

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 19, 2017

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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.

RS 24876: **Relating to Education: Repealing Idaho Code 33-4501, School Accountability Report Cards. Blake Youde**, Chief Communication and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **RS 24876**. He explained when federal requirement accountability systems were established, confusion arose between the State's requirements and the federal requirements. The systems are independent, allowing the federal requirements to circumvent the State's requirements. The Governor's Office created a statewide system to meet the federal requirements, however the current statewide accountability report card is outdated and confusing.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 24876** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. Motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 24883: **Relating to School Safety Patrols. Mr. Youde** explained this bill moves sections from education code to transportation code. He explained the selected provisions are more appropriate for the Motor Vehicle Code, as they relate to rules of the road. **RS 24883** moves the provisions from Idaho Code Chapter 18, Title 33, and creates Idaho Code § 49-652.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **RS 24883** to print. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. Motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

DOCKET 08-0201-1602: **Rules Governing Administration Continuous Improvement Plans. Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, SBE, explained the docket provides for definitions for the statewide continuous improvement measures which are now required by statute to be included in the continuous improvement plan. She said the rule outlines the minimum requirements for the annual literacy intervention plans, and the college and career advising mentoring plans.

Ms. Bent explained the grade readiness plans, the matrix used for the literacy intervention plans, the learning requirements for various grade levels, and the measures that tie the plans together. **Ms. Bent** said the college and career advising plans are newly added. She outlined the new definitions and reviewed how parents were to be notified about student's performance.

Ms. Bent explained the reporting requirements of school districts to the SBE, which include: the expenditures of the previous year; reporting how additional funds will be used to expand the college and career advising efforts; and projection of their budget for the upcoming year. She said the districts are also to report one additional measure to determine effectiveness of the counseling. This is in addition to the minimum performance measure.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if the school districts, teachers and administrators, are being asked to track additional numbers without additional funds and if the schools districts need to hire additional staff to track and do the reporting. **Ms. Bent** said those concerns were taken into consideration. The legislation for the continuous improvement plans requires the reporting. She explained the testing and data collection is already being done at the SBE and is reviewed annually through the clearinghouse. Those results are provided to the school districts.

Senator Ward-Engelking asked if the districts find this reporting doable. **Ms. Bent** stated the feedback and recommendations for the rules came from various school administrators.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the continuous improvement plans were required to be submitted back to the SBE or are for the school district to use for their own purposes. **Ms. Bent** replied the districts are required to post the continuous improvement plans on their website, with the exception of college or career advising plans. The literacy intervention plans are required to be submitted to the SBE. She stated as per Idaho Code, school districts are to report those plans to the SBE.

Senator Den Hartog requested clarification on the SBE reviews, the plans and the purpose. **Ms. Bent** said SBE is not approving the plans but making sure required measures are met. They work to enforce the educational laws and policies then use the information to provide assistance to the districts.

Senator Den Hartog asked how the literacy expenditure rules will be reported annually. **Ms. Bent** explained the SBE developed templates for the school districts to use.

Senator Guthrie asked if the time to fill out a report is the same for large and small school districts. **Ms. Bent** said time requirement is determined by the complexity of the plan. The larger the plan the more time it will take to complete.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if the reports reflected the information the SBE wanted and if the reports would be different in the future. **Ms. Bent** responded that plans are flexible and allow the school districts to pick measures that show progress. The statewide measures evaluate equally when measuring student progress and results.

Senator Buckner-Webb asked how the reporting will impact schools. **Ms. Bent** replied school districts were informed to follow the statutes to ensure the accountability of funding. They are to show enough information to determine progress.

MOTION: **Chairman Mortimer** moved to accept **Docket No: 08-0201-1602**. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion.

Senator Den Hartog said the statute, as she reads it, does not require school districts to report their continuous improvement plans to the SBE.

Chairman Mortimer called for a roll call vote. **Senators Mortimer, Winder, Nonini, and Thayn** voted aye. **Senators Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking** voted nay. The motion failed.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to reject **Docket No: 08-0201-1602**. **Senator Guthrie** second the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Mortimer** reminded the Committee they have the option to reject certain sections of the docket. They do not have to reject the complete docket if they are uneasy about a subsection.

Vice Chairman Thayn said his concern is with the report to the SBE, not the plans.

Chairman Mortimer asked Ms. Bent to elaborate on the matrix and the criteria.

Ms. Bent said the school districts are not required to submit the continuous plans, instead they are to post the plans to the school district's website. She read The Idaho Code requirements of the SBE that the legislature enacted. She said the matrix came from the statute.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if the rules require reporting to SBE. **Ms. Bent** replied in the negative. She said some school districts are willing to do so, however, the rule does not require the districts to report the plans.

Senator Winder reminded the committee they have the authority to accept or reject various sections. The committee does not have the ability to amend the language.

Senator Ward-Engelking asked if the rule review could be delayed.

Senator Den Hartog moved to withdraw her motion. **Senator Guthrie** agreed to withdraw his second.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for unanimous consent to table the docket. He said the rule will be reviewed next week. There were no objections.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Guthrie** asked if the Committee knew what the House had decided regarding this docket.

Chairman Mortimer replied his understanding was the House had not made a decision.

Senator Guthrie asked for both bodies to work together to come to a consensus.

DOCKET NO.
08-0202-1607

Rules Governing Uniformity- Teacher Certification Requirements. **Ms. Bent** said the rule began as an off-shoot on tiered certification and career ladder requirements. As they were implementing the program a number of inconsistencies were discovered in the current practices. The SBE worked with various stakeholders including associations and school districts, to form a work group for the rulemaking process. The result was an extensive rewrite of the certification requirements. The majority of comments received regarded the definition of paraprofessionals. School districts defined paraprofessional broadly and those definitions did not meet the federal definition. She said amendments were made to the rule in order to meet the federal minimum requirements and better define the duties of the paraprofessional.

Ms. Bent explained the most significant policy change in the rule was to move from two different levels of instructional certificates: the standard elementary certificate and the standard secondary certificate. In changing the rule, endorsements now cross grade ranges to combine the instruction in one grade with another in various subject areas. Certificates have been converted to endorsements for early childhood education so now the endorsements earned match with the teacher core. **Ms. Bent** detailed the endorsements, credit requirements, and new options for teachers. She stated that additional changes were made to conform to new terminology. Throughout the section consistent language was added for clarification.

Ms. Bent said Career Technical Education (CTE) has been looked at national trends and considered changes regarding best practices for CTE. She explained the Idaho interim certificates, the certificates that have been moved to endorsements, and the changes to the endorsements. During the review procedures for the Committee, Ms. Bent said she just noticed there is an error in the publication: a section of the rule has been inadvertently omitted.

Chairman Mortimer asked if Ms. Bent would clarify the error in the publication process. **Ms. Bent** said the final language to the rules document was left out of the pending rule, but was included in the proposed rules. SBE is working with the State Rules Coordinator, from the Department of Administration, to publish the amended rule. The corrected rule will be available to the public by February 1, 2017.

Senator Den Hartog asked in reference to natural science endorsement what the impact to teachers was by the increased hours requirement. **Ms. Bent** referred to Lisa Colon Durham, Director, Certification of Professional Standards, SDE. **Ms. Colon Durham** stated natural science is one of the most difficult endorsements to achieve. She explained the teachers with that endorsement are allowed to teach every science subject.

Chairman Mortimer asked Ms. Colon Durham to go over the Agricultural Science requirements. **Ms. Colon Durham** explained the requirements. **Ms. Bent** explained the rules regarding best practices, changes in the teacher prep programs, changes in certificate names, and professional development requirements.

Chairman Mortimer asked if there is an increase in credit hour requirements for teachers. **Ms. Bent** said the requirements for endorsements go from eight to nine credit hours, and is in alignment with the practice for individuals to go through an alternative route for authorizations for content specialist. She said those individuals have content knowledge and a background in industry or business and are now working towards receiving their pedagogy degree.

Chairman Mortimer asked if the requirements are in weeks or credit hours. **Ms. Bent** replied in credits.

Chairman Mortimer said changing the requirements from weeks to credits is a significant change in a student's time commitment. **Ms. Bent** said using the term "credits" proves that the student has completed the requirements.

Chairman Mortimer said he is struggling with the requirement change because it is an added burden to the student. **Ms. Bent** said the equivalency language would allow for variance in the amount of burden of time for an individual entering into the program; in some instances it can take fewer weeks to earn semester credits. She said this is to clarify the requirements not to expand them.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if the changes will impact the master teacher premium. **Ms. Bent** replied in the negative.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the unsatisfactory rating means "causing harm" to a student and if the ratings are the same as the Danielson's rubric. **Ms. Bent** replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Mortimer asked why the CTE teacher minimum requirements moved from three years to four years. **Ms. Bent** replied for individuals in a degree based technical certification program, it takes longer to meet the standards.

Chairman Mortimer asked why the certificate letter of recommendation must come from a SBE approved program. **Ms. Bent** replied it is for consistency in rule language. She explained all vehicles for certification have to be approved by the SBE. These are minimum standards to ensure the individuals are qualified. **Ms. Bent** said the institutional recommendation is a document that indicates those individuals have completed the program and are qualified to go in to the area in which they seek the endorsement.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for unanimous consent to hold the rule until the following week. There were no objections.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary