

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 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 3:01 p.m.

RS 26527 **Senator Souza** presented **RS 26527**, Technical Change to the 2018 School Board Election bill. She said the change in the proposed legislation is adding one word and removing unnecessary hyphens. She explained how the removal of the word "January" was necessary.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 26527** to print. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

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

RS 26582 Relating to Education; School Improvement.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 26582** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

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

PRESENTATION: **Dwight Johnson**, State Administrator, Career Technical Education (CTE), Introduced Idaho's 2019 Teacher of the Year, Marc Beitia, American Falls High School, American Falls. He said it is a great privilege to have a CTE instructor be named the teacher of the year and then detailed Mr. Beitia's accomplishments.

Chairman Mortimer congratulated Mr. Beita for his award and invited him to the podium to report on his teaching career accomplishments and share teaching experiences.

Mr. Beita said as well as teaching, he also serves as the mayor of American Falls. He spoke about the ongoing shortage of a trained technical workers in Idaho and indicated the need for continued funding support in the CTE curriculum. He said he became a teacher because he was passionate about student learning. He expressed his concerns regarding teachers leaving the profession for a variety of reasons. **Mr. Beita** reported the demographic makeup of American Falls' student population. Because of the economically disadvantaged situation, area businesses and industries participate in helping to offset the costs associated with the Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs. He told stories to the Committee about students whose careers have benefited from the CTE and FFA programs.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Beita** said it is difficult to recruit and retain teachers for a variety of reasons, the main reason he believes, is that teachers do not feel valued. The pay is low, and they seem to feel disrespected in their communities.

PRESENTATION: **Sherri Ybarra**, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced Dr. Tina Polishchuk, Coordinator, Advanced Opportunities (AO), State Department of Education (SDE).

Dr. Polishchuk explained the variety of programs which form the AO program, the funding history, participation by grade level, and the top-ten general and non-general education courses students have enrolled in. She explained the program quality is measured with the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) to ensure the teachers, who are teaching the dual credits, maintain the same level of rigor as the college and university instructors.

Dr. Polishchuk explained the partnership students have with college advisers and career mentors has led to much of the successes in the AO program. She highlighted the promotions that SDE hosts to encourage enrollment. She shared the concerns about the enrollment reduction in low-income students and reported out the diverse ethnicities present.

Dr. Polishchuk listing the factors that lead to successful student achievement. She expressed concerns with school districts not understanding Idaho Code and Statutes and how they are not delivering AO correctly. She concluded her presentation by telling the story of a student who graduated high school with an associates degree and how it is furthering her career path (Attachment 1).

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Polishchuk** detailed how colleges and universities are making the philosophical shift in how and who they educate. She said the credit costs are to be addressed at the next State Board of Education's Board meeting. She detailed how good leadership models make AO thrive and how the institutions are helping teachers execute the course work. She called attention to the ongoing role of the SDE in AO.

Chairman Mortimer thanked Dr. Polishchuk and the SDE for her presentation and the continued work in seeing AO to fruition.

RECORDING LINK: To hear the complete presentation, 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 4:07 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary