

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017

**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, 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:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 1:02 p.m.

**HCR 26** **Stating Findings of the Legislature and Recognizing Sonia Galaviz for Her Commitment to Her Students and Her Exemplary Conduct as an Idaho Teacher. Representative McCrostie** District 16, presented **HCR 26** asking the Idaho Legislature to recognize Idaho teacher Sonia Galaviz. He said Ms. Galaviz was recently awarded the National Education Association's Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, from a field of 40 national finalists. **Representative McCrostie** spoke about her early childhood in North Idaho where her parents instilled in her a hard work ethic and a dedication to education. She completed her postsecondary education at Boise State University and now teaches the fifth grade at Garfield Elementary School in Boise, Idaho. He cited her educational awards which include: Endeavor Elementary Teacher of The Year; Idaho Business Review's-Women of the Year; and the Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Culturally Responsive Teaching by the Southern Poverty Law Center. He stated what makes Ms. Galaviz unique is that she is a teacher that goes above and beyond the above and beyond.

**Ms. Galaviz** said she is honored to be here today. She said she was born and raised in Idaho. She stated her parents' dedication to her education was fierce and her father inspired her to continue and further her education. She said while she was in college she worked in Caldwell, Idaho by helping in the library at a migrant labor camp. She said there she learned the importance of education and how reading can change a person's life. **Ms. Galaviz** said she is often asked what it means to be a teacher. She referred to the Latin word "in loco parentis," which means in the place of a parent, and explained that her role is a calling to be her students' parents; to ensure their well-being. She explained Garfield Elementary School has a diverse population serving students with varying needs RANGING from autism, language barriers, and blindness. She emphasized that teachers do not educate students alone. They need the support of the student families, the communities, and the Legislature. **Ms. Galaviz** asked that the Legislature would continue to advocate for teachers. She invited the legislators to her classroom to understand the common goal of educating Idaho children.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** expressed her earnestness and warmth for Ms. Galaviz's accomplishments.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** said she taught at Garfield for 10 years and that school is near and dear to her heart. She said she met Ms. Galaviz at a STEM night event for Garfield students and families. She stated she is so impressed with Ms. Galaviz's enthusiasm and commitment to education.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **HCR 26** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Ward-Engelking will carry on the floor.

**H 279** **Relating to Charter Schools. Representative DeMordaunt** District 14, expressed to the Committee her appreciation of having the opportunity to collaborate with Senator Den Hartog and educational associations in drafting of **H 279**. She explained to open a new charter school they must be approved by an authorized entity; this is referred to as "petitioning process." She detailed who the authorizers are and amount of time that can pass before a charter school opens its doors. She stated this has been a cumbersome process and **H 279** will streamline the process.

**Representative DeMordaunt** explained that the legislation creates: 1.) a uniform application process for new charter schools; 2.) combines the State Department of Education Sufficiency Review and the Authorizer Review to occur simultaneously; and 3.) lessens the time public school districts have to consider the charter school petition. She stated there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. She asked that the Committee send **H 279** to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

**TESTIMONY:** **Emily McClure**, representing Idaho Charter School Network, said she worked with group of charter schools and the staff at the Idaho Public Charter School Commission to develop this legislation. She gave the Committee a handout which explained the changes (see Attachment 1). She said the omitted sections are either duplicative language or language that was moved to different sections of the legislation.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **H 279** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Den Hartog will carry on the floor.

**HCR 27** **Stating Finding of the Legislature and Rejecting a Certain Rule of the State Board of Education Relating to Rules Governing Administration. Vice Chairman Thayn** presented **HCR 27**. He explained this legislation is in response to the findings of **Docket No. 08.0201.1601**. He reminded the Committee they approved the findings of the House Education Committee. He reminded the Committee that **SCR 117** which addressed the Senate Education Committee's opinion was held in Committee.

**Senator Vice Thayn** moved to send **HCR 26** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to accept the Minutes of February 27, 2017. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Senator Guthrie** moved to accept the Minutes of February 28, 2017. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to accept the Minutes of March 1, 2017. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to accept the Minutes of March 2, 2017. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Senator Den Hartog** moved to accept the Minutes of March 6, 2017. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Senator Crabtree** moved to accept the Minutes of March 9, 2017. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

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FAREWELL:**

**Sydney Madsen** said she has served as an Idaho Senate Page for the past six weeks. She expressed her gratitude for being able to serve the Education Committee. She said during her time serving, she has observed and become familiar with the intricacies that are involved in maintaining and improving the Idaho education system. She said she has learned a great deal from Senators' analysis and discussion on the problems that students and teachers encounter. She thanked the Committee for demonstrating an unrelenting passion for learning, the way in which they implore their unique backgrounds, and using their insight for problem-solving. She discussed her plans for college in the fall.

Senators asked her what surprised her and if she found any tasks to be difficult. **Ms. Madsen** replied distributing the handouts especially if they weren't stapled together could be very difficult. She stated she was surprised how understanding and compassionate senators are in making decisions that have an impact on Idahoans.

**Chairman Mortimer** expressed the Committee's and his gratitude to the Committee secretary, LeAnn Mohr and thanked her for her work.

**Chairman Mortimer** stated this is the last Committee meeting of the Session. He thanked all the Stakeholders and Committee members for the work that was accomplished. He said in keeping with his tradition of reading to them he will close the Committee by reading a 1947 early reader primer book entitled "A Big Ball of String" by Marion Holland.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary