

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 02, 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 Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

**PRESENTATION: K-12 Budget Recommendations.** **Tim Hill**, Associate Deputy Superintendent, Division of Public School Finance, State Department of Education (SDE) introduced Louie Konkol, Chief Fiscal Officer, SDE, who was available for questions should they be needed for further clarification and referred the Committee to the two handouts (see Attachments 1 and 2). He said the Public School Foundation Program schedule is zero-based. **Mr. Hill** noted that the schedules exclude Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind and explained the schedule illustrates how the SDE arrives from its current appropriation of \$1.574 billion to its request of \$1.780 billion, an increase of \$205,691,700, or 6.65 percent. **Mr. Hill** reviewed each line item in detail as the Committee followed the information in the handouts.

**Senator Nonini** asked if Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) appropriations were included in the budget recommendations. **Mr. Hill** said they were not. Later in the presentation, **Vice Chairman Thayn** clarified there will be no increase to the budget contribution to PERSI this year. **Chairman Mortimer** asked if SDE could provide a breakdown of the increase in support units for review. **Mr. Hill** responded affirmatively. **Senator Winder** ask for further details on the increase in endowment funding. **Mr. Hill** explained that for every dollar in endowment funding there is a relief to the General Fund. **Senator Guthrie** requested clarification on health insurance increases. **Mr. Hill** said the Governor's office had recommended a \$15 million line item for health insurance increases.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for information on how the technology funds would be distributed.

**Sherri Ybarra**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, SDE took the podium to explain the request supports instruction of personalized learning through the purchase of digitalized learning tools at the local district's discretion. She described how students from the Middleton schools were using their days off to come in and train teachers how to integrate technology. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how the technology funds will be distributed. **Mr. Hill** said the appropriation bill gives Superintendent Ybarra the authority to prescribe the formula and explained the process in detail.

**Chairman Mortimer** thanked Mr. Hill for his informative presentation.

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

**S 1034**

**Relating to Education: Remove a Requirement for a Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant, Revise the Duty of the State Board of Education, Promulgate Rules, and Make a Technical Correction.** Representative Luke Malek being unable to attend, **Chairman Mortimer** reviewed the history and rationale for the legislation. This bill requires the State to use matching federal funds by removing a statutory problem with one sentence. The funding provides opportunities for school districts to invest in the broadband infrastructure necessary to accommodate modern classrooms. As soon as the legislation is passed, there is provision to promulgate in order to take advantage of the 2017 funding. **Chairman Mortimer** suggested the legislation, if passed, be sent to the Fourteenth Order for Amendment of the addition of an emergency clause.

**Senator Den Hartog** noted there is no provision in the wording for public charter schools to receive funds. She asked if they are eligible entities. **Chairman Mortimer** replied it is his understanding it is available to all public schools and charter schools are a public school.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **S 1034** to the Fourteenth Order for possible amendments. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
08.0202.1605**

**Rules Governing Uniformity: Idaho School Bus Standards.** **Duncan Robb** Chief Policy Advisor, SDE said the pending rule would modify the document incorporated-by-reference, standards for Idaho school buses and operations. The modifications are intended to bring school bus operations into compliance with federal regulations. He said district superintendents are concerned the implementation of the modifications places unintended additional burden on the districts' ability to fund their transportation programs.

**Mr. Robb** noted that Superintendent Ybarra wants to avoid burdening districts wherever possible and recommends this Committee reject **Docket No. 08.0202.1605** to allow more time to ensure the implementation of federal guidelines does not cause undue burden on Idaho's school districts. **Mr. Robb** said the State Board of Education has been informed of this decision and noted the same recommendation will be presented to the House Education Committee. The rule will be brought back before the both Committees next year.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Guthrie** moved that **Docket No. 08.0202.1605** be rejected. The motion was seconded by **Senator Buckner-Webb**. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** welcomed Tracie Bent, to present **Docket No. 08.0202.1607**.

**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 during the Committee's earlier discussion of **Docket No. 08.0202.1607**, a publication error was discovered, and the Committee chose to hold the rule until notice of corrected publication could be disseminated. The bulletin was published on February 1, 2017.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den-Hartog** moved to accept **Docket No. 08.0202.1607**. The motion was seconded by **Chairman Mortimer**. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

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

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary

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Jeanne Clayton  
Assistant Secretary