

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 06, 2017
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Buckner-Webb
- 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. Chairman Mortimer welcomed the guests and read from "A Heap O'Living Along Life's Highway, by Eager A. Guest the poem, *Making the Best of It*.
- PRESENTATION: Idaho Education Technology Association (IETA). William Goodman**, Board Member, Technology Director Mountain Home School District told the Committee the purpose of the IETA is to promote, facilitate and sustain education technology. He detailed the membership component on IETA, the schools they represent, and the makeup of their Board. In the past year, IETA gave \$10,000 in grants for a variety of different technology programs in Idaho schools. **Mr. Goodman** said at the current time the IETA conference is occurring in Boise with over 850 participants attending.
- Mr. Goodman** emphasized that school networks are complex. Schools use the same infrastructure as large corporations but the networks are unique to education (see Attachment 1). There are multiple sites to maintain; but, little staff support and smaller budgets. He explained the internet is a vital utility. It is as important as power and water and without internet support schools cannot operate.
- Mr. Goodman** explained the current issues the IETA is reviewing are as follows: 1.) internet usage; 2.) E-rate funding; 3.) State wireless contract; 4.) spending flexibility; and 5.) lack of technical staff support. He detailed how IETA makes a difference in the classroom and outlined to the Committee the many different tasks the tech coordinators perform. As a point of interest, **Mr. Goodman** stated in regards to recent snow days in the valley, technology helped students learn regardless of their environment. He reported to the Committee a variety of examples in which technology in Idaho classrooms is aiding students with different learning needs achieve their education goals.
- Senator Guthrie** said in his district there is not good internet service and no interest from providers to increase the capacity. He asked if there is anything the State can do to prompt providers to increase service to rural areas. **Mr. Goodman** acknowledged Senator Guthrie's frustration and spoke of a variety of solutions that the State is working towards to solve that issue.
- Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if Mr. Goodman knew what the annual cost for would be for annual technology updates. **Mr. Goodman** said a sustainable level for technology would cost about \$26 million. He said the technology costs are not going up. But at the same time as the device costs are going down, more students are needing devices.

Vice Chairman Thayne asked if technology is used equally in all grade levels and how is it being used. **Mr. Goodman** replied technology use is dependent on the schools. There is not a clear pattern or research to show the best grade levels for technology usage. In all grade levels there is much mastery-based and blended level learning. He explained technology based learning and some of the restrictions that are in place to keep children from going to unsafe website areas.

Senator Den Hartog asked if IETA provides assistance to those school districts without a technical support staff. **Mr. Goodman** replied in the negative. He said many IETA members do go out and help smaller districts on their own time.

Chairman Mortimer asked what percentage of teachers use technology in their classroom. **Mr. Goodman** replied he did not have the exact number. He said the more technology devices that are available to students and teachers there is an increase in usage. **Chairman Mortimer** asked if classrooms are arranged conducive for technology usage. **Mr. Goodman** replied some schools are piloting classroom set-up arrangements. He explained the different classroom layouts by grade level that are useful for technological learning.

Sen. Guthrie said the way students learn is through technology and we have witnessed this transition in the classrooms. He asked if Mr. Goodman could comment on the types of technology that are being used in the classroom. **Mr. Goodman** gave examples of technology usage from YouTube lessons in music and art to individual learning plans. He said if the technology is available, teachers will use it to augment their lesson plans. He stated technology is replacing the textbook. **Senator Guthrie** asked if the students of today are more advanced in technology than what is available in the classroom. **Mr. Goodman** replied that there are generational differences; what a teacher sees as a technological need is not necessarily the same as what a student needs..

PRESENTATION: Professional Standards Commission. Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education (SDE) introduced Lisa Colon Durham, Director, Certification and Professional Standards Commission (PSC), SDE, and explained her job roles with the SDE and State Board of Education.

Ms. Colon Durham gave an overview of the PSC and told of the makeup of the membership; members nominated by stakeholders and appointed or reappointed by the SBE. She said the PSC has five standing committee 1.) authorizations committee; 2.) professional development committee; 3.) executive committee; 4.) budget committee; and 5.) standards committee (see Attachment 2).

Ms. Colon Durham explained the alternative authorizations committee helps individuals attain an endorsement in collaboration with local districts when there is a need to fill a difficult position. She detailed the three alternative authorization routes are; 1.) teacher to new certification /endorsement; 2.) content specialist; and 3.) nontraditional route-American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE).

Ms. Colon Durham gave an overview of the ethics complaint process and who initiates this complaint process. A complaint may be filed against any certificated individual. She outlined the steps taken to deal with the complaint. She said the executive committee's role is to review the investigation of the complaint and take the proper steps based on the determinations. She detailed the ethic violations the PSC reviewed and closed for the 2015-16 school year. **Ms. Colon Durham** outlined for the Committee the ethics violations categories, the number of cases in each, and the disciplinary action taken.

Ms. Colon Durham detailed the work of the PSC standards committee which is to review educator preparation and endorsements. The importance of the standards are they are used for educator preparation program review. She explained the standards committee goes to the colleges or universities in the State and completes an in-depth review to determine whether those schools' candidates are meeting the standards set by the State for certification.

S 1033

Relating to Educational Data System Security; Amend, Authorize Rule Adoption, Revise Definitions, Clarify Conditions, and Technical Corrections.

Blake Youde, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE) explained **S 1033** strengthens protection reporting of student data. It strengthens the security of data system to ensure that private student information is kept private.

Mr. Youde explained the changes made by the legislation, which include changing the definition of the data system, clarification of the rules being made by the SBE for actions when data is willfully misreported, clarifies where data is stored and maintained, and defines that data which can identify a specific student group cannot be released. He explained each of the changes in detail. All the changes, he said are for students safety and protection.

Senator Dan Hartog asked if multiple requests by the same person are monitored. **Mr. Youde** replied the SBE reviews all public information requests to determine if there is a possibility of misuse.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Thayn said after meeting with SBE he believes the data collection information process is being strengthened with this legislation. He moved to send to **S 1033** the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Mortimer will carry to the floor.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Senator Crabtree moved to approve the Minutes of January 16, 2017. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Senator Nonini moved to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2017. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Senator Ward-Engelking moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2017. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary