

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 25, 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: Phil Homer, Helen Price, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Administrators; Dan Blocksom, Idaho Association of Counties; Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association; Matt Young, Louis Piconi, Marisa Alan, Think Through Math; Jason Kreizenbeck, Lobby Idaho; Mark Browning, North Idaho College; Robin Nettinga, Idaho Education Association

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

RS 24595: **Jess Harrison**, Idaho School Boards Association, spoke to **RS 24595**. She said the legislation addresses the committee's concerns with previous legislation, and differentiates extra day contracts and extra duty contracts. It has the support of the Idaho Education Association and the agriculture teachers, she added.

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to introduce **RS 24595**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 515: **Rep. Troy**, District 5, spoke to **H 515**. She said current Idaho Code requires evaluations of school personnel be completed by May 1. Because the ISAT data may not always be returned to schools in time for it to be included in the evaluation data, the bill moves the completion date of evaluations from May 1 to June 1. If the ISAT data is delayed further than that and not available 30 days prior to June 1, other objective measures approved by the board of trustees may be used. The bill also requires a formal, written evaluation be done prior to issuing a contract.

In response to questions from the committee, **Jess Harrison** said objective measures, including ISAT data, account for 33% of criteria used for performance evaluations.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 515** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Harrison** said there was only one year the ISAT data was received late into the summer. The school district was required to use multiple alternative instruments of measurement. The school board must identify multiple measurements used for evaluation, and ISAT data is one of them. If the data is not available, the school district must identify at least one more.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 527: **Dan Blocksom**, Idaho Association of Counties, spoke to **H 527**. He said, currently, because there are no deadlines for certificates of residency completion and accounting by students, colleges and counties, the colleges must wait a long time to be paid for a class a student has taken, the counties do not know how much they will need to pay, and students receive a bill for the unpaid amount, causing them stress. **H 527** sets Fall and Spring deadlines for students to submit certificates of residency forms, deadlines for community colleges to invoice the counties, and deadlines for when the counties must pay the invoices.

Rep. Kerby said all the stakeholders were involved in the drafting of the bill.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **H 527** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Matthew Young, Think Through Math, gave an update to the committee. He said the aspects of the program include student motivation, live teacher feedback, and personalized learning. If the program content is not enough for the student to understand a concept, Just In Time Support is provided by a teacher who gives examples and can work on a concept with the student via a two-way whiteboard. Support is available in English and Spanish.

Over 40,000 students are enrolled, said **Mr. Young**, which is 126% of the amount contracted. Students average 430 problems per student. New additions to the program are a third-party assessment tool to show results, 480 new lessons, a professional development piece, and the improvement of the student-teacher interface, said Mr. Young. Data available includes the skills of the students assessed and student proficiency measured in regards to benchmarks. Over 50% of students in the program improved at least one grade level. Next Friday, said Mr. Young, committee members would be invited to a local school to watch how the program works.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Young** said the program provides content for grades lower than grade three for students who need re-mediation. Students can hear what the teacher is saying and see what they are demonstrating on their computer. Once the school and student are enrolled, added Mr. Young, parents can see data on their children's performance.

In response to questions from the committee, **Louis Piconi**, Think Through Math, said students and teachers can type to or speak to each other. The student can see pictures the teacher draws to illustrate a concept. Teachers are trained to be patient, and the ability to draw pictures for the students helps. Students who had failed exams and used the program for ten to fifteen sessions were more likely to pass the exam than the control group, added Mr. Piconi. Idaho has contracted for 32,000 students to use the program year round for \$1 million. Students are encouraged to use the program during the Summer Break, which helps eliminate math regression over the summer. Mr. Piconi said the company is working on ways to increase school teacher participation. When the program started, it served 23 students. It now serves 1.5 million students.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary