

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 20, 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 3:07 p.m.
- S 1104** **Senator Anthon** presented **S 1104**, Relating to Education; Professional Development. He explained he is bringing the proposed legislation forward because two of his constituents were having difficulties getting recertified as public school teachers, yet they have vast experience in the instruction of pedagogy coursework at the university level. **Senator Anthon** explained how other professionals, such as accountants or lawyers, teach coursework in their area of expertise to their peers, and those credit hours are applied towards their recertification. Through his research he found there are no such provisions for educators.
- Senator Athon** walked the Committee through the proposed legislation. He said after **S 1104** was drafted, it was found to have a language problem and he addressed where the proposed amendment should be inserted into the proposed legislation. He said he is looking to the Committee to make sure this legislation addresses the intent.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Woodward** asked if the intent of the proposed legislation is for a person who teaches professional development or pedagogy course to obtain recertification. **Senator Anthon** replied in the affirmative.
- Senator Winder** asked if a candidate teaching a non-continuing accreditation courses would receive the credits. **Senator Anthon** replied there will be negotiated rulemaking to determine the sideboards and to ensure the correct credits are applied to the correct requirements.
- Senator Woodward** asked if educators must have continuous education to remain certified. **Senator Anthon** replied in the affirmative.
- TESTIMONY:** **Kari Overall**, President, Idaho Education Association (IEA), spoke in support of **S 1104**. She said the IEA believes professional development is necessary throughout the career of an educator. It is recognized that knowledge and skills are acquired and gained through experience and through continuing education. She stated the appreciation of the flexibility for educators to obtain the credits. She encouraged the Committee to send **S 1104** to the amending order.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1104** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

S 1108 **Sherri Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education (SDE), presented **S 1108**, Relating to Driver Training; Scholarships and Grants. She said the proposed legislation increases the reimbursement of funds to school districts to administer the driver training programs. She stated the reimbursement rate has not changed since 1996. She said the fees from driver's licenses go to an account the balance of which has grown as Idaho's population has grown. She reported the balance to be over \$4 million and the proposed increase in reimbursement would gradually draw down the balance but would still ensure the account to be solvent.

Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy, SDE, walked the Committee through the proposed legislation. She said **S 1108** increases the reimbursement rate to schools, provides a need based scholarship for students enrolling in driver's education, and a competitive grant for school districts that are struggling to afford to maintain the driver's education program.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Thayne** asked how the scholarships are awarded. **Ms. Whitney** replied the scholarship will be need based and in the criteria is in the process of being developed.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the reason for the increase of the reimbursement is because the costs have escalated, or is it to draw down the driver's education foundation. **Superintendent Ybarra** explained the difference in student fees versus the cost of the program. She stated student fees do not cover those costs.

Senator Ward-Engelking asked if there is a cap to the number of awarded scholarships. **Superintendent Ybarra** replied to maintain the balance in the foundation account, 10 percent has been set aside for the awards.

Senator Woodward asked for clarification regarding the fees charged to the student and the reimbursement from the State. **Superintendent Ybarra** said the cost to deliver driver's education to the student is approximately \$330. She explained what the student pays for the course and what the State is currently reimbursing, thereby leaving a shortfall.

Senator Ward-Engelking reported the success of the driver's education rewarding program in Boise's alternative high school.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1108** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

S 1059 **Superintendent Ybarra** presented **S 1059**, Relating to Education; Mastery-Based Education (Mastery). She said **S 1059** allows the SDE to expand Mastery and lift the incubator to allow additional school districts and charters to join and participate in the Mastery Network (Network). The proposed legislation details the Network's current purpose. It allows the SDE to continue to provide startup funding to districts and schools that have applied and been selected to receive grants available through appropriation. **Superintendent Ybarra** detailed the provisions for school districts or charter schools to join the Network and reported out the program expenditures.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how the Mastery funding is flowing. **Superintendent Ybarra** explained the funding component. She said the goal is for a district to be self-sufficient and then expand to fund other districts.

Ms. Whitney explained the current appropriation allocation. She stated the funding has only been available for two years. The original funding was only for the initial 20 incubators.

Senator Ward-Engelking asked if it accomplishes anything to remove the Mastery cap if the funds are not appropriated. **Ms. Whitney** replied in the affirmative. She stated lifting the cap allows other districts to participate in Mastery. There is no specific dollar amount except as the legislature would appropriate.

Senator Lent asked if it is possible for a district to fund Mastery. **Ms. Whitney** replied any district or charter school can participate in the Network even if they are not receiving funding.

Kelly Brady, Director of Mastery Based Education, SDE, reported to the Committee the number of schools that have participated in the Network. She spoke to the work that those schools have accomplished and said the Mastery momentum is moving across the state. **Ms. Brady** detailed the tools from the SDE that are available to districts and charter schools exploring the possibility of implementing Mastery.

TESTIMONY: **Rod Gramer**, President, Idaho Business for Education (IBE), spoke in support of **S 1059**. He stated Mastery was a key recommendation from the Governor's Task Force for Education. IBE endorses the continued movement of Mastery and with the removal of the cap, more schools and more students will benefit.

Mike Keckler, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), said last week the SBE Board voted unanimously to support **S 1059**. He detailed the research which supports the Mastery benefits to students and recounted the tools which are available for districts and charter schools when working to implement the program.

Superintendent Ybarra thanked the legislature for all the support they have given to Mastery.

Vice Chairman Thayn complimented the SDE for this effort. He stated the future of education belongs to this Mastery model. He emphasized the efforts of implementing it organically is making Mastery more attractive. He said Mastery is the right direction for education and would like more money appropriated to the program. He stated he is glad the incubator cap is being removed.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **S 1059** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lent** praised the Mastery movement. He said this type of education brings effectiveness back into the efficiency model. Educators and parents are understanding this model and are excited about it.

The motion moved to send **S 1059** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES
APPROVAL:**

Senator Lent moved to approve the Minutes of January 21, 2019. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Crabtree moved to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2019. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Woodward moved to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2019. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary