

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 09, 2019

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, 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 3:41 p.m.

WELCOME **Chairman Mortimer** said he is continuing the weekly tradition of reading a poem from the book, *A Heap O' Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest. He then read the poem, "Opportunity."

PAGE INTRODUCTION: **Chairman Mortimer** welcomed the new page, Olivia Love, Star, Idaho, and invited her to the podium to introduce herself and share her interests, future aspirations, and long-term goals.

RULES BRIEFING: **Vice Chairman Thayn** outlined to the Committee the process for reviewing the rules. He stated the Committee will review rules from the State Board of Education (SBE) and from the State Department of Education (SDE). He said there is a rule regarding seed certification in which the Agricultural Committee will review.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Chairman Mortimer** asked for unanimous consent to send **Docket No. 08-0501-1801** to the Senate Agricultural Committee for review. There were no objections.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Mortimer** said prior to this meeting he asked the Committee to give a detailed introduction and answer specific questions regarding educational issues. He stated he is seeking input as to how to make the Committee work more effectively.

Those questions were as follows.

1. Are there specific topics, related to education that should be addressed?
2. Are there issues regarding K-16 that should be addressed?
3. Name two things they could do to improve education.

Committee members introduced themselves, explained their backgrounds and answered the questions from the Chairman.

The concerns raised included the following:

- The need to readdress supplemental levies for school funding.
- Explore school choice policy setting which would focus on student learning.
- Explore ways to boost educators' potential.
- Increase opportunities for high school students to take career technical course work.
- Concern regarding teacher shortages; local and nationwide.
- Better teacher compensation.

Chairman Mortimer thanked the Committee for their comments.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary