

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 20, 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: Rob Winslow and Phil Homer, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Robin Nettinga, IEA; Don Coberly, Boise School District; Rod Gramer, IBE; Tracie Bent and Blake Youde, OSBE; Jess Harrison, ISBA

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2015, P.M. meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman DeMordaunt turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman VanOrden.**

RS 23841: **Chairman DeMordaunt** presented **RS 23841**. He said the proposed legislation would establish a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Action Center in Idaho. He explained that the center will assist Idaho's students to gain the competitive employment opportunities within the STEM workforce pipeline. He stated **RS 23841** will designate an individual as an administrator and an annual review cycle. Chairman DeMordaunt indicated the proposal would create a bucket with JFAC (Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee) having the capability to put money into the bucket.

Sen. Nonini, co-sponsor of **RS 23841**, said by 2023, there will be 6.2 million new jobs in the STEM industries. He wants Idaho's economy to benefit by having prepared the student population in STEM education. He indicated during a Senate Education Committee meeting, **Dr. Patti Mortensen**, Idaho State University testified there is a shortage of Idaho teachers for math and science classes. He also said the proposed legislation is modeled after the Utah statute which created their Stem Action Center.

In response to a question regarding funding, **Chairman DeMordaunt**, said the initial request is for \$2 Million with a future, yearly request of \$750,000 to \$1 Million.

Sen. Nonini stated in Utah the initial allocation to their STEM Action Center was \$30 Million. He said Senate JFAC Co-chair, **Sen. Dean Cameron** has clarified that \$2 Million is available for the upstart in Idaho. To a question concerning Page 3, line 36, Chairman DeMorduant explained the "grade level" implication was not to limit students, but to track cohorts of students that have strong "go on" rates and to get kids excited about any of the STEM industries: agri-science and others. To a question regarding a STEM test for high school students, he said we don't know what is coming in the future. He said the Center can drive the networking and collaboration.

MOTION: **Rep. McDonald** made a motion to introduce **RS 23841**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman VanOrden turned the gavel over to **Chairman DeMordaunt**.

H 296: **Marilyn Whitney**, Sr. Special Assistant for Education, Governor's Office, reviewed **H 296** for the committee explaining the purpose of each section of the bill. She said the legislation has been before the committee several times and her purpose was to re-familiarize the committee with the bill, changes included.

Rob Winslow, IASA; **Harold Ott**, Rural Schools; **Robin Nettinga**, IEA; **Don Coberly**, Superintendent, Boise School District; **Rod Gramer**, Idaho Business for Education; **Jess Harrison**, ISBA testified **in support** of **H 296**. They said it is a consensus piece of legislation; and, during the past two weeks of intense scrutiny and negotiation, **H 296** had become a better bill. They expressed appreciation to the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, and the Education Committee, as well as all stakeholders, who came together to produce legislation where legislators, agencies, administrators and teachers can work together for Idaho's youth.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **H 296** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Chairman DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Members of the committee said there was collaboration and a cooperative spirit with the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and all those involved in producing legislation that will assist student growth and give higher compensation to teachers.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary