foundational Studies, a program designed to give Freshman students a solid beginning. He said BSU highlights the Career Services Center during new student orientation. In addition, parents and students listen to a presentation on Idaho's "hot jobs." Dr. Kustra stated the university dialogues with industry and regional employers in keeping BSU focused on high-demand courses and degrees.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary