

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 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: Penni Cyr and Peggy Hoy, IEA; Wiley Dobbs, Twin Falls School District #411; Rob Winslow, IASA; Karen Echeverria, ISBA; Emily McClure and Terry Ryan, ICSN; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office; Tim Corder and Pete Koehler, SDE

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2015, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23908: **Marilyn Whitney**, Sr. Special Assistant for Education, Governor's Office, said the bill amends Section 33-5208, Idaho Code, to reflect a new definition of instructional staff and to include pupil service staff in staff allowance requirements for Public Charter Schools. Since the passage of **H 296**, the amendment is necessary to ensure the hiring of fewer staff per FTE for Public Charter Schools. She stated the proposed legislation applies to the "use it or lose it" clause.

Rep Kerby made a motion to introduce **RS 23908** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 23902: **Rep. Clow** presented **RS 23902**, then ask the Chairman if he could yield his time to **Emily McClure**.

Emily McClure, attorney and lobbyist, Idaho Charter School Network, outlined the Idaho Public Charter School inability to participate in bond levy elections or access the public school guarantee fund. She said the proposed legislation will create a debt reserve to give Public Charter Schools a tool similar to the traditional schools, just on a smaller scale, with stricter sideboards. She explained **RS 23902** will assist in reducing high interest rates usually paid by Public Charter Schools. Ms. McClure indicated monies acquired would sit in the treasury and act as an assurance to lenders if the charter school were to default on a loan. She said there is strict criteria set in place before charter schools can claim the money as a default.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to introduce **RS 23902**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 300: **Rep. Clow** presented **H 300**. He said currently Idaho funds 329 8th grade alternative middle school students and 233 7th grade students. He said Idaho could fund alternative 6th grade at just \$3,057.14 extra per student.

Penni Cyr, IEA; **Rob Winslow**, IASA; and **Karen Echeverria**, IBSA, spoke in support of **H 300**. Ms. Cyr said the legislation will provide alternative schools a mechanism to offer alternative measures to struggling 6th graders.

Peggy Hoy teaches 6th grade math at Vera C. O'Leary Middle School in Twin Falls, Idaho. She spoke in support of **H 300** and described the struggling and failing 6th grader who can benefit from a 6th grade alternative school environment.

Wiley Dobbs, Superintendent, Twin Falls School District #411, said he presented a resolution at the Idaho School Boards Association Convention calling for 6th grade alternative school funding in Idaho. He explained the main arguments supporting **H 300** are: (1) the majority of Idaho public middle schools are configured 6th grade through 8th grade and (2) early intervention opportunities help students get back on track.

In response to questions regarding differences in the Bridge Academy Middle School as opposed to traditional middle schools, **Supt. Dobbs** said the students wear uniforms. He explained for the at-risk student, their behavior gets in the way of their learning. He said the classroom settings are smaller, usually 16 students to one teacher, and there is an assistant in each classroom who helps the teachers. The student focuses on one class at a time for a period of three weeks.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **H 300** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary