

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 07, 2018
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, Ehardt, Kloc (Chilcote), McCrostie, Toone
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Rialin Flores, Conner Jackson, Conservative Voters for Idaho; David Bunzow, Cay Marquart, Gayle Wilde, American Association of University Women; Gidion Tolman, Department of Financial Management; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League; Dwight Johnson, Amy Lorenzo, Steve Rayborn, Idaho Career Technical Education; Clay Corbin, Idaho Educational News; Lauren Tassos, Teach for America; Christine Ketterline, Homedale School District; Dennis Stevenson, Brad Hunt, Office of Administrative Rules; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office; Kimberly Albracht; John Briggs; Jamie Richmond; Audrey Richmond

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

Tony Ashton, Executive Director of Teach for America, gave a presentation on how Teach for America works with school districts to fill teacher vacancies. He said 88% of Teach for America alumni work in districts with students of low socio-economic status, and 75% are teaching in Idaho's areas of highest needs, such as STEM and Special Education classes. Teach for America provides recruitment and selection, pre-service training, ongoing training and coaching, and alumni investment and support. Fellowships are provided for those working in rural communities. Seven alumni are working in the Homedale School District, and Teach for America alumni serve seven communities in Idaho. Homedale School District was ranked the sixth most impoverished district in the state, said Mr. Ashton, and it has difficulty filling teaching positions.

Christine Ketterling, Homedale School District, spoke to the committee about her background and her service in the Homedale School District. The Homedale School District won the Future City state competition and will be going to Washington, D.C. for the national competition, said Ms. Ketterling. In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Ashton** said Teach for America has no plans for placement outside of the Treasure Valley area for the next two years. The constraints are that the program wants to continue to be financially sustainable, and to maintain its quality as it expands, he said. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Ketterling said two of the nine Teach for America teachers have stayed in the school district. Retention is a challenge, but it is an improvement over the former yearly turnover rate. Mr. Ashton said the retention rate is 98% for the first two years. The Teach for America program provides professional development specific to rural areas, to improve retention. Of the 50,000 alumni, 85% are working in education, and over 65% say they would not have gotten involved in teaching without Teach for America, said Mr. Ashton.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0203-1705:**

In response to questions from the committee, **Superintendent Ybarra** said the rule-making process was transparent. Seventeen states have used a variety of the Next Generation Science Standards, and seven states have standards completely unique to the Next Generation Standards. This docket includes changes based on public testimony, she added. Some of the states which have adopted a variety of the Next Generation Standards have adopted the standards without the supporting content, said Superintendent Ybarra. She said the goal is to provide minimum standards, and school districts can go from there.

MOTION:

Rep. Syme made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1705** with the exception of paragraph ESS3-4-1 and all items under the title of supporting content of the science standards, as revised and adopted on August 10, 2017. He said it was clear from the testimony that students and teachers want to move to inquiry-based standards, and when there are conclusions in the standards content, it stifles inquiry. He said when the state legislates content, it is developing curriculum, and curriculum is better left to the State Department of Education and the local school districts.

Superintendent Ybarra said she appreciates the focus on the standards and the intent to move forward. In response to questions from the committee, **Dennis Stevenson**, Office of Administrative Rules Coordinator, said it is not possible for the committee to reject a bullet item, and that section would have to be rejected. **Rep. Clow** commented that he would support the motion and hopes the standards come back to the legislature next year. He added that it is the supporting content that is troubling, not the standards. In response to questions from the committee, Superintendent Ybarra said it is important to adopt the standards, and the supporting content can be available as a public document to school districts who wish to use it. The supporting content does not need to be state mandated, she said. In response to questions from the committee, Superintendent Ybarra said the development of these standards was different than the development of the Next Generation Standards, and the committee looked at auxilliary standards and performance tasks.

In response to questions from the committee, **Scott Cook**, State Department of Education Director of Academics, said the science standards committee members were the finest teachers in Idaho, STEM Center representatives, INL representatives, parents and representatives from around the state. They did not receive compensation for their work on the committee. In response to questions from the committee, **Superintendent Ybarra** said it is not uncommon for states to only mandate the standards and not mandate the supporting content. **Rep. DeMordaunt** said she supported approving the standards without the supporting content. **Rep. Ehardt** commented that being told how to achieve the standards is offensive to teachers, and she trusts teachers to be well prepared.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Rep. McCrostie made a substitute motion to approve **Docket 08-0203-1705** in its entirety.

Rep. McCrostie said a lot of work was put into developing the standards. He felt rejecting the supporting content would be disrespectful to the committee. **Rep. Clow** commented that removing the supporting content shows teachers they are respected and trusted to find a way to teach the standards. He said other education areas do not have supporting content.

**VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE and 11 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. McDonald, Amador, Chilcote, McCrostie, Toone.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. VanOrden, Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt.**

Rep. Clow commented to the original motion, saying that school districts would have the ability to include supporting comment, if they desired. In response to questions from the committee, **Chairman VanOrden** said the original motion removes ESS3-4-1 and the supporting content of all the science standards, and approves the rest of the docket, including the science performance standards. **Rep. Toone** commented that teachers had input into the supporting content, and they should be trusted. **Rep. Ehardt** commented she received lots of feedback from teachers who did not want the legislature to mandate content, that they wanted to be trusted to do their job. Removing the supporting content does not prevent teachers who want to use it to do so, she said. **Rep. DeMordaunt** said she supports the original motion. Mandating content is a departure from how the state normally addresses standards, she said. As **Superintendent Ybarra** pointed out, most states have approved the standards without the supporting content. She said she preferred the state supply content in a supportive way, rather than a legislative way, because she trusts teachers and school districts to determine how to teach the standards. **Rep. McCrostie** said he would be voting no, because he had received correspondence from elementary teachers who said they do not have time to be experts on everything, and they would like the supporting content in the standards.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

Rep. Moon called for the question. A roll call vote was taken on the previous motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1705**, with the exception of paragraph ESS3-4-1 and all items under the title of supporting content of the science standards. **Motion carried by a vote of 12 AYE and 4 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. VanOrden, Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. McDonald, Chilcote, McCrostie, Toone.**

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1710:

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, explained **Docket No. 08-0203-1710**. This docket addresses standards for childhood education CTE classes, she said, for students taking classes to go into an early childhood education career. She said sections were combined and condensed. For example, section 2.0 has new sections which were previously in sections two and three, she said. Section 3.0 has standards which were originally in 1.4, 4.4 and 8.2. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Bent said these are the minimum standards for teachers of early childhood education classes.

MOTION:

Rep. Mendive made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0203-1710. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary