

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**SYME SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Syme

**DATE:** Monday, January 22, 2018

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Syme, Representatives Cheatham, Amador, Ehardt, Toone

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News; Dennis Stevenson, Department of Administration; Mike Keckler, State Board of Education

**Chairman Syme** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0203-1707:** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, spoke to **Docket No. 08-0203-1707**. She said the definition of diplomas was added, as it had not been previously defined. Most people had an understanding of the graduation requirements, said Ms. Bent, but not everybody understood the requirements, especially those for students with disabilities. This rule docket contains the complete state requirements for graduation, she added, which are the minimum requirements. Local school districts may require more graduation requirements, said Ms. Bent, such as specialty STEM, CTE or arts programs. Ms. Bent said the Board receives questions from school districts about former students who left school before receiving their diplomas, such as those who joined the military. Typically, these requests are from students who left school many decades ago, and there may not be records of them having attended that high school. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said, if the district has no record of the person ever attending the school, then the individual has no recourse, unless the individual can provide copies of school records. This rule docket allows schools to use records provided by the individual, said Ms. Bent. The Board did not want to force the school districts to award diplomas if they didn't feel the individual met the requirements, said Ms. Bent. She added that some of the requests come from people who have been employed in the workforce, and the definition of diploma in this rule docket specifies which graduation requirements a diploma would be based on for students who may have attended the school in the past.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Amador** made a motion to recommend the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1707. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0203-1709:**

**Tracie Bent** explained **Docket No. 08-0203-1709**, regarding college and career readiness content standards. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said the goal of the senior project is to help students have projects meaningful to their future career. She said she understands not all students have the same opportunities as other students, and the Board wanted to broaden the scope of things students are able to use for their senior projects. The intent is not to lessen the senior project, said Ms. Bent, but to incentivize districts to make internships and dual-credit classes available, because they can then be used for the senior projects. Ms. Bent said the purpose and goal of the senior project varies from district to district. It is designed to represent the cumulation of what the student has learned, by bringing all the standards from classes into a single project which focuses on the students' interests. Ms. Bent said the senior project requirement is an important piece, but it is done in a more meaningful way in some districts than in others. She said the needs and desires of the districts need to be balanced, which is why the language of this rule docket gives more choices. The citizenship and civics content standards are embedded in the social studies classes, said Ms. Bent.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Bent** said the Board has looked at the best practices across the state for making the transition from high school to post-secondary education as seamless as possible. It has worked with public post-secondary institutions and Idaho Digital Learning Academy, said Ms. Bent. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said there are federal requirements for what pre-internship and internship standards should be, but not state requirements. The federal law says minors may not work during school hours, said Ms. Bent, but the Department of Labor is working with Career Technical Education to recognize more pre-internship programs.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Amador** made a motion to recommend that the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1709**.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Rep. Toone** made a substitute motion to recommend that the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1709**, with the exception of **section 105 part 4 Motion carried by voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0203-1712:**

**Ms. Bent** explained that this rule docket concerns state data reporting. The data includes post-secondary data, as well as K-12 data. Ms. Bent said grade point average (gpa) was added as a data element on a temporary basis, and it was added for one year. This rule docket would allow the Board to continue to collect gpa data. The Board uses this data to determine eligibility for initiatives and the Opportunity Scholarship. With this data already in the system, the Board does not need to contact school counselors to verify the information. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said some school districts do weighted grade point averages, but the state data system only records up to a 4.0. The Opportunity Scholarship is determined using a 4.0 grade scale. For students with weighted grade point averages, the gpa is calculated as a 4.0. Ms. Bent said schools using a mastery-based model are providing the Board with an equivalent grade, and using a mastery-based model of education has not impacted students' ability to attain the Opportunity Scholarship. Ms. Bent said many post-secondary schools do not recognize weighted grades. Instead, they look at what types of classes a student took, such as advanced placement classes. The docket only adds gpa as a data point, she said, and does not specify if it is weighted or un-weighted. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said only one district gave feedback that it did not think it was the state's business

to know the students' grade point averages. However, school districts are already submitting course grades, she said.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Amador** made a motion to recommend the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1712. Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Ehardt** requested to be recorded as voting NAY.

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0204-1701:**

**Tracie Bent** explained this rule docket concerning public charter schools. She said it provides a single application for all charter schools, regardless of the authorizing entity. It eliminates the notification requirement and petition review, and adds new language regarding the submission process. Ms. Bent said the Board worked with the stakeholders to reach an agreement. Section 202 concerns a single application process required by statute. The first part includes requirements for introduction, proposal, financial and facilities plan, the Board's capacity, student demand, and the group being served, meaning the primary attendance area. The second part of this section concerns the leadership structure and education services providers. In section 203, said Ms. Bent, there is cleanup language for administrative procedures. The language had referred to a section of Code which was stricken and was no longer relevant. Ms. Bent said this rule docket includes cleanup language to ensure citizens in the enrollment area are made aware of the school. Because language concerning petitions is now in statute, said Ms. Bent, this docket removes language regarding petitions. Based on statutory changes, language adding information about Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws is included.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Bent** said having seventy-five days to respond to a certificate revision is the law. Either the chartering entity will respond, or the Board will follow up with them.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Toone** made a motion to recommend the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0204-1701. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0301-1701:**

**Tracie Bent** explained this rule docket, which addresses requirements for petition and how charter schools are governed. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said the criminal history checks and school calendar instructional hours are monitored in Idaho Code. The criminal checks and calendar hours are submitted in the charter school application and received by the authorizing entity.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Toone** made a motion to recommend the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0301-1701. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0401-1701:**

**Ms. Bent** explained most of this rule docket is technical updates for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA), such as the current address, and accreditation language which is more consistent with other sections of Code. For example, the language specifies the consequences for plagiarism may be found in the student handbook, not the syllabus, as previously stated. Terminology is changed regarding teleconferencing, she added, and the language specifying the IDLA is grades seven through twelve has been removed, because some districts want to be able to use IDLA in the elementary grades. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said the IDLA is currently accredited by Northwest AdvancED. This is not a change for the IDLA, she added, because it is already following accreditation standards. Ms. Bent said this rule docket also cleans up other references in Administrative Rule and Idaho Code, so it is not necessary to amend the other sections.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Toone** made a motion to recommend the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0401-1701. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0202-1705:**

**Tracie Bent** explained that this rule docket addresses the uniformity certification requirement. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said for individuals who complete in-state administrator programs, there is a requirement for an institutional recommendation. This rule docket defines what an institutional recommendation is. The Board has been working with post-secondary institutions to develop classes referenced in this rule docket for the last year. There are a number of courses available now, she said, available through institutions and school districts for professional development. Ms. Bent said the districts wanted more specificity, because they feared it would not be recognized as the required course. They felt the language still allowed variability within the course, and they could develop some courses for new administrators and others for veteran administrators. Ms. Bent said administrator certificate renewals are submitted to the Department of Education, which evaluates whether or not the administrator has met the requirements. She said more courses are expected to be available. Ms. Bent added the districts felt there is enough specificity that the certificate renewals are evaluated uniformly by the Department of Education. Ms. Bent said that, without the specificity, the Board felt new Department of Education staff might reject the certificate renewals. When the post-secondary institutions are developing courses, she added, the rule specifies what the course should include. Ms. Bent said the Board did negotiated rule making with the stakeholder groups, and the stakeholders were not comfortable with the way the rule was currently written. They wanted to make sure a problem doesn't arise, where they can't renew certificates.

**Rep. Amador** commented that when the career ladder was created four years ago, a summer committee found only approximately thirty percent of evaluations were being conducted according to the standards. The administrators requested more clarification on the evaluation standards, said Rep. Amador, and the courses on evaluation standards are important to provide that clarification.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Amador** made a motion to recommend the full committee approve **Docket No. 08-0202-1705. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

---

Representative Syme  
Chair

---

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams  
Secretary