

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 2016

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: Rob Lohrmeyer, Lewis-Clark State College; Robin Nettinga, Idaho Education Association; Maria Lorcher, PTA; Troy Rohn, Boise School District; Dwight Johnson, Steve Raybourn, Justin Touchstone, Kristi Enger, Matthew Reil, Professional-Technical Education; Blake Youde, State Board of Education; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural School Administrators; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Clark Corbin, Idaho Educational News; Jess Harrison, Idaho School Board Association; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

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

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting on January 22, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon** made a motion to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting on January 20, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon** made a motion to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting on January 21, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23985: **Blake Youde**, State Board of Education, explained that this legislation repeals the Youth Education Fund, established in 1992. The purpose of the fund was to purchase advertising to youth about drugs and alcohol, and the Safe and Drug Free Youth Program does this.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to introduce **RS 23985**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23977: Mr. Youde explained that **RS 23977** is related to the assessment ratios and the determination of adjusted market value for assessment purposes for school districts. It removes the requirement that the Tax Commission report to the Department of Education calculations regarding property valuations. These reports are no longer used by the Department of Education and are unnecessary.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to introduce **RS 23977**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dwight Johnson, Division of Professional-Technical Education, gave an update on the Division of Professional-Technical Education, and an explanation of how it will use budget items approved by the governor. First, the department is changing its name to Career Technical Education, to help improve the image people have of technical and trade schools. The department is also creating ambassador programs for the high schools, to help with this. The areas with the most job growth are agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, health-related occupations, engineering and technology, skilled and technical sciences, and business management.

Mr. Johnson explained how the Division of Professional-Technical Education would use funds to create professional-technical high schools and agricultural and national resource program initiatives. They would also align high school programs with PTE college programs. The department is also expanding the PTE Digital Initiative, and offering online courses available to students in smaller school districts. The department is developing an online micro-certification initiative called Idaho Skill Stack, which gives teachers the ability to award badges in certain certification areas.

Mr. Johnson said they are improving career counseling at high schools, increasing the opportunity scholarship, offering more adult completion scholarships, and aiding Eastern Idaho Technical College to become a community college.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Johnson** said he was thrilled with the governor's recommended budget, and he would like the legislators to support it. The online school element is critical for making PTE programs available to rural high schools. The Stackable Credit Initiative is an Idaho-Based micro certification program,, but there is also a similar national initiative in various stages across the country. Offering more one-year and two-year certificates will help Idaho reach its goal of 60% of the workforce attaining post-secondary certification.

Dr. Rick Aman, Eastern Idaho Technical College President, gave an update on EITC and an explanation of how it would use budget items approved by the governor. The college has seen enrollment increase by 4-5% each year, and the increase is only limited by the college's capacity to accommodate the increase. Graduates have a 95.7% job placement rate. The college has a large enough facility for growth, but it needs more teaching staff.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Aman** said the EITC could serve 3,500 students before needing to expand its facilities. The EITC has a transition coordinator at area high schools. An adult completion scholarship, and more evening and weekend classes, is important. EITC has commissioned an economic impact study, and one thing businesses look at when relocating is the educational level of an area's work force.

Maria Lorcher, Idaho Parent-Teacher Association, spoke to the committee regarding the state PTA organization. The organization has 62,000 members in 121 schools. All are volunteers, and there are no paid employees. The state is divided into nine areas, each with a regional director. Highlights from this year include a bullying prevention program called Kindness Begins with Me, which was launched in 17 schools, a review of ELA literacy and math standards which will be evaluated by the State Department of Education, the PTA Reflections Art Program, and the Digital Promise Initiative in some schools.

Schools are re-evaluating and eliminating school classroom fees paid by parents. The West-Ada District expects a \$900,000.00 shortfall due to the elimination of classroom fees, and **Ms. Lorcher** said she hopes the legislature provides support for schools which will have less money due to fee elimination. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Lorcher explained that teachers choose which computer applications they want the students to use, and those are installed on the Verizon Grant laptops. Certain sites, videos and social media are blocked.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary