

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Anthon
- 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 3:00 p.m.
- Chairman Mortimer** announced to the Committee that **S 1337** has been pulled from the agenda.
- PRESENTATION:** **Ann Joslin**, State Librarian and Director, Idaho Commission for Libraries (Commission) , presented a summary of the work of the State Library. She stated that the mission of the Commission is to assist libraries in the State to better serve their communities. She reported about the two-year grant that went to nine State public libraries. She explained that libraries are embedded in the schools and gave examples of how the State Library works to augment them.
- Ms. Joslin** said libraries are going through a renaissance as they grow and transform to meet the needs of the future. She emphasized libraries are for lifelong learning, serving people from cradle to grave. She spoke about the Commission's commitment to the Governor's education goal for 2020 and described the role they are playing with local libraries to achieve the goal. She concluded her presentation saying this is an interesting time for libraries. They are moving into the digital age gracefully (see attachment 1).
- Senator Den Hartog** asked if the Commission owns its building and asked Ms. Joslin to explain the staff roles. **Ms. Joslin** replied the Commission does not own any facilities. All libraries are owned by their local municipalities. She explained the staffing duties in the different locations across the State.
- Chairman Mortimer** asked if there is a parental portal on the Commission's website. **Ms. Joslin** replied the Commission does not, however each public library's website should have one. **Chairman Mortimer** asked if they are up-to-date with the work of the STEM Action Center (Center). **Ms. Joslin** replied that she has worked with the Center on various library projects. In regards to available funds, **Ms. Joslin** stated they understand there will be the opportunity for libraries to apply for grants.
- S 1336** **Senator Patrick** presented **S 1336**: Relating to Education; Provisions to Pupils with an Individualized Education Plan. He explained this legislation adds a subsection to § 33-1602, Idaho Code. It states that students will not be required to successfully complete the civics test or alternate patch unless required to do so as specified in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP0).
- MOTION:** **Senator Souza** moved to send **S 1336** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Patrick will carry **S 1336** on the floor.

**H 452**

**Blake Youde**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **H 452**, Relating to the Transfer of Sick Leave and State Educational Entities. He explained this legislation removes the limit of the amount of sick days that people can transfer when changing jobs from one educational entity to another educational entity. He explained there is no limitation on sick days to be transferred.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if there is a maximum of sick leave accrued. **Mr. Youde** replied in the negative.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if the purpose of this legislation is to make it easier for people to move from schools to the State Department of Education (SDE) or SBE or other school districts, and if the current sick leave transfer policy has inhibited people from changing jobs. **Mr. Youde** replied in the affirmative. He explained that in the education field, it is not uncommon for people to move from teaching in a district to the SDE or SBE or universities; the 90-day sick-leave cap dissuaded the moves.

**Senator Nonini** said that 90 days accumulated sick leave seems like a lot of time. **Mr. Youde** said this mirrors the policies in school districts.

**Senator Souza** asked if employees can trade unused sick leave for pay. **Mr. Youde** replied in the negative.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** clarified that often teachers will use the unused sick leave to offset the costs of medical insurance when they retire.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 452** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Ward-Engelking will carry **H 452** to the floor.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary