

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 29, 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: Blake Youde, State Board of Education; Dale Kleinert, NWAC and AdvancED; Jonathan Parker, Holland and Hart; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

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

RS 24591C2: **Rep. Bateman** spoke to **RS 24591C2**. In the last legislative session, he said, **S 1071** was passed, requiring high school seniors pass a civics test of 100 questions, from the test used for naturalization of immigrants, to graduate. However, only two questions on the test relate to Idaho Government, and there are no questions on Idaho History. **RS 24591C2** is a concurrent resolution asking the State Board of Education to add questions about Idaho to the civics test required for graduation. School districts can replace twenty-five of the questions from the naturalization test with questions about Idaho. Rep. Bateman asked the committee to introduce **RS 24591C2**.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon** made a motion to introduce **RS 24591C2** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. .

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Bateman** said he was providing the State Board of Education questions relating to Idaho state government and history, and strongly encouraging the Board to use some or all of them, but using those specific questions is not required. See Attachment 1.

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

H 529: **Blake Youde**, State Board of Education, spoke to **H 529**, relating to continuous improvement plans. It addresses the seventh recommendation of Governor Otter's Education Task Force, he said. In 2015, Section 33-320 was amended to provide clarity and focus to the requirement school districts develop strategic improvement plans, and make them publicly available. The State Board of Education collects the plans, and works with the districts to make sure the plans comply with the law. **H 529** amends this Section to include, at a minimum, the statewide student readiness and student improvement metrics, and include improvement scores shown as a percentage change, said Mr. Youde.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Youde** said there can be a difference between the percentage of students who graduate from high school and the percentage of students who demonstrate college readiness, based on a SAT score of 1550 or better. Although high school students are required to take a college readiness exam to graduate from high school, they are not required to score 1550 or better. The metrics addressed in continuous improvement plans are available to parents on the school website and school newsletters, said Mr. Youde. School districts will report their previous years' data, then submit their continuous improvement plans to the State Board of Education. The requirement to include a fourth grade reading readiness metric could use scores from the Spring of third grade, he added.

Mr. Youde said the State Board of Education will set state-wide goals, and expect school districts to create plans which tell how they will improve literacy. In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Youde said school districts will set their own improvement goals, based on their own data. If grades kindergarten through third grade are included, the Board will need to set goals for those grades and give more specific instructions to the district on how to set improvement goals.

Rep. Clow asked if, in Section viii, the State Board of Education could add a K-3 reading readiness metric. **Mr. Youde** replied, when students are in the third grade, they are taking the ISAT in addition to the IRI, and one or both could possibly be used for improvement plan metrics. Mr. Youde said it is important to make sure students are improving literacy skills at all levels.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **H 529** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a substitute motion to send **H 529** to General Orders.

Rep. Harris suggested the committee amend section viii to expand the reading metric to grades one through three.

Rep. Kerby spoke to the substitute motion. He said if grades one through three were included in the continuous improvement plans, each of the schools would be setting goals for those grades, and it would be easier to match improvement plans to state literacy grants.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Youde** said he thought the Board can make the addition of grades one through three in the implementation of continuous improvement plans, because the IRI is given to every grade already.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: **Rep. Wills** withdrew his motion to send **H 529** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the substitute motion to send **H 529** to General Orders. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary