

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 17, 2019

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium

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

Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, and Berch

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Winder and Representative Shepherd

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 Joint Meeting of the House Education Committee and Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Representative Wendy Horman** presented the Interim Committee Report; Idaho's Public School Funding Formula. She said the Interim Committee (IC) began in 2016 and then reported the results, which received full support of the IC. She introduced the two-minute video which explained the current funding formula and its problems.

Representative Horman said the proposed Public School Funding Formula is evolving to meet and address new ways of learning. She emphasized this formula works to address the educational needs at the local level.

Senator Lori Den Hartog spoke on behalf of Senator Chuck Winder. She said the IC is now handing off the Public School Funding Formula to the Germane Committee to finalize the work. She explained how learning and schooling has evolved since the current funding formula was developed in 1994. **Senator Den Hartog** said local school district personnel have asked for a better funding formula. After years of meetings, this formula has been developed; it is systematic and driven by research-based information. She encouraged people to remain open to the changes.

Emily Parker, Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States (ECS), gave an overview of the organization. She said their mission is to help states create better education policies. ECS is under contract with Idaho to build a better funding formula. She explained the work of ECS with the IC and how they worked with stakeholders to develop the new Public School Funding Formula. She stressed the work they have done has been open and inclusive.

PRESENTATION: **Representative Scott Bedke**, Speaker of the House, demonstrated the Public School Funding Formula. He explained how the formula works and how the IC with the direction of ECS developed the variety of funding measures. He gave an example of how the formula works and explained the adaptive nature of the model, which meets the charge of the State Constitution of educating Idaho students.

Speaker Bedke demonstrated for the audience and Committees the tool in detail by exploring certain scenarios, including: Special Education students, students in grades K-3 and 9-12, small districts, charter schools, salaries, benefits. The tool is designed to show the costs of policy decisions.

Speaker Bedke cautioned the Stakeholders to avoid reacting to this tool. He said there will be hearings regarding the policies which will determine how the funds are to be allocated. After the demonstration of the tool, **Speaker Bedke** said the goal is to have the tool implemented by 2021.

Michael Griffith, Principal Contractor, School Finance, ECS, further explained the Public School Funding Tool. He demonstrated the tool using a variety of weighting scenarios. He said the tool has weighting factors which reflect State laws. He said the tool was designed to meet the needs and policies of Idaho.

In response to the questions posed by the Committee members, **Speaker Bedke** and **Mr. Griffith** detailed how to determine funding without having losses to any schools, confirming that the weights be adjusted to offset district losses, and assuring the Committee that the formula cannot be manipulated to bypass the intent. Both emphasized it will be the responsibility of the Germane Committee to write the policy language for the new funding formula.

Representative Horman concluded the presentation. She told the Committee this new formula will be reviewed every five years to meet the changes in education. She reminded the audience the Interim Committee is handing this off to the Germane Committee and the stakeholders' input is still needed as Legislation is formulated.

**RECORDING
LINK:**

To hear the full presentation of the Public School Funding Formula, go to:
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, Chairman Mortimer adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary