

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2018

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium

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.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Nonini** moved to approve the Minutes from January 17, 2018. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Winder** moved to approve the Minutes from January 18, 2018. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

S 1278 **Relating to Education; Amend and Revise Provisions Regarding Wireless Technology Standards.** **Duncan Robb**, Chief Policy Advisor, State Department of Education (SDE) presented **S 1278**. He explained the proposed legislation amends Idaho Code § 33-1025 by removing outdated wireless technology standards from the code. It will task the existing Education Opportunity Resource Committee (EORC) with annually reviewing and recommending necessary changes to the standards to the SDE. He stated the exception is the necessary filtering, because the Children's Internet Protection Act requires that all entities accepting federal E-rate funding implement measures to protect children from inappropriate online content.

Mr. Robb explained the importance of up-to-date technology in school districts. This is to ensure school districts know what capabilities to solicit when procuring wireless equipment. He explained EORC has the technical expertise and experience in the field to recommend Idaho wireless technology standards and set reasonable expectations for wireless technology standards in school districts. EORC has been charged through Idaho Code with the responsibility of making recommendations the school districts which must adhere to regarding wireless parameters and other technology stipulations. **Mr. Robb** explained the technical corrections in the proposed legislation. The updated language will include grades K-12.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the oversight from EORC will take away local control. **Mr. Robb** replied the intent is not to take away local control. The objective is to remove inflexible codified language and task an existing committee to review technology standards. The objective of EORC is to define modern technology standards, thereby helping school districts purchase equipment to meet their standards. He emphasized there is total autonomy for school districts with guidance from EORC.

Senator Den Hartog asked if EORC is making parameters for wireless technology. **Mr. Robb** replied the expectation for procurement of wireless technology would be the minimum for school districts.

Christopher Campbell, Chief Technology Officer, SDE, and represents the SDE on EORC. He explained the history of EORC and the amendment to Idaho Code §§ 33-5604 and 33-6502. He detailed the statutory tasks of EORC. He said EORC works to ensure school districts make their own decisions regarding wireless purchases within the established parameters.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if this proposed legislation did not pass, how would that affect technology updates. **Mr. Campbell** replied there are two statutes which address updates. He explained the requirements were set at the time of the original wireless contract. Technology changes rapidly, and the goal is not to keep revising the statute. This bill is proposed to allow requirements to be put into a policy document.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1278** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

S 1294 **Relating to Education; Amend and Revise Provisions Regarding Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind.** **Mr. Robb** presented **S 1294** and explained this bill proposes to amend Idaho Code §§ 63-2506 and 63-2552A. The sections pertain to the tax on tobacco products. This is simple legislation that will add Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB) as an entity that can benefit from appropriations under the statute. . The IESDB is the fiscal agent for the Idaho School of the Deaf and the Blind (School). This is part of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program (Program). He explained the Program draws its funds from Idaho's tax on tobacco products.

Mr. Robb said the School does not receive its funds like other public schools. Appropriation is made directly from the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC); therefore, it does not benefit from the Program's revenue. He said the Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who serves the board of the school, would like to have the Program's revenue directed toward protecting this population. He stated the School serves approximately 60 students. He reported on the approximated funding amount to be sent to the School from the Program if the proposed legislation were to pass. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

BRIEFING: **Update Rule Process.** **Dennis Stevenson**, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Office of the Administration Rules Coordinator. He said **Docket No. 08-0203-1705** is a pending rule. He explained a pending rule is approved, unless there is action taken to stop that rule from taking effect. He said most of the discussion around this docket is in regard to the document that is incorporated by reference. A document incorporated by reference is treated by the Committee exactly like the rest of the rule: act on it or reject it in whole or in part. He explained the position taken by the House or Representatives; part of the standards incorporated by reference were rejected. He emphasized each body acts independently.

Vice Chairman Thayn remarked Idaho is one of the few states that reviews rules and can accept or reject the rules. He asked if takes both bodies, the House and the Senate, to reject a rule. **Mr. Stevenson** replied in the affirmative. He said it requires a concurrent resolution; which is the concurrence of both bodies to agree to do the same thing. He explained the process that will occur regarding the House's decision.

Vice Chairman Thayn said all the standards were accepted by the House except for one. He asked if the Senate chooses to do something other than the action of the House, will all standards except for the one go into rule. **Mr. Stevenson** replied in the negative. A concurrent resolution must be adopted by both bodies. If that were not to happen, the rule will take effect as submitted. He said there would be no changes.

Senator Guthrie asked if the supporting content in this rule is a consistent format in other subjects' standards rule. **Mr. Stevenson** replied he was unsure.

Chairman Mortimer outlined the process for public testimony that will be heard on **Docket No. 08-0203-1705**.

**PASSING THE
GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

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

Rules Governing Thoroughness; The Idaho Content Standards. Docket No. 08-0203-1705. **Vice Chairman Thayn** said **Docket No. 08-0203-1705** is commonly known as the science standards. He welcomed individuals to the podium to testify.

Testimony was taken from audience members. The following individuals spoke in favor of the docket:

- **Chris Taylor**, Curriculum Supervisor, Science and Social Studies, Boise School District (Attachment 1)
- **Alan Humble**
- **Angela Hemingway**, Executive Director, Idaho STEM Action Center (Attachment 2)
- **Christopher Sebastian** (Attachment 3)
- **Veronica Richmond** (Attachment 4)
- **Jamie Richmond** (Attachment 5)
- **Shawna Walz**, Vice President, Idaho Businesses for Education (Attachment 6)
- **Therese Etoka**, Senior, Boise High School (Attachment 7)
- **Adam Thompson**, Senior, Capital High School (Attachment 8)
- **Matthew Kohn**, Distinguished Professor, Boise State University (Attachment 9)
- **Casey O'Connor**, Buhl School District
- **Mary Rauk**
- **Trent Clark**, Monsanto Company
- **Simon Pinzar**

Carolyn Volk submitted written testimony in support of accepting the docket as written (Attachment 10).

Senator Den Hartog asked if it is the State's responsibility to set, establish, and design content. She stated it seems the local districts and schools have been left out of curriculum development. **Mr. Taylor** replied the science standards are very similar to the standards in math and social studies. He explained individual school districts can use the standard and the content to develop a curriculum piece to meet the needs of their students.

Senator Ward-Engelking stated the standards are the minimum standard required to be taught. The supporting content helps new teachers develop relevant curriculum for their students. She asked if Mr. Taylor would address the supporting content as a teaching aid for elementary teachers. **Mr. Taylor** replied new teachers, especially elementary teachers, look to the supporting content to better understand what they need to teach.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked Mr. Robb to speak about **Docket No. 08-0203- 1705**.

Duncan Robb, Chief Policy Advisor, SDE, explained the importance of the supporting content included with the science standards. He said the rule before the Committee is a recommendation from the educators who worked to develop the standards. SDE and the Superintendent of Public Instruction fully support the recommendation. He explained the amount of time and effort put into developing the science standards and supporting content. He stated the supporting content is a critical bridge from rote learning to inquiry-based learning. The supporting content is critical for any teacher to get their students to perform to the standard. **Mr. Robb** said if the Senate were to concur with House, the supporting content would be retained and available at the SDE. He explained the curriculum work the SDE is currently conducting to ensure school districts are aligned to the standards.

Senator Den Hartog said she does not have an issue with the supporting content language. She is concerned the Legislature is being asked to legislate content and does not believe that is the role of the Legislature. She emphasized her discomfort with including the supporting content in the standards document. **Mr. Robb** replied there is a difference between content and curriculum. He explained Idaho's standards in math and English are called "Idaho's Content Standards." The SDE uses that terminology to describe standards. He explained the intent of the science standard is to use science as a process. He said the SDE does not believe their role or that of the legislature is to dictate curriculum. Instead, they broadly define what students should know when they have completed specific grade levels.

Vice Chairman Thayn said this is codified in rule and has the same force as law. He asked if teachers understand this is what they must teach. **Mr. Taylor** replied curriculum and standards are different. He explained how teachers across the State may teach the same standard using different curriculum. He said it is important that the content is in the document because this helps teachers to understand what they need to teach.

Senator Ward-Engelking explained there are variety of ways to teach a certain standard and that is achieved through curriculum. Contents are the minimum subject matters that are taught. Teachers look to standards to understand the minimum teaching requirement. Teachers can expand on those minimums. **Mr. Taylor** replied these are the minimum content standards and performing standards.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if the supporting content are guidelines to be expanded upon. **Mr. Taylor** replied in the affirmative.

Senator Guthrie said he appreciated the comments about the importance of the supporting content. He asked if this format is consistent throughout all subject matters. **Mr. Robb** replied the inquiry-based performance standards are about action and doing supported by knowledge-based content. The supporting content in this document is akin to the standards of subjects such as literacy and math. In this document, the performance standards and the supporting content compliment one another. Both pieces are necessary so students understand and participate in scientific methods and conclusions.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

Chairman Mortimer said the public hearing for **Docket No. 08-0203-1705** is closed and the vote will be taken a later date.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary