

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 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: Michael Tetrault, Parent of Rolling Hills Student; Laurie Correll, COSSA; David High, ICON Charter School; Nathan Edelmann, Kelly Edginton, Bree Brodersa, Allen L Wengerand and Alicia Brodersen, Idaho Digital Virtual Academy; Dawn Peck, ISP; Tim Corder and Supt. Sherri Ybarra, SDE; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Alejandro Zarmura; Andrea Hampton; Rob Winslow, IASA; Jane Wittmeyer, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families; Cindy Hooval

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 126: **Rep. Boyle** said **H 126** has the same language as the bill which was passed through the House, but was held in the Senate in 2014. She indicated the legislation would only influence salary-based apportionment of schools receiving an influx of students outside the "28-day best attendance" window.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **H 126** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

David High, Board Chairman, Idaho Connects Academy; **Michael Tetrault**, Parent of Rolling Hills Charter Students; **Laurie Correll**, Hospice Nurse; **Kelly Edginton**, IDVA Administrator; **Nathan Edelmann** and **Alicia Brodersen**, IDVA Students spoke **in support** of **H 126**. They spoke to the benefits of nontraditional schools and the need for those schools to be funded for fluctuating enrollment.

Rob Winslow, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators, testified **in opposition** to **H 126**. He said he also spoke for the ISBA (Idaho School Boards Association) and IBE (Idaho Business for Education) in asking the members of the committee to delay action until the Governor's Task Force Recommendations can be incorporated into broader based, similar legislation.

Jane Wittmeyer, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families, spoke **in support** of **H 126**. She said the legislation was delayed in 2014 and needs to go forth. She said virtual schools had no representation on the Task Force.

A discussion was held regarding lack of a safety net for public charter schools as compared to provisions in statute for traditional public schools.

Rep. Boyle summarized **H 126** by saying it is a fairness issue for schools providing a service, but are not receiving compensation for those seasonal or "at risk" students who cause attendance fluctuation.

Reps. VanOrden, Kerby, Clow, Harris and Mendive spoke in support of H 126. Rep. VanOrden said she was voting in favor of **H 126**. She said she understands the student enrollment variance at the alternative schools. However, she indicated when charter schools were first introduced, everyone knew what the landscape looked like; the law was laid out. She stated that charter schools currently are seeing the challenges that traditional schools face. Rep. VanOrden said there was agreement in the beginning, but the landscape seems to have changed and now the charter schools want additional funding. She said the legislature, charter schools and traditional schools will need to have this conversation. Rep. Kerby said the legislation does help the traditional schools and it is fairly situated for the charters. Rep. Harris said there are 20,000 Idaho students in charter schools with 11,000 on waiting lists, and the charters need the support of the legislation.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman DeMordaunt, called for a vote on the motion to send **H 126** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 169:

Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), presented **H 169** regarding one year master agreements, also known as the removal of evergreen clauses. She noted the bill contains the language that would lift the sunset clause put into law in 2013. She said the legislation requires that salaries and benefits in a master agreement can only be in effect for one year beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. All other non-financial matters may have a length of two years. Ms. Echeverria said the legislation has a sunset clause that will expire July 1, 2015, and if **H 169** passes, the sunset clause will be removed and the legislation will become permanent law.

MOTION:

Rep. VanOrden made a motion to send **H 169** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 23322C1:

Tim Corder, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, SDE, presented **RS 23322C1**. He explained the error in the Statement of Purpose and asked the printed "five" be changed to "three" in the first line of the fiscal note. He said **RS 23322C1** is before the committee as a direct result of suggestions from the committee to change **S 1019**. He said because the FBI and the Idaho State Police cost of services fluctuate over time, this legislation seeks to allow costs not under the control of SDE to be collected while shifting the administrative costs incurred by SDE to the General Fund in an ongoing appropriation. He noted SDE has determined the administrative costs, including the anticipated 3% CEC (Change in Employment Compensation), will be \$11.00 per application. Mr. Corder indicated the fiscal impact of this legislation is \$157,300.

MOTION:

Rep. Clow made a motion to introduce **RS 23322C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary