

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Keough, Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** welcomed the Committee and convened the meeting at 3:02 p.m. He asked the Committee to agree to rearrange the agenda to accommodate those presenting **H 52**.

**H 52:** **Richard Turner**, Executive Officer, Idaho Youth Challenge Academy (IYCA), introduced his colleagues, Major General Gary Saylor and Gayla Crall. He presented **H 52** Idaho Code § 46-805. This is a multiphase youth intervention program. He explained the work, intention, and funding of IYCA. Mr. Turner explained **H 52** is to remove the sunset clause to Idaho Code § 46-805 (see attachment 1).

**Senator Patrick** admitted that he was not an original supporter of this program. Having had the opportunity to see its success, he thinks highly of the program.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked Mr. Turner to restate the school's capacity and enrollment. **Mr. Turner** replied they have 90 students enrolled with the ability to house 120. **Senator Den Hartog** asked what is the percentage of the funding splits. **Mr. Turner** stated 75 percent is federal and 25 percent is state. It is the average daily attendance (ADA) money follows the student. Private foundation funding paid for the facilities.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked what was the purpose of the sunset and has the program fulfilled its obligation. **Major General Saylor** answered that the original concern in the upstart of the program was the continuation of federal funds. The program wanted to avoid any burden on the State, especially if the federal funds were no longer available. **Senator Den Hartog** asked in the original proposal for the program, was the ADA money expected. **Major General Saylor** answered in the affirmative.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** commented that she was thrilled to see the success of the program.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** commented that she was able to attend the first graduation and speak with parents. Those parents were thrilled with the program and how it changed their children. She is very pleased with the program.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked what are the reserves for the school and how are they maintained. **Major General Saylor** stated the reserves were from a foundation and used for the site. Those funds are almost exhausted. They are looking for other funding sources for the private portion of the funding equation. He continued to outline how the ADA funding comes to the school and how it is adjusted throughout the school year. **Chairman Mortimer** asked if the federal government is accepting the ADA money as a match. **Major General Saylor** answered in the affirmative. He explained because the federal and state are not on the same fiscal cycle they sometimes will need to use some reserve money.

**Senator Patrick** asked if there has been any tracking done to see what the graduates have done after they have completed this program. **Major General Saylor** answered in the affirmative and explained the mentor program for the students. He said he would get the other facts to Senator Patrick.

**MOTION:** **Senator Keough** moved to send **H 52** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion.

**Senator Keough** spoke to her motion and commented that many people had concerns with the program in its beginning. Yet the local community and school district have formed a partnership to aid in its success. She stated more importantly the students have embraced this program and it has made a positive difference in their lives. **Senator Keough** emphasized that the program is worthy of continuance.

The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Keough will carry **H 52** on the floor.

**PRESENTATION:** **Rakesh Mohan**, Director, Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) introduced his colleagues that would present K-12 Longitudinal Data System. He said this evaluation was requested in March 2014 by the Senate Education Committee, Representative Darrell Bolz and Senator Ron Lacey with the approval of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC). He explained this was the most extensive project OPE has worked on. **Mr. Mohan** said that this presentation will be done in three parts and at a very high level.

**Lance McCleve**, Principle Evaluator, **Hannah Crumrine**, Senior Evaluator, and **Jennifer Tomlinson**, Evaluator, from OPE presented the report. They explained the data they collected for this report came from education sources at school districts and state educational levels.

**Ms. Crumrine** detailed the role of ISEE in the State; from the initial start in the State Department of Education (SDE), to the roll-out into the school districts. The facts of the roll-out of ISEE were detailed. The information clarified the misunderstandings and misrepresentations of the specifics in regards to the implementation. She spoke about the context in which ISEE was adopted, developed, and implemented in the school districts and State.

**Ms. Tomlinson** reported the burden the Student Longitudinal Data System (SDLS) places on the school districts. She explained in detail about those burdens, which included how data was gathered and submitted, limited training and IT support, and the organization of the ISEE data.

**Mr. McCleve** completed the report by highlighting the threats to the sustainability of ISEE. He explained how the IT staff have been the managers of the program to the exclusion of the districts and the SDE. He outlined the problems the districts experienced and why they were not prepared to implement the ISEE system. The problem with data collection. **Mr. McCleve** emphasized is not due to ISEE, rather it is in who and how the data is collected. He said ISEE is in-line with the national standards and national movement for better data collection.

**Mr. McCleve** concluded the presentation with recommendations for improvement. To see the complete report go to <http://legislature.idaho.gov/ope/publications/reports/r1503.pdf> (see attachment 1).

The Committee asked questions regarding the following: additional cost of computers and IT support, federal goal completion, Idaho's implementation of K-12 SDLS, the quality of implementation, the ability to change data collection points, the estimated cost increase to the State, the burden on rural versus urban districts, suggestions regarding time restraints, the ability to proceed forward, and the way to simplify the process of data collection.

The OPE team answered the questions to the satisfaction of the Committee members.

**S 1050:** Tracie Bent, Chief Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), was unavailable to present **S 1050**. **Marilyn Whitney**, Senior Special Assistant for Education and Government Services, Governor's Office, presented **S 1050**, relating to Advanced Opportunities Program (AOP). She stated this recommendation came from the Governor's Task Force Committee to simplify and streamline the program. She explained the programs and the requirements of each program. **Ms. Whitney** said those programs are as follows: 8 in 6: Fast Forward, Dual-Credit for early completers, and Mastery Advancement. This bill takes all the programs that were in previous chapters of legislation and places them into Chapter 46. She walked the Committee through the redlined version of the bill which delineated the changes.

Committee members asked about the funding implications to this program. Questions about funding included: the costs to the districts, counties, and the State. There was much discussion as to how the counties' liquor funds pay for the credits of the AOP. The questions were answered to the satisfaction of the Committee.

**TESTIMONY:** **Amy Shumway**, Advanced Opportunities Facilitator, West Ada School District, highlighted the Fast Forward program and how it benefits students in her district yet it is a terrible burden to administer (see attachment 2).

**TESTIMONY:** **Dawn Tollman**, Student Services Consultant, Boise School District (District), Advanced Opportunities Coordinator stated this bill is good for the students but is a huge burden for the districts. She stated that 1,900 students in the District are enrolled in the program (see attachment 3).

Those who testified were thanked by **Chairman Mortimer**. **Ms. Whitney** stated that their comments have been heard. She noted that the bill states the SBE promulgates rules and the problems expressed should be taken to SBE for future rulemaking.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** spoke to the history of the bill and said the SBE has done a great job in writing this bill and has captured the intent of the original legislation.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **S 1050** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Thayn will carry **S 1050** on the floor.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

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Senator Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn South  
Secretary