

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 01, 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:** Representative(s) Boyle

GUESTS: Blake Youde, Byron Yankey, State Board of Education; Keelie Campbell, Janalee Hope, Jerome High School; Robin Nettinga, Idaho Education Association; Wendi Secrist, Professional-technical Education; Jeff Church, State Department of Education; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Educators and Idaho Association of School Administrators; Rob Winslow, Helen Price, Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Rob Sauer, Christine Ketterling, Amy Winters, Homedale School District; Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association; Clark Corbin, Education News; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2016. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2016, as corrected. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1232: **Blake Youde**, State Board of Education, spoke to **S 1232**. He said current Idaho Code references the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the bill makes necessary updates to reflect changes in federal regulations impacting the Rehabilitation Act. It updates a reference to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and clarifies reference to federal law.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Youde** said the Act, enacted in 2014, provides greater vocational rehabilitation resources to individuals with disabilities.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **S 1232** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kloc** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1267: **Jeff Church**, State Department of Education, spoke to **S 1267**, which makes changes to **H 110**, passed in the last legislative session. The bill addresses Section 33-1630, Section 1, Chapter 68, concerning mastery-based education. Line 30 clarifies that up to twenty local education agencies may serve as incubators for fiscal year 2017. Lines 32-33 allow districts to receive moneys appropriated for mastery-based education. Mr. Church said the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee approved \$1.4 million for mastery-based education, and \$1.35 million may go to districts for mastery-based education plans.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Church** says there is a process for selecting the districts to participate in the cohort of local education agencies to serve as incubators, if more than twenty districts apply. A committee of eighteen members from school districts across the state goes through the applications and makes the decision. The committee is comprised of school personnel, including teachers, administrators, special education teachers, and curriculum directors. Lines 32-33 were added, because there was some concern the statute was not specific enough about the State Department of Education's authority to distribute moneys for this purpose.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **S 1267** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Church** said **H 110** was enacted July 1, 2015. The funding was used to create the mastery-based education incubator application, and to conduct an awareness campaign, to make sure school districts across the state were aware of the availability and application process. The application due date is March 18th.

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

S 1290: **Senator Patrick** spoke to **S 1290**. He said the duties of college and career advisors are different from those of counselors. This bill adds charter schools to Section 33-1212A, clarifies language regarding career and college counselors, and requires districts to establish a plan for addressing college and career advising. **S 1290** also requires schools include a report on the effectiveness of their college and career advising programs as part of their annual continuous improvement plans, and outlines what information is in that part of the report.

Keelie Campbell, Jerome High School Principal, spoke **in support of S 1290**. She outlined the counseling resources and student demographics of Jerome High School. Jerome High School hired two full-time Near Peer college mentors to assist with college and career advising, and the percentage of seniors who have applied to college in 2015-2016 is 97%, an increase from 37% in 2014-2015. The college mentors have participated in 958 meetings with students, lead three college tours, and conducted 30 classroom presentations. They helped at a scholarship night, and reviewing FAFSA one-on-one with 104 students, and helped 56 students complete their FAFSA applications. They also volunteer for extra-curricular school activities.

Ms. Campbell said Jerome High School conducted a career fair with the participation of 36 businesses, which helped create a Go-On Culture and establish business and community connections with students. It helped students see what opportunities are possible beyond high school, said Ms. Campbell. The college peer counselors also gave presentations to eighth-grade classes.

The counselor-student ratio at Jerome High School, said **Ms. Campbell**, is 471 students per full-time counselor, and the counselors are overloaded. The college mentors help with the college and career advising piece. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Campbell said the largest obstacle to students continuing education past high school is the mind set of students, who have never considered post-secondary education, because of family experiences and demographics, and a lack of understanding about the processes involved. The grant for the college peer counselors was only for one year, which is why **S 1290** is so important, said Ms. Campbell.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **S 1290** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Harold Ott, Idaho Rural School Administrators, and Idaho Association of School Administrators, spoke **in support of S 1290**. He said the stakeholders of many groups have participated in discussions for one year about college and career counseling, and its importance to achieving the 60% Goal. The bill provides a high degree of flexibility for the districts, and the Near Peer Model can be easily replicated, he added. The bill would not create an additional hardship for current staff, said Mr. Ott.

Hollis Brookover, Idaho Business for Education, spoke **in support of S 1290**. She said she believes it is one of the most important bills of this session, and necessary to achieve the 60% goal. Research at the McClure Center, said Ms. Brookover, shows students do not see the benefit of a post-secondary education. The aim of **S 1290** is to increase the number of students who continue on to post-secondary education, and to break the cycle of low educational goals and wages, said Ms. Brookover.

Rep. VanOrden said the Leadership Premiums Bills allowed the districts to use some of the funding for college and career counseling, and the addition of **Ken Edmunds**, with his experience in the State Board of Education and the Department of Labor, to the committee was beneficial.

Senator Patrick said **S 1290** will encourage students to continue with post-secondary education, and he believes the Go-On Goal of 60% is a low goal. In response to questions from the committee, Senator Patrick said the Fiscal Impact would not be greater than last year's fiscal impact. **S 1290** is a change to the legislation from the last session to make it better, he said.

VOTE ON MOTION:

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

Chairman DeMordaunt said a new RS had been drafted, making the changes to **H 529** the committee wanted, and would probably be heard Wednesday. He reminded the committee there would be no meeting on Friday, and they could go to White Pine Elementary School, instead, to watch how the Think Through Math Program is used in schools.

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