

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 11, 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 3:02 p.m. He opened with a reading from the book, *A Heap O 'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest, "Story Telling."
- MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 26831, RS 26806, RS 26807, RS 26832, RS 26820, RS 26821, RS 26789C1, and RS 26778** to print. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Mortimer** said he will be presenting the Committee's education funding recommendation before the Joint Appropriation and Finance Committee. He asked the Committee members to report their top funding priorities.
- Senator Ward-Engelking** outlined the following priorities: 1.) Career Ladder; 2.) Health insurance in discretionary funding; 3.) K-3 Literacy; and 4.) Increased funding for the support units.
- Senator Lent** said he would like to see priority funding in the following areas: 1.) K-3 Literacy; 2.) Mastery Based Education; and 3.) Career Technical Education.
- Senator Den Hartog** reported her priorities: 1.) Increased funding for teacher health insurance; 2.) Literacy proficiency; 3.) Career ladder; and 4.) Mastery-based education. She said her interests in literacy proficiency and mastery-based education are not necessarily funding increases. Instead, she would like to see policy adjustments.
- Senator Buckner-Webb** outlined her funding priorities: 1.) Career Ladder; 2.) Health insurance for teachers; 3.) Literacy intervention; and 4.) Mastery Based education.
- Senator Woodward** listed his funding priorities as follows: 1.) Career Ladder; and 2.) Reading proficiency. He questioned if the Advanced Opportunities program is meeting the intended goals. **Senator Woodward** said his concerns were a result of the College and University Presidents' presentations.
- Senator Crabtree** explained his priorities: 1.) Career Ladder; 2.) Idaho Digital Learning Academy; 3.) Mastery Based Education; and 4.) Literacy Proficiency.
- Chairman Mortimer** listed his funding priorities as follows: 1.) Career Ladder; 2.) Discretionary spending; it's importance is due to what it encompasses; 3.) Literacy proficiency; 4. Health insurance; and 5. Technology budget.

During the discussion, Senators emphasized the need to replenish and build-up the Public Education Stabilization Fund (PESF). They expressed their concerns regarding the lower than expected State revenues and the possible impact to education funding. The importance of the Opportunity Scholarship for the Colleges and Universities was also mentioned . They recommended addressing policy setting rather than budget increases to impact educational goals.

RECORDING

LINK:

To hear the complete budget discussion, 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 3:48 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary