

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 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: The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

HCR 3: **Rep. Luker** presented **HCR 3**. He said the legislation provides for a legislative task force to study student data collection. The information to be gathered by the task force could help simplify and minimize the collection of student data, protect student privacy and evaluate federal funding mandates in connection to student data collection.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Luker** explained a data point identifies specifics such as birth date, gender and Social Security number. He indicated the task force study would last during the interim and the findings would be reported during the 2016 Legislative Session. A discussion was held regarding the fate of federal funding, non-legislator voting rights within an interim committee and the rapidly rising core of data point collection.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **HCR 3** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Stephanie Zimmerman, Stacey Knudsen, Mila Wood, Devin Knudsen, Julie Lynde and Valerie Candelaria spoke in favor of **HCR 3**. The group expressed concern over mandated data collection, the National Education Database, psychometric data and student privacy breaches. Individuals spoke of vendors using data for profit and gave examples of alarming student "data backpacks." Some expressed disappointment over early student career counseling and over the collection of data regarding an individual's private health matters. The group urged lawmakers to protect children and to support **HCR 3**.

Responding to a question from the committee regarding cost to the state commensurate to stopping educational data collection, **Ms. Knudsen** said the aggregate data is where the funding is connected.

Rep. Luker was called upon for closing testimony. He said the information presented before the committee in testimony needs to be studied. He said legislators need education on current collection and dissemination of student data.

In response to a question from the committee on the choice of an interim committee instead of using Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) for this study, **Rep. Luker** said OPE is constrained in the number of projects they can examine. In addition, OPE findings often stay within a small group of researchers. He said he wants legislators to examine the findings and make conclusions from the data presented. He also wants the research and findings open to the public.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman DeMordaunt called for a vote on the motion to send **HCR 3** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **The motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23523:

Rep. Harris presented **RS 23523** to the committee. He said the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education recommends a shift to a system where students advance based upon content mastery, rather than seat time requirements. He indicated the proposed legislation would authorize the State Department of Education to conduct a state wide awareness campaign to promote understanding and interest. It would also establish a committee of educators to identify roadblocks, plus possible solutions, and facilitate the development of an incubator program with an initial cohort of local education agency participants. Rep. Harris said the fiscal impact would be \$400,000.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Harris** said the moving to mastery-based education is a difficult shift at the core level. He said educators will have to "pull out" the concept of age and other traditional modes of educating. He told the committee the cost estimate was figured by the State Board of Education. He said the cost for an advertising campaign would be minimal.

MOTION:

Rep. Clow made a motion to introduce **RS 23523**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Beth Oppenheimer, Executive Director, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children explained Idaho's early learning landscape. She described the fundamental enhancements that come to a child through early learning programs. She told the committee there are 117,674 children age birth to 4 years old in Idaho and explained the advantages of early childhood programs. She described the working and learning cultures which exist in the families of Idaho. Ms. Oppenheimer also described the disadvantages of low-income children and expressed concern for the non-cohesive early childhood programs in Idaho.

Responding to a question, **Ms. Oppenheimer** said parental education in assisting children during the 0-4 formative years is critical. She said the program: Ready! for Kindergarten in Southeastern Idaho; and, the home-visit programs from home-health nurses are providing assistance in educating parents. She said she was not aware of a linked program to improve the 30 million word-vocabulary gap for poverty and ESL (English as a Second Language) children.

William Strength, Pocatello-Chubbuck Head Start SuperDads, testified regarding the dramatic change in his life as a result of interaction with the Head Start program. He described his pathway from indolence and drugs to becoming a productive father and a part of the Head Start fatherhood initiative. He also described the enhanced opportunities for his wife and children through the mentoring programs of Head Start.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary