

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015

**TIME:** 8:30 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:** Representative Harris

**GUESTS:** Deabi Xensah Agoema, Numdeen Lbrahin, and Jenn Hippe, BSU Nursing School students; Robin Nettinga, IEA; Linda Clark and Amy Shumway, West Ada School District; Tamara Baysinger, PCSC; Dawn Tolan, Boise School District; Tracie Bent, SBOE; Rob Winslow, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Kale Kleinert, Northwest Accreditation; Tim Corder, SDE; Caitlin Rusche, IAC; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**S 1050:** **Sen. Thayn** presented **S 1050** and explained the legislation is to simplify and consolidate the separate sections of Idaho Code pertaining to advanced opportunities for secondary students into a single chapter. Additional changes in **S 1050** would ease the burden of administrating the advanced opportunities programs for students from 7th to 12th grade, when accelerating high school graduation and encouraging students to take college credits while still in high school. Sen. Thayn told the committee of the success of the advanced opportunities programs in achieving a positive "go on" rate for Idaho students. He said costs for the 2015 fall semester are projected at \$4 million. He indicated the \$65 college credits were designed to encourage high school students to pursue higher education. He said it is saving students and parents of Idaho an estimated \$20 million in college expenses.

**Dawn Tolan**, Boise School District, and **Amy Shumway**, West Ada School District, spoke **in support** of the advanced opportunities provided for students, but **in opposition** to the administrative burden placed upon district administrators in regard to the "Dual Credit for Early Completers" program. They described the negative effect on some students with inaccurate understanding of the program. They spoke to the cumbersome reality of getting high school students properly enrolled, administering monies assigned to the separate advanced opportunities, and delivering payment accurately to districts and institutions of higher learning. Ms. Shumway suggested lawmakers create a voucher program administered by the State Department of Education to alleviate the burden placed upon districts.

**MOTION:** **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **S 1050** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Kerby** spoke **in support** of **S 1050** saying the modifications within the bill should be helpful to program administrators.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:** **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1050** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Tamara Baysinger**, Director, Idaho Public Charter School Commission, gave an update on Idaho's 35 public charter schools. She said there are 14,950 students enrolled in public charter schools with future planned expansion to add 1,440 more students. She explained the framework for charter school evaluation and accountability including academic accountability. She described the spectrum of schools from those struggling to the highly successful. In aggregate data; however, the schools are consistent in SAT scores and "go on" rate, ranking above the aggregate data of the traditional schools. She said charters are doing well in operational stability and compliance, although some are doing better than others. Ms. Baysinger said following a 2014 evaluation by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, Idaho charters are focused on increasing availability of seats, providing additional resources, and maximizing schools' flexibility within data-driven decision making. She is also concentrating on employing more staff members.

A comment from the committee suggested a comparison in student demographics and student growth would give a clearer picture of student achievement in both public charters and traditional schools.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** suggested the committee be helpful in minimizing the burden placed on public charter schools. He also stated the role of the Commission should be as a coach for Idaho's charter schools, not a judge. He added the Commission should support and encourage its boards and schools.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary