

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 06, 2017

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Jess Harrison, ISBA; Helen Price, IASA; Kelli Brassfield, IAC

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

H 196: **Phil McGrane**, Chief Deputy Ada County Clerk, presented **H 196** relating to student safety on election day voting in residential schools. He explained it impacts the area of both student safety and having access to a voting place which causes a conflict. Student safety is impacted by bringing in so many people into the schools while the students are in the classrooms. Schools are historically the most common areas for voting since they are in residential areas with convenient access. There is a great deal of pressure in the communities to have voting taken out of schools, but the lack of other available voting places, meeting the requirements, makes this difficult. Mr. McGrane recommends eliminating school instruction on election voting days. He would like the school calendar changed across all districts to reflect these voting days as "no school days".

Jess Harrison, ISBA, testified **in opposition** to **H 196**, saying that it puts too much burden on the schools to make up the "no school" days. This bill takes away mandated local control from the school districts to manage their own calendars. She feels the safety of students should be ensured by extra security.

Helen Price, Legislative Assistant, Idaho Association of School Administrators, testified **in opposition** to **H 196**. She stated that they polled their superintendents on the proposed changes. The feedback they received from members across Idaho was immediate and in overwhelming opposition by 95%. The predominant reason for opposition was in regards to local control to amend their calendars as they and the communities see fit. A local problem does not require a state-wide solution. This bill would be disruptive to students, teachers and parents.

Kelli Brassfield, IAC, and **Tim Hurst** are **in support** of **H 196**. They explained the solution would be to use voting days as professional instruction days so the students are not in the schools.

MOTION: **Rep. Amador** made a motion to **HOLD H 196** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 242: **Blake Youde**, State Board of Education, presented **H 242** relating to allowing school districts to request a waiver of minimum instructional hours from the State Board of Education when a district is impacted by a declared emergency.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatham** made a motion to send **H 242** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1034: **Rep. Malek** presented **S 1034** relating to education for a broadband infrastructure improvement grant and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **S 1034** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Malek** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Emily Bybee presented Imagine Learning Literacy. She explained technology makes a difference in teaching literacy through proficiency of the language. Quoting **George Couros**, "Technology will never replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of a great teacher can be transformational". Students see themselves as great learners and achieve confidence to propel themselves forward when they master literacy. Ms. Bybee explained their Roadmap to Success is measuring progress in Idaho through individual students. One student she talked about is a first grade student who was so quiet that teachers couldn't communicate with her in conversation. But once they introduced her to technology, she started vocalizing online and then with her teachers. She verbalized well and her teachers found her to be very smart. "Technology gives the quietest student a voice" **Jerry Blumengarten**.

Tracy Zarate, teacher, explained that Imagine Learning Literacy is designed for K-6th grade but can continue to junior high by meeting individual needs with basic skills. Imagine Learning began in 2007 and serves 75 districts, over 200 schools, and over 8,000 students in Idaho.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 am.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Ann Tippetts
Secretary