

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 11, 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:** None

**GUESTS:** Robin Nettinga and Penni Cyr, IEA; Phil Homer and Rob Winslow, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools

**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 23, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**H 222:** After the hearing of **H 222** on March 10, 2015, **Marilyn Whitney**, Special Assistant for Education for the Governor's Office, made clarifications to concerns which were addressed during the testimonies of the previous day. She said the definition of measurable student achievement means the measurement of student academic achievement or growth within a given interval of instruction. She indicated the assessment tools that may be used for measuring student achievement and growth are found on page 3 of **H 222**. To clarify further, she said within **H 222**, teacher certification will not be in jeopardy and can never be taken away. Also, there are no plans of changing the certification requirements. Ms. Whitney stated in Washington State portfolios are used for re-certification and teachers can lose their certification if the portfolios are not judged adequate. However, in Idaho, portfolios are not being considered as a requirement for certification.

**Ms. Whitney** referred to page 22 of **H 222**. She said the independent evaluators from the departments of education of Idaho's colleges and universities are well versed on the Danielson model. Those professors would oversee the reviewing, but would not review each teacher. To questions from the committee, she explained the independent evaluator is to insure the integrity of teacher evaluations. The administrators and peer-evaluators who perform teachers evaluations will be encouraged in the evaluation process.

Addressing concerns for teacher salary increases, **Ms. Whitney** said the Career Ladder expenditures put Idaho teachers on a path for significant raises over the next five years. To a question concerning a possible inaccuracy in the Career Ladder numbers, she said those numbers will be re-checked.

A concern over evaluation of Special Education teachers meeting student achievement goals was discussed. **Ms. Whitney** explained the teacher sets his or her own objectives in collaboration with cohorts. Every teacher is evaluated on clear objectives decided on by the teacher and in regard to students within his or her classroom. She said the framework for teachers being evaluated is not new; the instrument is very familiar to teachers.

In response to a question regarding teacher salaries being frozen if the funding does not come through, **Ms. Whitney** said the funding has been built into the state's educational budget. To a question concerning the independent evaluators, she said the districts can also use trained, retired teachers and administrators as independent evaluators. Responding to a question concerning accountability, she said 2018 is the first year teacher accountability comes into play.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** told the committee the public hearing and committee discussion had been insightful. He said he was withdrawing **H 222** to make some suggested changes and come forward with a better bill for Idaho educators.

**S 1087:** **Rep. VanOrden** introduced **S 1087**. This legislation provides a means whereby a charter school student can continue to have a charter school experience with preferred admission privileges to attend another charter school within the state. The student is required to have attended a charter school in Idaho for at least one year before applying for the privilege. There must be a written admission preference agreement between the sending and receiving charter schools.

**Emily McClure**, representing Idaho Charter School Association, said there are areas in the state with multiple elementary charter schools teaching similar curriculum. Students attending these charter schools can progress into similar upper level schools. The one year attendance requirement makes that progression fair and equal while providing continuity to the student.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Clow** made a motion to send **S 1087** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. VanOrden** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**John Hill**, Executive Director, National Alliance for Medicaid in Education advocates for program integrity for school based Medicaid reimbursement. He stated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) all states are mandated to provide services to students with eligible disabilities. Federal funding is available to states for services required by federal law. States must provide matching funds, local and state administration; and, accurate reporting.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

---

Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

---

Jean Vance  
Secretary