

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Lincoln Auditorium

**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representative(s) Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative Shepherd

**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 8:33 a.m. He welcomed the members of the Idaho School Boards Association.

**Will Goodman**, Technology Director, State Department of Education (SDE), explained the Idaho Education Network's (IEN) problems since the judge ruled on November 10, 2014, that the IEN contract was illegal. He said the school broadband ends February 28, 2015. He said SDE's goal is to help schools move forward and avoid loss of credits for those students taking online courses. He spoke to the immediate issues and gave specific information pertaining to SDE's role in working with school districts for short term solutions. Mr. Goodman said the 2015 Legislature is looking at long term solutions.

Responding to questions, **Mr. Goodman** said the worst case scenario would be that the districts would have to pay full price for internet connection to schools. With proper e-rate filing, plus procurement of state and federal e-rate allocation, the school districts can save 50-90% of their costs.

**John Goedde**, Office of the Governor, described the history of successful IEN internet service to Idaho school districts. He said the current situation is more critical for some schools than others. He said local districts should be looking at bids for temporary continuation of the internet. He stated the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) will be providing some relief. He asked all involved to think of the students when making their decisions.

**H 122:** **Marilyn Whitney**, Chief Communications and Legislative Officer, Office of the Governor, presented **H 122**. She said the bill seeks to update and clarify the intent of strategic planning and to extend training to school board members and administrators. She explained **H 122** is an implementation of the Continuing Improvement Plan recommended by the Governor's Task Force. She said it is also the intent to include parents, students and the community in the annual plan and that the yearly progress would be reported to the community. Ms. Whitney indicated last year's legislation established an ongoing appropriation for this purpose. This year the statute enhances the expenditure to \$6,600 from \$2,000. She stated the statute also provides for training in the areas of finance, ethics and governance, in addition, the Continuous Improvement Plans will be updated by October 1 of each year; a change from the August 1 date.

**Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association and **Dale Kleinert**, Director, Northwest Accreditation, spoke **in support** of **H 122**. Ms. Echeverria said ISBA is pleased with the premise of the statute and the change in the compliance date. She said 81% of the schools use professional trainers to educate the board members and administrators. Mr. Kleinert said 255 districts use a review cycle.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **H 122** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kloc** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Todd Wells**, President, ISBA, gave a report to the committee regarding the activities, successes and concerns of school boards across the state. He spoke to issues being supported by ISBA which should be seen as proposals or considerations before the legislature this year. He also told the committee, ISBA is the first state in the nation to have charter school boards included in their association. Mr. Wells reported on the "Stand Up 4 Idaho Public Schools" campaign launched by the ISBA.

**Jay Larsen**, President and Founder, Idaho Technology Council, said there is tremendous opportunity for educators and lawmakers to participate in areas vital for Idaho's future economic success. He said Idaho is at a crossroad to make significant changes in the development of talent, the access to capital, and to improve research and development in computer science. He indicated local school districts must be partners or the students will not receive the instruction nor get the vision. He reported there are over 1,700 open computing jobs in Idaho, 309 computer science graduates and only 7 schools teaching computer science. He noted only 10% of high schools across the country teach computer science. Mr. Larsen explained, when developing software for Idaho, it is centered on agriscience, energy and technology. He explained the progress made over the past three years and the need to teach Idaho's students critical thinking, problem solving, persistence, creativity and other needed 21st Century skills. He asked the legislators and school districts to implement the Computer Science K-12 Initiative.

**James Price**, Chief Technology Officer, Clearwater Analytics, shared his personal journey from an 8th grade computer programming class in rural Utah to Director of Development for Clearwater Analytics. He said his company provides accounting and reporting services for investment portfolios to some of the world's largest corporations, insurance companies and asset management firms. The company currently employs nearly 400 people, almost all of them in the Boise headquarters. He said finding software developers to meet the demand of the company is difficult within Idaho. He asked lawmakers to ensure Idaho students get the education necessary to prepare them for tomorrow's economy. He also encouraged every school district to offer computer science in the curriculum.

**Dr. Sherawn Reberry**, Director of Education, Idaho Digital Learning Academy, said Idaho's workforce needs computer science graduates. She explained the importance of "code" curriculum and training, and how Idaho Technology Council and IDLA have partnered to bring Code.org K-12 curriculum to Idaho school districts. She described the course offerings for students and explained the workings of Code.org and IDLA. Currently IDLA is providing training and workshops for teacher development.

**Dan Puga**, President & Director of Operations, In Time Tec, LLC, shared his story of growing up in Greenleaf, Idaho, going to Canyon County schools and learning computer science in a teacher's garage, then progressing to create his own software/technology company. He echoed the comments and concerns expressed by **Mr. Price**. He emphasized the need for STEM (Science, Technology, Energy and Mathematics) mentorship and entrepreneurship in education classrooms.

**Mr. Larsen** said it takes a community to bring the educational community in sync with the demands of the workplace.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** spoke to ISBA members. He said this is an opportunity for Idaho to set our kids apart. He stated Idaho is the first state in the nation to make a statewide commitment to Code.org.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary