

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2017

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Rohn (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: **Senator Mortimer** called the meeting of the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed Senator Rohn, who was attending the meeting for Senator Buckner-Webb.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Thayn** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Sherrilynn W. Bair to the Public Charter School Commission to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Bair** will carry the appointment on the floor.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Nonini** moved to send the gubernatorial reappointment of Wanda Chillingworth Quinn to the Public Charter School Commission to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Nonini** will carry the appointment on the floor.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Winder** moved to send the gubernatorial reappointment of Brian Scigliano to the Public Charter School Commission to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Winder** will carry the appointment on the floor.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Andrew J. Scoggin to the State Board of Education to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Buckner-Webb** will carry the appointment on the floor.

PRESENTATION: **Department of Labor Update. Ken Edmund**, Director, Department of Labor (Labor), emphasized the existing shortage of labor in all areas. The State Board of Education (SBE) has convened a group to work on the definition of college and career readiness. A comprehensive definition was formulated encompassing: 1.) critical thinking; 2.) teamwork, 3.) how to communicate in general; and 4.) the soft skills needed to adapt and move forward in today's society. **Mr. Edmund** explained that industry needs are changing, and they now expect education to deliver complete workers with both soft and technical skills (see Attachment 1).
Ten-year projections indicate 138,000 additional workers will be needed just to keep pace with Idaho's economy, and there is a 50,000 person gap. The largest employment requirements are expected to be for workers with associates degrees and some college, which he feels is an area not being completely addressed by the education system.

Discussing funding, **Mr. Edmund** said the Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief bill will reduce unemployment insurance taxes by \$115 million for employers over three years in formula changes. He said they want to put the Workforce Development Training program in a position that will bring their recommendations to fruition quickly but it is currently underfunded. He said the Governor has recommended a one-time transfer from the General Fund of \$5 million to address apprenticeships and maintain a level of funding for sector and rural micro grants.

Mr. Edmund said short-term training and funding is a key issue and asked for support regarding the Governor's recommendation for a one-time \$5 million transfer from the General Fund to the Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF). He reviewed Labor's next steps, which are: 1.) continue building collaboration among stakeholders; 2.) implement WDTF recommendations; and 3.) build a new career information system to replace the current system. He said no funds will be needed for the new system, but they will be asking for legislative support.

Vice ChairmanThayn asked what types of employment are available that help employees learn new skills. **Mr. Edmunds** said the workforce gap still exists after training efforts. Many employers are not set up to train for those jobs of which many are automated. He said the best way to keep the economy going forward is to keep people properly trained to fill the new jobs.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief bill has been printed. **Mr. Edmund** said that it had not, but it will be brought up soon.

Senator Nonini asked if other states are leading Idaho in training and, if so, what are they doing to address these issues. **Mr. Edmunds** replied that nearly every state has encountered similar issues and have sought to find new solutions, stressing that apprenticeships seem to be an important solution.

Chairman Mortimer asked how the additional funding would be spent and if specific skills have been identified. **Mr. Edmund** said funding will go to Workforce Training Centers to develop extension programs and to assist businesses that are working to start apprenticeship programs.

Senator Guthrie asked if there are methods to achieve certification for on-the-job training, particularly for veterans and **Mr. Edmund** explained the issue is being addressed.

PRESENTATION: College Board - SAT Scores in Idaho. **Dave Moniz**, Senior Director, State District Partnerships. **Mr. Moniz** said his primary responsibility in Idaho is with the K-12 programs. He trains teachers to effectively use data in PSAT and SAT tests. His responsibility is to ensure students understand the assessments and how they provide the opportunities to develop academic skills and the resulting career opportunities. He reviewed the scores and described the schedules for testing in Idaho. He said the assessments provide real world content to enable students to be college and career ready and employ easy methods to measure those assessments.

Chairman Mortimer asked how the program works in Idaho schools and how students can access the information if computers are not available. **Mr. Muniz** said they are working to connect students with available training and access to computers. He said Khan Academy provides the resources.

Vice Chairman Thayne asked how Idaho's scores compare to other states. **Mr. Muniz** said Idaho's scores are strong. The college and career readiness benchmarks are inline with the remediation rates.

Senator Ward-Engelking wondered how SAT compares to SBAC. **Mr. Muniz** replied that as a tool to improve quality he believes what SAT offers is unprecedented, that educators can see every question and focus on what is needed.

Senator Den Hartog asked how soon scores are available after testing and **Mr. Muniz** reviewed the time lines.

Chairman Mortimer asked if SAT aligns with Idaho's content standards. **Mr. Muniz** answered affirmatively.

PRESENTATION: Idaho Youth Challenge (IYC). **Bicker Therien**, Principal, introduced academy graduates and associates and reviewed the history of legislative funding for the IYC program in Idaho. He explained the basic schedule for students, which uses a quasi military structure and eliminates distractions, such as media access and computer games. **Mr. Therien** said for the five months of instruction, academic growth averages 2.31 years, and he reviewed student achievements by metrics (see attachment 2).

Mr. Therien introduced former graduates, **Paula Ward** and **Tanner Morales**, who described their initial problems and successes achieved through the Idaho Youth Challenge five-month course.

Committee members asked the graduates questions and complimented them on their achievements.

Chairman Mortimer asked Mr. Therien what he considered his greatest challenge. **Mr. Therien** listed challenges as: 1.) growing the number of female participants; and 2.) creating more classroom space.

PRESENTATION: Advanced Opportunities Program. **Tim McMurtrey**, Deputy superintendent of Operations, State Department of Education (SDE) reviewed the program, which he said ties directly to SDE's educational goals to: 1.) ensure all students persevere in life and are ready for college and careers; and 2.) offer direct support for students striving to meet their goals. He said the program has seen growth and measurable value over the years, providing direct support to students and their families. In 2016, nearly 17,700 students took advantage of the Advanced Opportunities Program, including all dual credit participation, and those students gained more than 95,000 credits, ultimately saving families across the State \$7.1 million in tuition. He thanked the Committee for supporting one of the most exciting programs being funded.

Matt McCarter, Director, Student Engagement and Postsecondary Readiness, SDE defined the Mastery Advancement Program and reviewed its funding history with a breakdown of funds and participation rates (see attachment 3). He explained how home school and private school students can participate and said the program has seen a 71 percent increase in student participation from fall 2015 to fall 2016. He described the program's challenges; a critical dilemma is the hiring and retention of teachers with dual credit certifications. **Mr. McCarter** said the key to success is: partnerships, streamlined legislation, automation, support for advising and career mentoring, increased community awareness, and positive media coverage. He said for students the program encourages postsecondary education where at one-time that might have never been considered.

Vice Chairman Thayn said Advanced Opportunities was designed so parents would be the catalyst moving the student forward. He acknowledged and thanked Tina Polishchuk, SDE, for being instrumental in designing and making the Mastery Advancement Program feasible.

ADJOURNED: There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary