

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 09, 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:** Karen Echeverria, ISBA; Tracie Bent, SBOE; Robin Nettinga, IEA; Tim Corder, SDE; Phil Homer, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Dale Kleinert, NWAC/Advanced; Donna Looze, AAUW; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News
- Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 23447:** **Tim Corder**, Special Assistant/Legislation and Rules, State Department of Education presented **RS 23447** to the committee. He explained the Superintendent of Public Instruction has been designated as the chair of the Board of Directors of the Idaho Bureau of Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind. He said the superintendent must attend all meetings and direct the work of the board. Mr. Corder said the proposed legislation would give the superintendent the ability to appoint a replacement as needed, with the authority to act on behalf of the superintendent. He told the committee **Supt. Ybarra** plans to appoint **Dr. Charlotte "Charlie" Silva**, Director of Special Education, SDE, to serve on the Board if Section 33-3404 of Idaho Code is amended.
- In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Corder**, said a substitute could be appointed in the absence of the superintendent, however, that person would not have a vote. He said the Board meetings could be held in Gooding or Boise. He indicated **Dr. Silva** would serve concurrent to the term of the superintendent.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 23447**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Hollis Brookover**, Vice President of Development and Special Projects, Idaho Business for Education reported on the Governor's Task Force Recommendations for Literacy. She explained the process and outcomes. She said the committee for literacy examined the characteristics of Idaho schools with successful early literacy programs. She said proficiency in reading by the end of third grade is the leading indicator for future academic success. She described Idaho's third graders as 67% non-proficient. The recommendations for assessment were: updating the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) to ensure best screening practices and mandating that the State Department of Education provide IRI diagnostic tools for all districts. In addition, Idaho needs continuation of screening, plus monitoring student progress beyond third grade. Ms. Bookover also explained the recommendations for curriculum and instruction, professional development and policy, evaluation and funding. She said Idaho needs a "laser focus" on early literacy for students.

Mary Beth Flachbart, Neuhaus Education Center, was called upon to answer questions from the committee. In regard to evidence for early childhood preparedness, Ms. Flachbart said the evidence is there, to support Pre-K preparedness, but the Task Force Recommendations were focused on the educational offerings already in place. Responding to a question concerning the inadequacy of Idaho's IRI, she said the problems early learners experience are decoding of letters and sounds, plus confusion with those letters and sounds from another language.

A discussion was held regarding goals for literacy, the difficulty of proficiency for those children borne into poverty, full-day kindergarten, interventions, and strategies for success. **Ms. Flachbart** said students in the Brownsville, Texas schools have some of the highest achievement with reading, and reading well. She said the students are both bilingual and biliterate. She explained that students who learn to read in any language, only learn to read once. The transition to other languages is not the problem. She said for children in poverty, only 1 in every 300 homes, has books. In conclusion, Ms. Flachbart said the problem of literacy has to be the focus of all legislative policy from now on.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary