

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 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: Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Administrators Association; Phil Homer, Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association; Blake Youde, State Board of Education; Hollis Brookover, Idaho Businesses for Education; Caroline Suppiger, Brady Delgadillo, Madison Eborn, Kent Patterson, Idaho Association of Student Counselors; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office, Jeff Church, State Department of Education

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 16, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 17, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 442: **Jess Harrison**, Idaho School Boards Association, said a new version of the bill had been drafted which met with the approval of all the stakeholders, including the Idaho Education Association and agriculture teachers. She requested the committee hold **H 442**.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to **HOLD H 442** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 526: **Blake Youde**, Idaho State Board of Education, spoke to **H 526**. He said the bill is the result of the work of the literacy subcommittee of the governor's education task force, and improvements in the language make it stronger than **H 450**. He cited the language referencing research-based strategies in Section 2 (a) as one example, and the language in Section 6, referencing goals, a time line and the measurement of progress as another example. The goals will be made with public input, said Mr. Youde, with consideration for demographics and available funding. This bill brings clarity to literacy intervention, he added, and should result in improvement.

MOTION: **Rep. McDonald** made a motion to send **H 526** to the floor with a **DO PASS recommendation**.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Youde** said the \$10.7 million for literacy intervention is the amount proposed by the governor. The amount was determined by looking at the current spending on literacy intervention, the subcommittee recommendation, and the average number of students in kindergarten through third grade reading below grade level for the last three years. The bill states schools cannot receive funding which exceeds the cost of intervention programs. Section 1 is the current law. As of July 2019, the new Section 2 will take the place of Section 1. Districts must include information about fourth-grade reading scores in their continuous improvement plans, said Mr. Youde, but they may also include information about reading scores for kindergarten through third grade.

Rep. VanOrden added there is a mechanism for schools to report kindergarten through third grade reading scores to the State Department of Education, which will report results to the legislature, in **H 451**.

Harold Ott, Idaho Rural School Administrators, spoke **in support of H 526**. He met with elementary principals from all the regions in Idaho, he said, and they told him they support the reporting mechanism. They also said funding for transportation expenses would be helpful for extended-day literacy intervention programs.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Youde** said the elementary principals were positive improvements in literacy could be made if the governor's request for \$10.7 million is approved, as it is three times the amount of state funding for literacy intervention in the past. Programs will vary by district, but if districts use research-based high performance programs, they will have good literacy intervention programs.

Hollis Brookover, Idaho Business for Education, spoke **in support of H 526**. She said business leaders across the state support intensive early literacy intervention and the funding request, as well as the changes to **H 450** in this bill. Idaho businesses need access to a pipeline of an educated work force, she added.

Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke to **H 526**. She said closing the reading gap before third grade is critical. She supports the addition of language concerning proven research-based intervention in Section 33-1616. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Ybarra said she believes the literacy intervention programs will be successful, with use of research-based strategies and the re-structuring of the Idaho Reading Indicator. The improvement will not be immediate, but there will be improvement. The most important piece is using research-based strategies, but the teacher training and academic coaches pieces will also help, she added.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. VanOrden will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary