

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 05, 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: Robin Nettinga, IEA; Sherri Ybarra, Pete Koehler, Tim Corder, and Julie Oberle, SDE; Rob Winslow and Phil Homer, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Eldon Wallace and Allen Spurgeon

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 29, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent, State Department of Education (SDE), presented her vision for the department including proposals for the 2016 education budget. She said her vision statement is: "Supporting Schools and Students to Achieve." She indicated, under her leadership, SDE priorities are: retaining and recruiting quality educators, working with local leadership, and working to increase operational funding for schools while addressing unique community challenges. In addition SDE will invest in innovation and technology that is aligned to local needs, will be committed to higher standards and will examine the current assessment system to ensure student growth and accountability.

Supt. Ybarra announced the appointment of two new support staff: **Dr. Chuck Zimmerly** as Community Relations Officer, who will lead the new outreach effort to provide direct communication from school districts to SDE. **Will Goodman** will serve as Chief Technology Officer. He will assist with concerns from local districts over critical infrastructure, technical and broadband queries and requests.

From the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC), **Supt. Ybarra** has asked for a \$10.9 million dollars in discretionary technology funds. She also asked JFAC for \$18.7 million dollars to be moved from mandated, nondiscretionary lines of the budget to the operational category, without restriction, thus allowing local authorities to allocate their resources.

Supt. Ybarra said she is working on modification to the NCLB (No Child Left Behind Act) of 2001, now referred to as the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) waiver, to resolve numerous issues concerning federal mandates and testing. She explained a proposal for staggering the testing system and stated the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) is not the only measure of student growth in the classroom.

Other priorities for SDE will be: higher teacher pay, lower class sizes and mentoring opportunities as described within tiered licensure. **Supt. Ybarra** said she would place a statutory limit on classroom size for kindergarten to third grade. She also proposed a career ladder pilot project; 10 schools will be chosen to participate. She distributed a handout describing features and payout regarding key educational components SDE wants for FY 2016. (See attachment 1.)

Responding to questions from the committee, **Supt. Ybarra** said she favors a pilot program for pre-K education. She said local districts could find facilities if classroom sizes were reduced to 20 in-seat students per class. Regarding possible drawbacks for monitoring student growth, within the SDE plan for every other year testing, Supt. Ybarra said she would alternate math tests and English tests, thus students would test every year, but only in one subject instead of two. To concerns about the career ladder pilot, she said documentation from the pilot program will drive the implementation of career ladders across the state.

To a question regarding teacher attrition to surrounding states, **Supt. Ybarra** said Idaho is going in the right direction to keep the best teachers. A discussion was held regarding public charter school growth, across-the-board 3% funding for teachers, the Finland model of education, and certain economies of scale.

Tim Hill, Deputy Superintendent, State Department of Education, provided an overview of the Idaho Public School Funding. Mr. Hill explained the largest part of the FY 2015 General Fund comes from individual income tax (47%), followed by sales tax (41.2%), corporate income tax (6.9%) and other sources (4.9%). He stated the General Fund allocation to Idaho's public schools, colleges and universities; and, other education takes 60 percent of the state revenues. He said the total Idaho public schools budget for FY 2015 is \$1,937,873,300.

Mr. Hill gave a detailed presentation addressing the funding mechanism and data pertaining to public school fund allocation. (See attachment 2.)

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary