

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 07, 2017
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Rohn (Buckner-Webb), and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Nonini
- 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 3:05 p.m. .
- PRESENTATION:** **Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) Ms. Janet Gallimore**, Executive Director presented an update of the ISHS's activities. **Ms. Gallimore** noted that ISHS is the leadership agency in the development of the new State Historical Museum, which was the theme of her presentation.
- Ms. Gallimore** presented a video illustrating expansion plans for the new museum and the proposed exhibits, which will focus on the people and the land and how they have interacted throughout the State's history. The video used stories to highlight each region of the State, told through human personal experiences. **Ms. Gallimore** said the stories and story-tellers will change periodically to bring new ideas and engagement to visitors.
- Ms. Heidi Wisener**, Education Director, ISHS, presented an update on educational programming (see attachment 1), which focuses on building historical literacy, critical thinking and problem-solving rather than mere memorization of facts. **Ms. Wisener** said the objective is to provide multiple opportunities for stimulation that aligns with Idaho State Education standards.
- Ms. Wisener** explained the educational goals are to enhance what is being taught in the classroom and provide hands-on experiential learning through interaction and artifacts that cannot be reproduced in the classroom. She reviewed the first Educator Summit in 2016, which allowed Idaho educators to have input into the new museum's offerings. She also spoke of the museum's partnership with Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) to design a professional development course for credit, to be hosted on the IDLA web platform.
- Chairman Mortimer** asked Ms. Gallimore how the Society plans to incorporate the museum into its presently small building and the number of students they feel can be accommodated at one time. **Ms. Gallimore** reviewed the square footage of the planned addition along with the methods by which staging areas will be arranged to accommodate up to three concurrent classes of 30 students each.
- Chairman Mortimer** thanked Ms. Gallimore and Ms. Wisener for their informative and entertaining presentation.

**RS 24869**

**Relating to Master Educator Premiums: Amend Sections of Idaho Code, Revise Terminology, Extend Master Educator Premium Eligibility and Add Effective Date.** **Mr. Blake Youde**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE) gave a recap of **RS 24869**, which would include pupil service staff in the career ladder starting in 2017. Pupil service staff includes nurses, psychologists, speech language pathologists, audiologists, and social workers for eligibility as recipients to certificates of the Master Teacher premium. This group would be required to meet similar requirements to those of teachers based on performance indicators on the career ladder with the additional requirement of demonstrating master instructional techniques. The premium award would be the same as that which is prescribed for teachers.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for details on the rules, costs and processes involved to receive those premiums. **Chairman Mortimer** said these details would be made available at the full hearing of the legislation.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if the definition of consulting teachers had already been addressed. **Mr. Youde** responded affirmatively.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 24869** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

**S 1041**

**Public Education Stabilization Fund: Provides a Mechanism to Replace Funds.** **Chairman Mortimer** read from both sections of this legislation; Idaho Code § 33-907, and Idaho Code § 33-1018C. In the event moneys are withdrawn from the public education stabilization fund for the circumstances authorized pursuant to Idaho Code § 33-1018B, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) shall then consider transferring the amount of the withdrawal as a supplemental appropriation to the public education stabilization fund for the current fiscal year.

**Chairman Mortimer** referred to the schedule "State of Idaho Major Reserve Fund Balances," which was included in the Committee's packets (see attachment 2). The schedule illustrates the trajectory of the public education stabilization fund, which has decreased over the past two years. **Chairman Mortimer** explained that the legislation would allow replacement of funds every year in which money is taken out.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** questioned the word "shall." **Chairman Mortimer** explained the word creates emphasis but noted that JFAC has the option of making the final decisions. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for information on timing with respect to withdrawal of funds. **Chairman Mortimer** explained if the legislation had been in place in 2016, JFAC would be looking at what came out of the fund that year and observed that the anticipated addition of 99 support units could create an \$8 million to \$10 million deficit in this coming year.

**Senator Den-Hartog** asked if there is a cap on the fund and, if not, if there is an existing goal for an amount or percentage in the fund. **Mr. Paul Headlee**, Legislative Services Office confirmed that there is a cap of 8.34 percent of the General Fund revenue of the particular year. He explained that if revenues come into the fund which exceed the cap, then it spills into the bond equalization fund.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Guthrie** moved to send **S 1041** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Chairman Mortimer** will carry the bill on the floor.

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

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:43 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