

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 23, 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 3:03 p.m. He welcomed the guests and read from *A Heap O'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest the poem, "Innocence."

PRESENTATION: Teacher of the Year 2017. Mary Lynn Spiker, Wilcox Elementary, Pocatello, Idaho, was introduced by **Sherri Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education (SDE). **Superintendent Ybarra** described festivities at Wilcox Elementary School the day Ms. Spiker was granted the 2017 Teacher of the Year award.

Ms. Spiker thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak to the committee. She said she teaches in a low income school and the majority of her students are from the poverty level. She stated that parents in that are in poverty are just as interested in school activities as the wealthy counterparts. She explained the learning hurdles these student encounter: lower parental involvement, behavioral problems, and poor home situations for after-school learning.

Ms. Spiker told about her 2016-17 kindergarten class. She recounted to the Committee the students behavioral outbursts, delayed development, and how they acted on anger. She worked with the school district's counselors to develop a program for the students and by November 16th her class had its first "good" day: a day where all the students worked together as a classroom. She stated the class is on target to complete the year at grade level. Ms. Spiker explained this disruptive behavior is becoming more commonplace across the district. She encouraged the legislators to consider implementing full-day kindergarten. Being able to spend more time with children may correct the behavioral concerns (see attachment 1).

Senator Guthrie said he was fortunate to attend the event where she received this honor. He said it was great to witness the appreciation given her from the SDE, the Wilcox staff, and children's parents. He thanked Ms. Spiker for all the work she does.

Senator Ward-Engelking said she appreciates the work of Ms. Spiker especially dealing with behaviorally challenged students.

Senator Winder told Ms. Spiker congratulations. He said his daughter, who teaches in West Ada School District, is experiencing those same behaviors in her classroom. He pointed out she is a gift to those children. Her work is appreciated.

Chairman Mortimer echoed the words of all those who spoke. He thanked her for all she does and asked her to continue to share her teaching gift.

PRESENTATION: College of Southern Idaho (CSI), College of Western Idaho (CWI) and North Idaho College (NIC). Dr. Bert Glandon, President, CWI opened the combined community colleges presentation. He introduced his colleagues: Dr. Rick MacLennan, President NIC; and Dr. Jeff Fox (Dunlap), President, CSI.

Chairman Mortimer asked the new president of NIC, Dr. MacLennan, to introduce himself to the Committee. **Dr. MacLennan** said he began working at NIC June 2016. He reported his past work experience as president of Garrett Community College, McHenry, Maryland, and Olympic Community College, Bremerton WA. He said he and his wife are glad to be back in the Northwest.

Dr. Glandon presented the joint report. He stated the shared focus of the Community Colleges (Colleges) of Idaho is to cooperate in promoting, representing, supporting, and serving our region to ensure the highest quality education and training for students and the communities they serve. He spoke about the educational investment the Colleges provide for students and the communities in which they reside. He stated the essential education roles are being met at the Colleges: academic transfer; career technical; workforce development; adult basic education; and continuing education.. He explained the open enrollment policy allows for anyone to attend any of the Colleges and has led to higher enrollment. He stated due to the open enrollment, remediation is close to 60 percent and is highest in English and math. He spoke about the affordability of attending a Colleges verses the cost of attending State's institutions of higher education. The students are completing their education at a higher rate at the Colleges. **Dr. Glandon** said the Colleges are Idaho best investment and return in public dollars. He concluded by stating the Colleges have many common ways of operating, but each is very unique to the regions served (see attachment 2).

Vice Chairman Thayn asked him to elaborate on the remediation program. **Dr. Glandon** explained the updated process puts all new incoming students in the beginning English and/or math courses and if the student is unable to meet the criteria they are moved into the remedial course which gives them the extra help they need to succeed. He stated if a student is successful in school they are more likely to complete their education.

Dr. Fox said CSI remedial response is the summer bridge program. This identifies and works with students that need remediation and are at high risk for not going on to college. The goal at CSI is to find and work with more students to get them to graduate and more into higher learning. **Dr. Fox** told the committee about the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation's grant to run the summer bridge program and explained how the funds were used. He said the bridge students are more likely to continue in their educational endeavors and are more likely to enroll full-time.

Dr. MacLennan reported they have implementing similar efforts as CWI and CSI. He reported that once the students finish the remedial course work, the college completion rates increase. He said the faculty is focusing on the students who enroll in school but never graduate. Those tend to be the remedial student. It is necessary to have them enrolled in the correct classes so there is success and the best chance to move through the courses.

Senator Nonini asked if the comprehensive missions include the career technical and workforce development. He asked if the Presidents would please update the Committee on their work.

Dr. MacLennan described the new 110,000 square foot Career Technical Education (CTE) facility, The Parker Technical Facility, which is up from 35,000 square feet. He said this new facility and its services will lessen the workforce gap.

Dr. Fox said CSI has a strong CTE program and courses respond to the industrial needs of the region it serves; primarily in agricultural. CSI has up-to-date facilities that prepare students for the current workforce. He said CSI with the hiring of a workforce development director have increased industry contacts two-fold. He explained the different workforce and continuous education opportunities the college encompasses and how they tie in with the needs in the community.

Dr. Glandon said CWI is fortunate to have the Micron Business Center built in 2012 which is one of the premier career technical business training sites in the region. He detailed the partnership program CWI built with Western States Caterpillar to develop the diesel technician program. He said CWI also has a bridge program which has worked well with training the technical students as well as the academic students. **Dr. Glandon** said they have begun a new apprentice program for a variety of industries including plumbing and electrical. This program exposes student to the newest standards in those industries.

Senator Guthrie said the CC tuition is half of the institutions of higher education. He asked if the low tuition is sustainable with the exponential growth of the CC.

Dr. Glandon replied the Board of Trustees at the CC are committed to student success and affordable access. If the fees increase, soon only the rich will "go on" to obtain a higher degree or certificate. There is a financial challenge and facilities challenge: facilities are old or not large enough to accommodate the needs. **Dr. Glandon** stated there is a concerted effort with areas businesses and industries to make school affordable.

Dr. MacLennan said that tuition and fees are a policy question. Research shows there is a workforce gap and the future trend show that gap getting larger. One question to be considered by the legislature is the workforce gap remaining larger because tuition costs are a barrier for students. He said every person is important and they should be employable to provide livable wages for themselves and their families. He stated tuition policy should be addressed.

Dr. Fox said that each of the CC help students with a variety of scholarships. He said all the CC are accredited, so that allows students to apply for federal financial aid. He then spoke about the financial counseling students receive. He stated all the CC are supportive of the Governor's proposal for the adult learner scholarship fund. He reminded the Committee that CC are the best investment for education.

Senator Den Hartog asked what the challenges are faced to hire instructors who would meet the industries' needs. **Dr. MacLennan** said the biggest challenge is finding money to purchase the equipment necessary for relevant training. He said finding good teachers is a difficult task, because they earn more working rather than teaching. **Dr. Fox** said that CTE is constantly changing because jobs constantly change based on new technology. CC must work within their communities to be responsive to the industries' job training demands. He emphasized it is difficult to maintain quality and qualified faculty because industry can out pay education.

Dr. Glandon agreed with the other presidents. He said to find a qualified CTE instructor is difficult. CWI had conversations with the industries that have asked for loaned technicians to instruct to use as a possible remedy for the problem. He said finding instructors will be an ongoing challenge.

Senator Winder asked if the apprenticeships through the Colleges are in cooperation with the trade unions. **Dr. Glandon** replied the current apprenticeships are with the trade unions.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

**DOCKET NO:
08.0203.1605**

Rules Governing Thoroughness: Alternative Secondary Programs. Tim McMurtrey, Deputy Superintendent of Operation, State Department of Education (SDE) said this docket addresses secondary alternative education program. He stated this rule has not been amended since 1997. During the 2015 legislative session, H 300 made 6th grade students eligible for the alternative secondary school funding. He introduced Michelle Clement Taylor, Coordinator, School Choice, SDE, to present the rule changes

Ms. Clement Taylor said the changes in this rule to bring the language to current standards. She pointed out the words that were updated and explained those changes. She said the changes were sensitive to cultural differences and more relevant to what is occurring in the classroom.

Senator Den Hartog asked for clarification regarding behavior detrimental to academic progress. **Ms. Clement Taylor** replied it means the student's learning is impacted by their own behavior and not do to the lack of instruction.

Chairman Mortimer said this rule sets the criteria to place a student in an alternative secondary program. He asked if the student meets the criteria, is it mandatory they attend an alternative school. **Ms. Clement Taylor** replied it is voluntary. There are meetings with parents and counselors to determine if the alternative school is a better option.

MOTION:

Senator Guthrie moved to accept Docket No: 08.0203.1605. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. Motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO:
08.0202.1607**

Rules Governing Uniformity – Teacher Certification Requirements. Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE) explained that she is back to discuss the section that was inadvertently omitted in the printing of the rule book. She said four subparagraphs were not printed. These paragraphs regard the endorsement for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which are existing requirements, not new. She said the publication error has been fixed and is now available online to review.

Chairman Mortimer asked to have someone from the Office of Administrative Rules to address the correction and process to address this section of the rule.

Brad Hunt, Office of Administrative Rules, Department of Administration (DOA) said rule changes were made public in the January publication of the Bulletin, yet this section was inadvertently omitted. Citing Idaho Code, he said the Rules Coordinator has the authority to make corrections to publications. These corrections will be published on February 1, 2017.

Chairman Mortimer asked if the public is aware of this change. **Mr. Hunt** replied they have been made aware of the changes to this rule. Because of the publication printing error the public has not seen the changes. The correct format to the rule will be made available to the public on February 1, 2017.

Chairman Mortimer asked if it is appropriate for the Committee to approve the rule prior to the publication of the bulletin. **Mr. Hunt** asked Dennis Stevenson, Rules Coordinator to address the question.

Dennis Stevenson, State Administrative Rules Coordinator, DOA, said the protocol is to first publish in the bulletin to notice the public, then bring it to the legislature for extension.

Chairman Mortimer said there are some wording issues in another section of this docket. He asked if that should be addressed today. **Ms Bent** replied those will be addressed in the next rulemaking process.

MOTION:

Chairman Mortimer said based on the comments from Mr. Stevenson he moved to hold the rule until after the bulletin is printed.

Vice Chairman Thayn said this Docket No: 08.0202.1607 will be held until the call of the chair.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

ADJOURNED:

There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary