

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Winder

**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 3:06 p.m.

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

**DOCKET NO. 08-0202-1804** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Office of the State Board of Education (Board) presented **Docket No. 08-0202-1804**, Rules Governing Uniformity. She explained this is new language and has been developed due to the professional endorsement established in Idaho Code § 33-1201a. She said this section of code was created in 2015 with the Career Ladder. She explained the requirements for the professional endorsement granted by the State. **Ms. Bent** detailed for the Committee the provisions in the new rule.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked if this relates to the Master Teacher Premium. **Ms. Bent** replied in the negative. She stated this is only for individuals to earn the professional endorsement so they can move up the Career Ladder.

**Chairman Mortimer** said the Career Ladder has been in place for four years. He asked why these new rules are now being brought forward. **Ms. Bent** replied school districts asked for these updates. They were concerned about the Career Ladder movement for those teachers coming into the State whose professional endorsement requirements have been met. She said the reason this is being brought forward is because this is the first year their movement would be impacted.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if this section specifically applied to a teacher who is coming to work from out-of-state. **Ms. Bent** replied in the affirmative.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked why the rule was not written to specify out-of-state teachers. **Ms. Bent** replied the current statute is inclusive of all teachers. She explained the school districts requested additional guidance when moving out-of-state teachers on the Career Ladder.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if it will be difficult for out-of-state teachers to gather the necessary documents to support their professional achievements. **Ms. Bent** replied the Federal Accountability System allows teachers to have access to their data. It is should not be difficult. She explained the process in which school districts accept aggregated data.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if this rule was negotiated. **Ms. Bent** replied in the affirmative. She explained the process taken with the stakeholders. She said they all support the language in the proposed rule.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0202-1804**. **Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said he is not opposed to the rule. He expressed his concerns regarding teacher accountability and the monitoring process. He said he believes the rule is following the intent of the legislation the legislature passed.

The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1803** **Ms. Bent** present **Docket No. 08-0203-1803**, Rules Governing Thoroughness. She said this rule pertains to high school graduation requirements. It addresses the STEM diploma the legislature passed in 2018. She explained the procedures taken to develop the rule. She detailed the changes in the requirements regarding math courses and the senior project.

**Ms. Bent** detailed the other courses students can take in order to meet the math requirements. She explained the graduation requirement for math and said the computer science courses are now able to meet the math requirements. She reviewed the technical changes made to the rule. **Ms. Bent** said the language was added to the senior project to provide better guidance for the culminating project.

**Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if the changes allow for more flexibility in the senior project. **Ms. Bent** replied in the affirmative.

**Senator Lent** asked if the formal written report is no longer required. **Ms. Bent** replied the districts at the local level decide the format of the senior project. She explained the requirements of the senior project.

**Senator Lent** asked if the senior project rigor has been diluted. **Ms. Bent** replied in the negative. She said the rule is to clarify the intent of the senior project. She stated the senior project standards are set by the individual school districts.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked for clarification of the math requirements in the rule. **Ms. Bent** explained the exemptions and requirements.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0203-1803**. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion.

**Senator Den Hartog** said she understands the concerns from Committee members but appreciates the flexibly allowed to school districts to decide how the senior project fit their needs. She said the part of the rule which addresses a student's ability to analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and communicate is the intent of the legislation.

**Chairman Mortimer** said for many years he has struggled with making the senior project meaningful, and believes the school districts have as well. He said any effort to bring new emphasis to the senior project is welcomed.

**Senator Woodward** said the analogy could be made that every time someone presents to this Committee, they also provide written documentation. This runs parallel to the requirements of the senior project.

**Senator Lent** said he is looking for a performance aspect as a capstone event. He believes the student, through the senior project, must be able to perform and demonstrate what they have learned.

**Senator Crabtree** said flexibility is important to school districts. The concern, he expressed, is to not reduce the standards. Students will rise to what is expected of them. He said having measurable outcomes are important.

**Senator Buckner-Webb** said she agrees with the Committee, standards must be kept at a high level. She expressed her confidence that educators want to maintain high standards. She stated school districts should have the latitude to design the senior project to what best fits their students.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said he has had mixed feelings about the senior project. He stated his concerns regarding the senior project.

The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Senator Crabtree** requested that he be recorded as having voted nay.

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0203-1804**

**Amy Lorenzo**, Director of Policy & Organizational Planning, Career Technical Education (CTE), presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1804**, Rules Governing Thoroughness: Career Technical Education (CTE). She said the rule before the Committee is the addition of a new set of standards for the ongoing CTE programs. She explained the development of the standards which began in 2016 and emphasized that the CTE programs are held accountable to the same extent as the academic programs. **Ms. Lorenzo** detailed the standard setting process which includes input from CTE instructors and industry business leaders pulling from industry standards. The rules to review include those incorporated by reference.

**Chairman Mortimer** pointed out the incorporated by reference documents were not delivered to the whole Committee.

**MOTION:**

**Chairman Mortimer** moved to hold **Docket No. 08-0203-1804** in Committee until the call of the Chair. **Senate Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0203-1805**

**Helen Price**, Program Specialist, Board Materials & Rules, State Department of Education (SDE), presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1805**, Rules Governing Thoroughness. She explained the negotiating process and said the rule was approved by the SBE. It eliminates the information no longer relevant to current procedures. Specifically, it removes references to Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO), which were used to measure the progress proficiency of Idaho's limited English proficient students under The No Child Left Behind Act. **Ms. Price** explained in detail the changes to the rule.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Crabtree** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0203-1805**. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The 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 3:58 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary