

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 19, 2018  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW41  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt, Kloc (Tway), McCrostie, Toone  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None  
**GUESTS:** Jennifer Swindell, Idaho Education News; Brad Peterson, Future Public School; Colton Beams; Richard Agaayo; Kevin Sio; Camilla Sein; Brian McNeil; Dessa Jones; Austen Thomason, Sydney Anderson, Lindsey Stowell, Randy Clements, Clara Leigh Evans, Idaho Future Farmers of America; Teresa Harper, Association of Charter School Leaders; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Kari Overall, Idaho Education Association; Katee Grover, Aimee Solis, CHS; Kasey Bier; Siana Carsand

**Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

**Austen Thomason**, Idaho State FFA Treasurer, presented Future Farmers of America information to the committee. He introduced the other state officers. Mr. Thomason said students learn leadership skills and workforce skills by participating in FFA. He summarized the state membership numbers and listed service projects different chapters had initiated. The FFA Program developed six leadership workshops it delivers to high school students, said Mr. Thomason. State leadership participated in roundtables with students from Canada and Mexico in Indianapolis last year, he added. FFA awards over \$69,000 in scholarships and has 2500 alumni who support the program. Mr. Thomason invited committee members to the FFA State Leadership Conference in Twin Falls in April.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Thomason** said his ten-year plan was to stay in the agriculture industry. He would like to work for the U.S.D.A. doing border inspections, and then perhaps go into politics. **Chairman VanOrden** commented that legislation had been passed to support the agriculture programs. Mr. Thomason said FFA's membership and new chapter creation is the highest it has been. In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Thomason said STEM education is vital to agriculture programs. The agriculture classes use a three-circle model, with classroom instruction, supervised experience, and participation in FFA. He cited drones and self-driving tractors as ways technology is being used in the agriculture industry.

**H 566** **Brad Peterson**, co-founder of Future Public School Charter School, spoke in support of **H 566**. He said the school plans to enroll a diverse group of students, including low-income students, and has formed a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. He said a charter school administrator must perform many roles, and the legislation allows flexibility to hire for a school's niche.

**Rob Winslow**, executive director of the Idaho Association of School Administrators, spoke **in opposition to H 566**. He said members have concerns about charter schools having different policies than traditional schools, and the legislation would be beneficial to traditional schools too. State certification of school administrators requires classes in instructional leadership, teacher evaluation, student and staff legal issues, school finance, special education programs, community engagement, school safety, and school culture, and require a 250-hour internship.

**Chairman VanOrden** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman McDonald**.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Winslow** said the thinking behind the four-year teaching experience requirement is that, before someone manages a school, that person should have experience teaching in a school. Administrators also need to understand student rights and school safety legal issues as related to issues such as search and seizure, said Mr. Winslow, as well as issues regarding religion and staffing.

**Vice Chairman McDonald** turned the gavel over to **Chairman VanOrden**.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Winslow** said the Association is not against providing more flexibility for charter schools, but it is concerned about state funding being provided for administrators without the state-mandated requirements for traditional schools. He said a good leader should be able to learn in many contexts, but he would also like to see state funding be flexible for small, rural districts. Idaho already has an alternative path to certification for administrators from other states, he added. School experience does not have to be teaching, said Mr. Winslow, but the difficulty is with administrators from other states.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McDonald** made a motion to **HOLD H 566** until time certain, Thursday, February 22, 2018. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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Representative VanOrden  
Chair

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Jenifer Cavaness-Williams  
Secretary