

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 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; Phil Homer, IASA; Jane Wittmeyer, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Jess Harrison, ISBA; Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates

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

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 5, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23377: **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 23377**. She explained the proposed legislation was the same as the salary-based apportionment bill which passed through the House in 2014. She said the Senate was unable to consider it last year. She told the committee **RS 23377** would allow school districts and public charter schools to receive apportionment based on the better of their midterm or full-term support units. She indicated there are a few schools which experience growth as the school year progresses and only those schools would be affected.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 23377**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dr. Claudia Miner, Vice President of Development, Waterford Institute, spoke in behalf of UPSTART: An At-Home School Readiness Program. She described the kindergarten readiness problem which exists in Utah and the success of UPSTART in both urban and rural areas of the state. Dr. Miner said the program was established by the Utah Legislature as a five-year pilot and is now in its sixth year. It was set up with strong reporting requirements and an external evaluation component. She said the Utah State Office of Education oversaw a RFP (Request For Proposal) process and the nonprofit Waterford Institute was selected to administer the program. She indicated in 2014, lawmakers approved an additional \$3 million appropriation funding 5,090 preschool children; 940 children are federally funded.

Dr. Miner said UPSTART is an at-home program which uses the Institute's software. The children receive an individualized reading, math and science curriculum with an emphasis on reading. Computers and the internet are provided, if the home does not have them. She said there is dual-language support and other parental and child support such as: in-person and online training, email activities and coaching phone calls. She indicated parents give UPSTART a 98-99% success rating, plus children like it.

Responding to a question regarding socialization, **Dr. Miner** said UPSTART focuses on the cognitive; the socialization is left up to the parents. To further questions, she said the program coach does in-person training with the parent giving explicit directives on student on-task time and desired outcomes. She indicated the demographic data reports those using the program to be single and working parents, Native American families, Hispanic families, very rural and remote families, in addition to urban families. Dr. Miner told the committee, Utah is starting a pilot program with professional child-care providers. She also said dropouts from the program were almost nonexistent. She told the committee, in many homes, the child and parent technology gap is as broad as the knowledge gap; and, Spanish language reading books are provided, but more often the adults in the home use the English preschool reading books to practice their English and/or English accent.

In response to questions regarding costs and federal grants, **Dr. Miner** said they received one-time federal monies for the UPSTART program. In addition, she said the cost of the UPSTART program per child was just under \$900.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary