

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 30, 2018

**TIME:** 3:00 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 3:00 p.m.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Senator Nonini** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Dr. David Hill to the State Board of Education to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Higher Education Task Force (Task Force) Report. Dr. Linda Clark**, President, Idaho State Board of Education, **Bob Lokken**, Chairman, Idaho Business for Education, Co-Chairs of the Task Force introduced themselves and offered opening remarks. **Dr. Clark** explained the Task Force was established by the Governor in February 2017 to extend the charter of the K-12 task force efforts to higher education in Idaho. It works in conjunction with the Workforce Development Task Force to address higher education and job training needs. She detailed the make-up and functions of the Task Force.

**Mr. Lokken** put the 60 percent goal into context and discussed the associated challenges (Attachment 1). He stated that only 42 percent of Idaho's workers hold a post-secondary credential. About 60 percent of jobs created in Idaho require a one-to-four year, or higher, credential. While there is a low unemployment rate, many high wage jobs are unfilled. This lack of qualified workers puts Idaho's economy at risk. Businesses face the possibility of not being able to operate within the State. **Mr. Lokken** emphasized the gap needs to be closed and the Task Force was formed to focus on this goal.

**Mr. Lokken** stated the importance of understanding the context of the problem. The primary problem is not just affordability and access, it is affordability and access at scale. He said the current gap to get to 60 percent is 43,000 students, the bulk of which are rural and low-income students, and the cost to achieve the 60 percent is approximately \$260 million. **Mr. Lokken** specified working harder will not close the gap from 42 to 60 percent. However, greater efficiency within the system could be achieved if funding was shifted from administration to academics. **Mr. Lokken** commented that, while this will not be easy and is a multi-year process, the recommendations the Task Force offers are budget neutral.

**Dr. Clark** presented the recommendations to the Committee. She emphasized that all recommendations had unanimous support from the Task Force. The recommendations encompass five areas of focus (Appendix 1, Page 3):

1. Access and Affordability
  - a. Statewide digital delivery system
  - b. Increasing funding for non-merit scholarships
2. Communication and Execution
  - a. Establish a "systemness" leadership structure
  - b. Restate the 60 percent goal
3. K-20 Pipeline
  - a. Structural change and system improvement
  - b. Guided pathways
  - c. Improved certificate and degree completion
4. Outcomes Supporting Workforce
  - a. Adopting the Governor's Workforce Development Task Force recommendations
  - b. Industry partnerships
  - c. Workforce training applied toward a degree or certificate
5. Funding Formula
  - a. Outcomes-based funding formula

**Mr. Lokken** addressed the recurring costs savings. He said there is savings involved when four different financial management systems are consolidated into one. The recommendations of the Task Force are to study the potential for cost savings, which requires several months of meticulous work.

**Mr. Lokken** remarked as operations become digitized and move toward information technology, a natural shift towards shared services will occur. He explained shared services offer better efficiency by eliminating redundancies and duplications. **Dr. Clark** added Idaho could learn the concept from other states and choose what works best for the State.

**Mr. Lokken** said many ideas and opinions have been expressed about the higher education executive position. He emphasized to accomplish this change, they will need leadership with experience to implement the multi-step, evolutionary process.

**Mr. Lokken** explained the difference between distance learning and a statewide digital campus. He said the point of a Statewide digital delivery system is to bring the cost of education down. Premiums are charged for online courses and access in rural communities is limited. He emphasized the system needs to be accessible and affordable to reach the 60 percent goal.

**Dr. Clark** detailed the process taken by the Task Force to define and identify the requirements and skills for an executive education officer. She emphasized the massiveness of the undertaking and said that person must understand systems and change. The Idaho State Board of Education will need funding for a full-time employee, once funded, they can begin their study.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said the number of students enrolled in post-secondary is substantial. He asked if there was information regarding what the enrollment of specific degrees or coursework. He asked if the scholarship program can be based on degrees in high-demand. **Dr. Clark** replied they will get a report showing who is taking what coursework. She explained the high-demand degrees is one of the premises for the outcomes-based funding model: rewarding for outcomes.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said the needs of the institutions should be weighed with the needs of the students, placing more emphasis on the students. He explained how the advanced opportunities allocating money to students and wondered if that would be a viable approach. **Dr. Clark** agreed it is about the students and making sure a system is in place where they can advance for the betterment of themselves and the economy.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if adding the new position for higher education would create another level of bureaucracy. **Dr. Clark** replied in the negative. She explained the role of the proposed position; it is a position to manage the consolidation of services. **Senator Den Hartog** asked if the position is permanent or temporary. **Dr. Clark** replied both models exist in states that have implemented the model. **Mr. Lokken** said the Task Force was in favor of centralizing function. He explained the centralizing services reduces bureaucracy and standardizes polices. He emphasized the ability for organizations to offer better service at lower costs **Mr. Lokken** said each institution would have a president.

**Senator Guthrie** said he is having a difficult time with the proposed position. He asked why the problem cannot be solved internally. **Mr. Lokken** replied the Task Force is looking to align the organizational structures to seek efficiencies and provide better service at a lower cost. Systemness is complex and time-consuming and the recommendation from the Task Force is to recruit someone with the needed skill set. **Dr. Clark** added the position will be supervised by the State Board of Education.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** said she is concerned with a system-wide change. Three universities are in the process of hiring new presidents. She asked if the university presidents would understand the role of the proposed position. **Dr. Clark** replied that concern has been discussed with the hiring consulting group. They are being transparent with the candidates regarding the possibility of a change.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if the savings from consolidation were dedicated to make the new position budget neutral. **Mr. Lokken** replied they are working to get to budget neutral. Studies have yet to be completed on the potential savings.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if a long-term strategic plan was being developed. **Dr. Clark** replied a committee has started working on a strategic plan. The consensus is that many of the concerns will be addressed as they move toward an outcomes-based model. **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if they knew when the outcomes-based model will be implemented. **Dr. Clark** answered it is their intent to start now and bring it to the Legislature next year.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0202-0701**

**Rules Governing Uniformity - The Professional Standards Commission.** **Duncan Robb**, Chief Policy Advisor, State Department of Education (SDE), presented **Docket No. 08-0202-0701**. He stated SBE and the SDE have reviewed the proposed rule changes. He explained the rule would add endorsements for occupational and physical therapists.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Chairman Mortimer** asked how many people will be impacted with the new certifications. **Mr. Robb** replied the certifications would be optional. If the legislation is approved, those individuals would be placed on the career ladder.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if the intent of the rule was to place people on the career ladder. **Mr. Robb** replied in the affirmative. **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if it was optional. **Mr. Robb** replied in the affirmative.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked what the individuals would be required to do receive certification. **Mr. Robb** replied they would need to complete the application process, pay a fee, and fulfill the requirements for recertification. **Senator Den Hartog** asked what is the amount of the application fee and if the fee is necessary. **Mr. Robb** replied the application fee is \$75. He said the Professional Standards Commission looks at the renewal process for all individuals that currently hold Bureau of Occupational Licenses (BOL) and there is a cost for that process.

**MOTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0202-1701**. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion.

**Senator Den Hartog** stated she will support the motion, but encouraged the SDE and SBE to make the process as minimal as possible. It is her understanding that the individuals report to their own professional boards, not the BOL. **Chairman Mortimer** asked if they report to both the professional and occupational licensing boards. **Lisa Colon**, Director of Certification and Professional Standards, SDE stated they do report to both agencies, followed by the code of ethics.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if fingerprinting was required in parochial schools. **Ms. Colon** stated background checks for parochial schools were optional.

The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1703** **Rules Governing Thoroughness - Idaho Extended Content Standards.** **Mr. Robb** presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1703**. He stated the proposed changes replace the outdated content standards with new content standards for the one percent of students with significant cognitive impairment. The changes would link the expectations of those students to Idaho's other current standards.

**Chairman Mortimer** expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the hard work and effort. He said it is important to help special education teachers achieve the standards for their students.

**MOTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0203-1703**. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1711** **Rules Governing Thoroughness - Assessment.** **Mr. Robb** presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1711**. He stated the docket incorporated the assessment standards that are aligned with the alternative content standards.

**MOTION:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0203-1711**. **Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel back to Chairman Mortimer.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary

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Diane James  
Assistant Secretary