

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

DATE: Monday, January 30, 2017

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: EW42

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive (Mendive), Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, and Toone

**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 Senate Education (Committee) meeting to order at 3:01 p.m and welcomed the House Education Committee. He opened with a reading from the book, *A Heap O'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest, "Parental Pride."

PRESENTATION: "What New Research Implies for State Education Finance Policy." Dr. Marguerite Roza, Research Professor, Director, Edunomics Lab, Georgetown University introduced herself and referred the Committees to the handout outlining implications for state education finance policy (see Attachment 1). She explained the primary point of Edunomics' research over the years has been to learn how schools can get the most for students with the money available; in other words, how to realize greater outcome with the available dollars.

Dr. Roza illustrated via overhead slides results found in different schools across the country in terms of expenditures versus outcome. As an example, research found somewhat better results with smaller class sizes, but those results were not as great as expected. Further research found that expenditure choices did not completely explain the variables.

Looking for the "secret sauce" of ROI superstars in rural school districts around the country of similar size and demographics, there appears to be no difference, no secret sauce. Further research found there was no single program or strategy that works best, whether it be state or federal. Patterns that stood out were the importance of relations, mutual respect, flexibility, self-reliance, and a respect for costs.

Other recommendations: 1.) Ensure information systems link spending and outcomes by school; 2.) Equitably fund students and student types; 3.) Keep funds flexible; and 4.) Build adequate revenue streams that will leverage dollars. Flexibility was a theme throughout her presentation, which also stressed the importance of tapping and taming local funds. **Dr. Roza** encouraged Idaho's legislators to consider building a finance formula.

Committee members asked questions that included funding accountability, constitutional limitations, retaining the best teachers, and student-teacher ratios. Relative to a question on Idaho's proposed master teacher premium, **Dr. Roza** said research indicated that mandatory requirements were not as effective as innovation incentives. She stressed that a uniform policy has limitations and imposing models reduces effectiveness.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Dr. Roza for her presentation after which House Committee members left the meeting.

PRESENTATION: "Northwest Accreditation/AdvanceED Idaho School Update." Dale Kleinert, Director, AdvanceED Idaho (AdvanceED) introduced his colleagues and gave a brief overview of the history of AdvanceED, which was created just over 10 years ago. **Mr. Kleinert** referred the Committee to the handout (see Attachment 2) as he reviewed the information via overhead slides. He said the central focus of AdvanceED is to put learners at the center of their work, providing customized service to communities and helping navigate new transitions as different regulations are imposed.

Mr. Kleinert said accreditation is moving into a continuous improvement process that is sustainable, measurable, and attainable. He explained the results of research-based surveys and analyses, the tools being used, and the results of 887 classroom observations. **Mr. Kleinert** also outlined a set of research-based STEM standards, which determine what a STEM school should look like based on a 35,000 school network.

Chairman Mortimer asked about the origination of the data included in the reports. **Mr. Kleinert** said the reports were completed at the school level and provided to AdvanceED digitally. He added that many schools currently have improvement plans in place.

Senator Nonini asked how House Bill **H 70** on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) designations might fit in with their recommendations. **Mr. Kleinert** said the bill corresponds well with their recommendations.

Senator Den-Hartog asked how the accreditation program receives payment. **Mr. Kleinert** said funding is through the State Board of Education.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Mr. Kleinert for his presentation.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Jeanne Clayton
Secretary