

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 22, 2016
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Anthon, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.
- Chairman Mortimer** asked Nellie Christensen, Senate page, to read the weekly poem of "Patience," by Edgar A. Guest, from *A Heap o' Living*.
- PRESENTATION:** **Alan Reed**, Chairman, Idaho Public Charter School Commission (Commission), thanked the Committee for the additional funding in 2015 to augment staffing needs. He reported the new positions and their responsibilities. He said the Commission is currently working on three important goals: 1.) improve school diversity demographics, 2.) encourage expansion and replication of successful school models and 3.) advance the renewal process for the charters.
- Mr. Reed** asked Tamara Baysinger, Director, Commission, to give the formal report. She explained the changes in staffing, commissioners, and budget. She detailed the 2015 annual performance reports from the schools. She showed graphs that compared the progress of public charter schools and traditional public schools in the same geographic locations in the following areas: 1.) proficiency rate comparisons in math and English, 2.) free and reduced-cost lunches, and 3.) percentage of non-white attendees. **Ms. Baysinger** highlighted the future business of the Commission, which includes working on the recommendations from the National Association of Charter School Authorizers. **Ms. Baysinger** concluded her presentation by announcing this year has a big year for the Commission as they are preparing for the renewal process of some charter schools. The renewal decisions will be occurring March 2017 (see attachment 1).
- Chairman Mortimer** said her report compared the public charter schools to the traditional public schools. He asked if the public schools academic framework could be applied to all schools. **Ms. Baysinger** replied in the affirmative. She explained the Commission wants their criteria to dovetail with the State's.
- Mr. Reed** said the Commission's goal this year is to focus on the schools that are up for renewal. He explained the Commission is here to help all schools and to ensure they are performing at the rates required.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Eric Kellerer**, Director, Doceo Center (Center), Northwest Nazarene University, stated that he ran the Khan Academy (KA) Idaho Pilot Project, which has now concluded. He detailed the history of KA in Idaho and the partnership with the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation (Foundation). He reported the progress of the pilot program and explained how the program is personalized for each student. He pointed out that there are three keys to making KA successful; 1.) a risk-taking teacher, 2.) a supportive administrator and 3.) a technical support system.

**Dr. Kellerer** reported the outcomes of the pilot program and what is needed for KA to continue in school districts without the Center's support. He emphasized the importance of intentional professional development for the teachers, strong bandwidth in the school and a computer ratio of three students to one computer (see attachment 2).

**Senator Souza** asked him to explain why students don't perceive that their parents are involved in the program. **Dr. Kellerer** replied that all parents were encouraged to go to the KA portal. The schools that didn't have a parent night, which addressed the portal, reported that students didn't perceive that their parents were interested in the program.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how many new students in Idaho participated in KA in 2014. **Dr. Kellerer** said the count is getting larger due to teachers passing the login information to other students and parents. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if there is something the legislature should do to stimulate the continuation of KA. **Dr. Kellerer** replied the Foundation funded the pilot program and that is completed. The Center has permission from KA and the Foundation to do professional development to encourage teachers to use the KA method. He explained how he has been promoting KA with area school principals to continue this type of learning. He said many are not using KA because the school's technology is lacking.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked how he would implement this program statewide. **Dr. Kellerer** said he would simultaneously implement the state-of-the-art technology and professional development. **Chairman Mortimer** asked how many people would be necessary to implement a good mentoring program. **Dr. Kellerer** said answered that it would take two to three people to mentor the mentors. He explained how the mentoring numbers grew using that model.

**MINUTES  
APPROVAL:**

**Senator Anthon** moved to approve the Minutes of January 26, 2016. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES  
APPROVAL:**

**Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to approve the Minutes of January 27, 2016. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES  
APPROVAL:**

**Senator Den Hartog** moved to approve the Minutes of January 28, 2016. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**H 379**

**Senator Nonini** presented **H 379**, Relating to Courses of Instruction: Computer Science Initiative. He said the funding for the initiative would come through the STEM Education Fund as legislated with **S 1279** in the amount of approximately \$94,000. He stated this bill passed the full House with overwhelming support. **Senator Nonini** recommended **H 379** be sent to the 14th Order for amending. He shared the changes with the Committee.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked with the changes will this ensure that districts can offer a variety of different levels for computing classes. **Senator Nonini** replied in the affirmative. This is to be as inclusive as possible.

**TESTIMONY:**

**Jay Larsen**, President, Idaho Technology Council, said he represents 60,000 to 80,000 members. He reported that their research has found there is a lack of talent in Idaho to meet the needs of industry. Computer skills cross every industry and the results of **H 379** will increase economic opportunity for the State. He explained the shortage of software professionals and said this will help k-12 students to be better prepared for careers. He urged support **H 379**.

**Jason Ronk**, State Government Affairs Director, Micron, stated they are in support of **H 379**. STEM education is extremely important to Micron.

**Dr. Amy Moll**, Dean, College of Engineering, Boise State University (BSU), said her support also reflects the support from Dr. Larry Stauffer, Dean, College of Engineering, University of Idaho, and Dr. Rich Brey, Interim Dean, College of Science and Engineering, Idaho State University. She stated this is wonderful legislation. The education computer pipeline in K-12 is essential and makes a difference in pursuing an engineering or science degree at the college level. She explained there are approximately 40 high school teachers getting their endorsement at BSU to teach computer science at the high school level. She urged support of this legislation.

**Senator Nonini** said there are positions in many companies across Idaho that cannot be filled due to the lack of talent. He believes this legislation will help to eliminate that issue and develop more economic growth for Idaho.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if there is more information on the total cost of the initiative. Senator Nonini replied in the negative.

**Marilyn Whitney**, Senior Special Assistant for Education and Government Services, Office of the Governor, gave a brief outline of some of the areas to be funded and said she would provide the specifics, with dollar amounts, to the Committee.

**MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved to send **H 379** to the 14th Order for amendment. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**S 1320** **Blake Youde**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **S 1320**:Relating to General Powers of the Board of Trustees of Community College Districts. He explained this legislation requires that the board of trustees of community colleges obtain an appraisal prior to the purchase or disposal of real property. This is to be done in the manner prescribed for public schools trustees. This legislation added the specific citation to real and personal property addressed in § 33-301 and § 33-601, Idaho Code. Because specific section references are now being included for community colleges there was the need to go back to address this for Eastern Idaho Technical College.

**MOTION:** **Senator Souza** moved to send **S 1320** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Souza will carry on the floor.

**S 1333** **Representative Luke Malek**, District 4, presented **S 1333**,Relating to Education, Provide the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant Fund. He explained they are the fruit of the labor of the Broadband Interim Committee (BIC). This legislation is to drive the best policies for broadband issues and to define the proper role of government in deploying the broadband infrastructure.

He said **S 1333** creates the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant Fund (BIIG Fund). He explained that is a fund that provides for a state match program that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) created in 2014. This bill asserts to the Legislature there is a priority for broadband provisions for schools.

**MOTION:** **Senator Nonini** moved to send **S 1333** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Chairman Mortimer will carry **S 1333** on the floor.

**S 1334**

**Representative Malek** presented **S 1334**, Relating to Education, Provide the Education Opportunity Resource Act and Related Provision, Repeal the Idaho Education Network Program Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC). He explained the process the BIC underwent to create this legislation. The conclusions reached were that local control is necessary and resources should be provided to school districts in need. This is a central repository of skill sets that school districts can access to get broadband and related services. He said the State Department of Education (SDE) will continue to house the responsibility, but will have an advisory committee made up of stakeholders. This committee will be called the Education Opportunity Resource Committee. **S 1334** lays out statutory priorities based on the policy analysis from BIC.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **S 1334** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion.

**Senator Nonini** said the Idaho Education Network (IEN) did do some positive things. The Legislature learned that school districts, at the local level, can control their broadband. This is good legislation.

**Chairman Mortimer** stated there were a few positive things that occurred with the IEN. When the IEN was first put in place, school districts were able to get broadband to all the schools. He wasn't sure that would have happened without that help.

The motion passed by **voice vote**. Chairman Mortimer will carry **S 1334** on the floor.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary