

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Den Hartog

**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.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Andrew J. Scoggin, Boise Idaho, appointed to the State Board of Education to serve a term commencing August 4, 2016 and expiring July 1, 2021.** **Matt Freeman**, Executive Director State Board of Education (SBE), introduced Mr. Scoggin to the Committee.

**Mr. Scoggin** explained his work history with Albertsons LLC, in the human resources department. He explained that organizational focus and efficiency helped the corporation reemerge. Those lessons seem to work in any large organization and hopes to transfer those skills into his board position. He said it is an honor to be asked to serve the State with this appointment. He said nothing is more important than being able to help children with their education.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked what are the most interesting and enjoyable aspects of being a new board member. **Mr. Scoggin** replied he is fascinated with the ability to learn and this board position has a very steep learning curve. He said he feels fortunate to have been able to meet many people throughout the State who impact education.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked which area of education is of most interests; K-12 or higher education. **Mr. Scoggin** replied K-12 as it covers a very large group of people. If the university system is going to be great it is important that the youth coming into those schools are prepared.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** asked if there are new opportunities for this position. **Mr. Scoggin** replied to be effective there must be trust between the board members and those implementing the work. He said there are three things that are necessary to be an effective board member: 1.) the board should provide clear strategic direction; 2.) accountability that the strategic plan is implemented; and 3.) support for those who are carrying out the strategy.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said the education arena has many voices that work to direct the course. He asked if there is a specific entity Mr. Scoggin will listen to. **Mr. Scoggin** replied that parents are a very important voice. He explained that parents send children into school trusting that they will come out educated and capable of being good citizens. Children should be excited about learning and be challenged by good teachers.

**Senator Winder** stated that the political affiliation on Mr. Scoggin's application is blank; he asked Mr. Freeman if that is permitted. **Mr. Freeman** replied appointments to the State Board of Education are non-partisan appointments.

**PRESENTATION:** **State Board of Education. Emma Atchley**, President, SBE, said this presentation is for the Committee to gain a better understanding as to how the SBE is serving the State, supporting educators at all levels, and working hard to develop a well-educated workforce. She gave a brief overview of the members of the SBE and the delegation of authority. She emphasized that they are diverse group with a passion for education. **Ms. Atchley** explained the priorities of the SBE which are as follows: 1.) task force for improving education; 2.) Idaho's "Go On" rate and strategies for improvement; 3.) initiatives from the governor and the board; and 4.) education as an economic imperative (see Attachment 1).

**Ms. Atchley** stated the Governor's Task Force on Education initiatives which include the career ladder, professional development, technology, advanced opportunities, and a career in college, are being implemented. She explained the appropriations and ongoing legislation for each of these areas. She addressed Idaho's "Go On" rate which has hovered just over 50 percent. She discussed the strategies to improve the "Go On" rate.

**Ms. Atchley** spoke about the General Fund and the tuition appropriation history. She explained today the general fund and tuition do not cover the complete budget. The remaining difference comes out of endowment funds. Postsecondary affordability and access has been impacted. She stated in the last two years the Governor and the Legislature have invested in higher education. She said the SBE understands that cost can be a barrier to higher education. The goal is to minimize tuition fee increases for students. The SBE has held tuition increases to historic lows. She addressed the programs that have kept higher education costs down for students.

**Ms. Atchley** spoke about the new community college proposal in Eastern Idaho, the higher education building projects and a joint initiative with Idaho National Laboratory (INL). She said the SBE is partnering with the Governor for the authorization for the post secondary adult completion scholarship. She emphasized these programs will promote higher education and will benefit students. She urged the support for these programs.

**Ms. Atchley** said funding for education is an investment not an expense. The SBE set a goal that for 2020 60 percent of all Idahoans will hold a post secondary certificate or degree. The goal is predicated upon by labor market research which forecasts by the year 2020, 60 percent of the jobs in Idaho will require qualified workers to have some form of post secondary certificate or degree. She spoke about the current trend and said it is hovering at approximately 40 percent: it is a stubborn needle to move. She detailed the research which emphasizes the importance of post secondary education. A college degree is still a good return on investment.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if there is any data tracking of the go on rate of those who return from their mission. **Ms. Atchley** replied in the affirmative. She explained the go on rate one and two years after high school graduation only increases by less than 10 percent.

**Senator Guthrie** asked if education is too diversified and should it be more concentrated to get a better result on the funds invested. **Ms. Atchley** replied the SBE oversees K-12 education as well as eight institutions of higher education. The SBE collaborates with each of the institutions to assess the needs and fund to the benefit of student learning.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said that there is a definite relationship between the Legislature and the SBE. He asked if the SBE has started to define the master teacher premium process and if they know what the staffing requirements will be. **Ms. Atchley** replied there will be additional costs incurred. She asked Blake Youde, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, SBE, to give more information.

**Blake Youde**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, SBE said regarding the master teacher premium the SBE adopted the portfolio plan by which teachers can apply for the premiums: which begins July 1, 2019. He explained the staffing process that is being considered.

**Senator Nonini** asked if she has information regarding outcome based results. **Ms. Atchley** replied the SBE has studied that topic and expect that the new task force for higher education committee will provide some recommendations.

**PRESENTATION:** **STEM Action Center. Angela Hemingway**, Director, named the legislation that dictates what the STEM Action Center (Center) is to carry out. She said that the Center has developed a strategic plan and set agency goals, which are as follows: 1.) coordinate and facilitate implementation of STEM programs throughout Idaho; 2.) align education and workforce needs throughout Idaho; and 3.) increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho (see Attachment 2).

**Ms. Hemingway** spoke about the impact the center has made on reaching students and teachers with the grants the Center has received and given. She explained to the Committee the public and private partnerships that they are building. She detailed the many activities students have participated in at the Center's STEM Day at the Fair 2016.

**Ms. Hemingway** said they provide educator professional development. This gives educators confidence and skills to successively return to their classroom and use these new technologies and tools. The professional development opportunities create professional learning communities where teachers can collaborate with other teachers to find support. **Ms. Hemingway** said on the Center's website homepage there is an impact map. This shows the different STEM activities across the state that are occurring and how people can participate.

**Ms. Hemingway** emphasized the need for STEM education in Idaho because job growth in those occupations is outpacing other fields and will create higher-paying jobs. She said statistics show future jobs will require some type of technology. This indicates that educators are necessary to prepare students for the technology jobs.

**Ms. Hemingway** spoke about the Center's budget which includes donations, funding from the state, and grants. They are developing relationships with corporations to help get additional funding. The center will be applying for a 501 (c) (3) foundation status in order to receive other funding.

**Senator Nonini** asked if grant requests from schools area from any type of school. **Ms. Hemingway** replied the grant requests are for a variety of projects from schools. The grants are available to any school that applies. The grants are vetted by a grant review team to determine if the project meets the defined criteria.

**Senator Crabtree** asked if teachers are hesitant about the time allotted for STEM projects. **Ms. Hemingway** replied in the negative. Teachers apply for the grants to augment their lesson plans. They use the STEM education to enhance the curriculum.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Senator Ward-Engelking moved to approve the **Minutes of January 19, 2017**. Vice Chairman Thayn seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Vice Chairman Thayn moved to approve the Minutes of **January 23, 2017**. Senator Winder seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Senator Buckner-Webb moved to approve the **Minutes of January 24, 2017**. Senator Nonini seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DISCUSSION:** **Public School Funding Budget Discussion.** Chairman Mortimer presented to the Committee the important issues regarding the education budget. He led the review and discussion of the committee's budget priorities prior to his presentation to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee.

Chairman Mortimer asked Committee members to prioritize the budget request items. The preferences are as follows: 1.) continuation of the career ladder; 2.) employee health insurance; 3.) classroom technology; 4.) literacy proficiency; 5.) advanced opportunities; 6.) career technical education; 7.) professional development; 8.) career counseling; and 9.) additional funding for extra transportation.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no more business, Chairman Mortimer adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary