

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 14, 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 3:04 p.m. He opened with a reading from the book, *A Heap O' Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest, "The Rough Little Rascal."

**STAKEHOLDER OVERVIEW:** **Greg Wilson**, Senior Policy Advisor for Education, Office of the Governor (Governor), cited Governor Little's the State of the State address in which education was his number one priority. He detailed to the Committee those priorities: 1.) Children's Cabinet; 2.) Our Kids, Idaho's Future; 3.) Implementation of the fifth year of the K-12 Task Force recommendations; 4.) Literacy; 5.) Increased teacher salaries; 6.) Higher Education; 7.) Career Technical Education; 8.) Outcomes Based Funding; and 9.) Opportunity Scholarships. **Mr. Wilson** concluded his presentation by reiterating Governor Little's rigorous support for a strong education system (Attachment 1).

**Matt Freeman**, Executive Director, State Board of Education (SBE), said his views and opinions do not reflect the official position of the SBE. He listed and explained for the Committee the top education priorities for the SBE: 1.) Fund the fifth year of the Career Ladder; 2.) Continue the work from the Higher Education Task Force recommendations; and 3.) Fulfill the Adult Promise Grant. **Mr. Freeman** reported in detail the advances the SBE has made in the past 24 months. He explained two policy changes the SBE would recommend. Those are as follows: 1.) Development of a Higher Education funding model that recognizes student success and completion; and 2.) Fixing the Teacher Pipeline (Attachment 2).

**Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent of Communications and Policy, State Department of Education (SDE), provided the Committee with an overview of the legislative and budget priorities for the 2019 Session. She detailed the 6.8 percent increase in the General Fund to support public schools. **Ms. Whitney** stated the Superintendent's top priorities are to increase teacher pay, implement the recommendations from the Task Force for Improving Education (Task Force), student safety, a continued investment in the literacy initiative, and the implementation of the new science standards and assessment (Attachment 3).

**STAKEHOLDER OVERVIEW:**

**Dwight Johnson**, State Administrator, Career Technical Education (CTE), said the mission for CTE is to prepare Idaho's youth and adults for high-skill, in demand careers. He outlined for the Committee the threefold strategic focus areas. He shared the priorities for 2019. Those are as follows: 1.) Create a CTE Middle School Initiative; 2.) Implement a new Workforce Readiness Incentive Program; and 3.) Implement a State plan for Federal Funding. **Mr. Johnson** reported the student advances in the past 24 months. He said there have been significant increases in enrollment and course completion. He said if he could make two changes in policies for CTE they would be a statewide marketing campaign and CTE graduation requirements (Attachment 4).

**Kari Overall**, President, Idaho Education Association (IEA), said she was a 15-year veteran educator from Boise and detailed the make-up of the IEA membership. **Ms. Overall** outlined the priorities for the IEA. Those are as follows: 1.) Teacher recruitment and retention; 2.) A transparent and flexible Public School Funding Formula; and 3.) Revision of the statewide school report card. She said the policy changes the IEA would like the Legislature to make would be done to create equal opportunity and access for all students (Attachment 5).

**Rob Winslow**, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), reported the priorities for the IASA. Those are as follows: 1.) The new Public School Funding Formula; 2.) Adequate operational funding; and 3.) improved accountability. He said the advancements that IASA has witnessed is the increase in personalized learning and to focus on the social and emotional needs of students. **Mr. Winslow** stated the policy changes IASA would like the Legislature to consider areas follows: 1.) Emphasis on good student results; and 2.) Funding of adequate facilitates for rural and charter schools (Attachment 6).

**Senator Winder** said funding is the key for all school districts. He asked why the focus for funding was only on rural and charter schools. **Mr. Winslow** replied bonding capacity is especially difficult in the rural communities. Many of those communities are growing fast and are unable to pass bonds to build adequate buildings for students. Charter Schools do not have the ability to bond and often struggle with acceptable buildings. He said he believes funds should be needs based.

**Quinn Perry**, Policy & Government Affairs Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), detailed the make-up of the ISBA and explained how the ISBA determines the initiatives they support. She said the priorities for the 2019 Legislative year are the new Public School Funding Formula, literacy, and all-day kindergarten. She said looking back over the past 24 months, the ISBA believes the districts which focus on the continuous improvement do experience student achievement. The areas which the Legislature should address, **Ms. Perry** said, are facility bonding measures and greater flexibility in spending for support staff (Attachment 7).

**STAKEHOLDER OVERVIEW:** **Bill Russell**, CEO, Idaho Charter Schools (ICS), Chairman of the Board of NorthStar Charter School, and Northwest Nazarene University, School of Business Dean, presented on behalf of Terry Ryan. He detailed the priorities for ICS which are as follows: 1.) The Public Schools Funding Formula; 2.) Flexibility in administration; and 3.) Credit enhancement for high performing charter schools. **Mr. Russell** explained in the past 24 months student enrollment has increased and there are students on waiting lists. The policy changes ICS would like to have considered are to have 1.) Instruction connected to "real life" situations; and 2.) A greater emphasis on student outcomes (Attachment 8).

**Murphy Olmstead**, Manager, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families, introduced Melanie Fitzgerald whose daughter attends an Idaho virtual online school. She detailed the successes of the online education and recommended the changes to the Public School Funding Formula (Attachment 9).

**Maria Johnson-Lorcher**, Vice President of Advocacy, Idaho Parent Teacher Association (IPTA), detailed the priorities for the IPTA in which student mental health and professional staffing are emphasized. She said in the past 24 months, the IPTA has advocated for juvenile justice. Three Idaho schools were honored with the National PTA School of Excellence award. She detailed how the IPTA is working with the SDE to furnish a parents' perspective when drafting and implement programs and policies. **Ms. Johnson-Lorcher** said the IPTA would like consideration for school choice, state funding use for pre-kindergarten programing, and support for all-day kindergarten (Attachment 10).

**RECORDING LINK:** The recording for Stakeholder Presentations can be found at <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

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

**DOCKET NO. 08-0104-1801** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Office of the State Board of Education (SBE), presented **Docket No. 08-104-1801**; Residency. She stated the education rules that are before the Committee have been approved by the SBE. She explained the negotiated rule making process.

**Ms. Bent** said the changes to **Docket No 08-0104-1801** are a technical cleanup. The references to Eastern Idaho Technical College have been changed to reflect the transition to Eastern Idaho Community College. She highlighted to the Committee those changes. **Ms. Bent** explained the changes that define state residency for students. She stated those updates allow better management in determining eligibility.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0104-1801**. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. Motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 08-0202-1803** **Ms. Bent** presented **Docket No. 08-0202-1803** regarding Rules Governing Uniformity. She said this rule makes technical corrections for educator credentials. The changes are to provide consistency with other sections of code and to be consistent with the practice. She emphasized this does not change any procedures. She explained the terminology changes which will encompass all routes to certification. She explained the updates which clarify the standards used for approving the educator preparation program.

**Senator Woodward** asked if the changes make a distinction between an educator and teacher or do they bring consistency to the rule. **Ms. Bent** replied the rule is to be inclusive to the staff which serve the students.

**MOTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0202-1803**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

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

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary