MINUTES

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 06, 2017
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive (Mendive), Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone
ABSENT/EXCUSED: None
GUESTS: Don Drum, PERSI; Brian Church, Attorney General; Lisa Colon Durham, SDE/PSC; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

RS 24908: Blake Youde, ID State Dept of Education, presented RS 24908 relating to teachers to provide that a school teacher or administrator who retired on or after age sixty years who again becomes an employee may continue receiving benefits. Mr. Youde introduced and asked Don Drum, Director of PERSI to verify there would be no impact on PERSI benefits.

MOTION: Rep. Clow made a motion to introduce RS 24908. Motion carried by voice vote.

Lisa Colon Durham, Chief Certification Officer and Administrator of the Professional Standard Commission(PSC), gave the presentation on the Professional Standards Commission. She explained that the PSC consists of 18 constituency members that are nominated by respective stakeholders, appointed or reappointed by the State Board of Education of terms of three years. PSC has five standing committees that have specific duties: Authorization Committee, Professional Development Committee, Executive Committee, Budget Committee, and Standards Committee. The Authorization Committee includes three Alternative Authorization types; Teacher to New Certificate, Content Specialist, and Pupil Personnel Services and Non-Traditional routes to certification; American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence(ABCTE) and Teach for America(TFA).

Mrs. Durham explained the PSC ethics complaint process. The steps include PSC receiving a signed written complaint, an initial review of the complaint conducted by PSC staff and its deputy attorney general, and an outcome of the initial review which is either a remand of the issue to the school district to be resolved locally, or open the case for investigation. The investigation can include issuance of subpoenas, gathering evidence by a contracted independent investigator, and evidence submitted by the respondent. After full review PSC decides if there is a "No Probable Cause Determination" and the case is closed, or "Probable Cause Determination" and the appropriate disciplinary action for the particular ethic's violation is taken.

Mrs. Durham explained the Professional Standards Committee reviews 20% of the educator preparation standards and endorsements each year. The following were reviewed during 2015 to 2016: Elementary, mathematics, pre-service technology, science, and visual performing arts. The PSC completes educator preparation programs, and these programs were completed in 2015 to 2016 at Northwest Nazarene University and Idaho State University.
William Goodman, Idaho Education Technology Director, presented an update on The Idaho Education Technology Association (IET A). IET A members promote, facilitate and sustain education technology and all its users while enhancing the education of Idaho’s students for tomorrow’s technology. IET A members include technology directors, technology staff, teachers, and administrators from public, charters, virtual, and private schools. The IET A Board includes 6 regional representatives, president, president-elect, past-president, SDE representative, and 2 special appointees. IET A Grants bring in $10,000.00 a year for teachers and technicians. IET A holds the largest education conference in the state focusing on integration of educational technologies and infrastructure technologies.

Mr. Goodman explained the complexity of school networks that use the same infrastructure and end-user technologies as large corporations. They are often larger and more complex than corporate networks, but are operating with significantly fewer staff and smaller budgets than most corporations. Many school districts do not have full-time technology staff, and some do not have any technology staff at all. The current issues IET A is facing is the complexity of E-Rate Funding, a state wireless contract, spending flexibility for infrastructure, mastery based education, lack of technical staff and resources at the local level, restoring refresh cycles, and classification of Technology Directors as classified or certified administrators. He emphasized that almost all jobs our students will hold in the future will require the use of technology. Teachers need to be able to integrate technology into their lessons so our students are prepared and not falling behind students from more technology savvy states. Teachers who are confident with technology, and have the supportive team to help them with their lessons will be more likely to attempt to integrate it into their classroom without the fear of the technology failing. Applying with this winter’s heavy snow fall resulting in increased snow days, IET A had the students use those days for schooling at home.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Ann Tippetts
Secretary