

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 27, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie (Nash), Abernathy (Nye), Berch

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Monty Prow, Idaho Criminal Justice Commission; Tim Hill, Julie Oberle, Sherri Ybarra and Marilyn Whitney, SDE; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Harold Ott, IRSA/IASA; Rob Winslow, IASA; Tracie Bent, SBOE

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

RS 26943: **Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent of Communications and Policy, State Department of Education, presented **RS 26943**, which creates a Rural Teacher Pipeline Initiative to help address the teacher shortage in rural schools. It includes three different programs: Grow Your Own, which would provide funding for a paraprofessional or classified staff member already working in a rural district to earn their teaching certificate; a Rural Teacher Fellowship, for teacher preparation students who commit to teach in a geographic or content area where shortages exist; and a Certification and Retention Bonus, which would provide a stipend for rural teachers or other professional providers who are pursuing additional education or another certification for a hard-to-fill need in a rural school. In consideration of budget constraints, the proposed legislation has an effective date of July 1, 2020. This will allow preparation for these programs to begin. The proposed legislation also includes a five year sunset clause to determine program effectiveness.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to introduce **RS 26943**.

Reps. Moon and **Goesling** spoke in opposition to the motion, due to concerns about funding another education program during this legislative session.

Reps. Kerby and **Nash** spoke in support of the motion because it will spur discussion about how to address the rural teacher shortage.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Moon** and **Goesling** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Chairman Clow turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby**.

Chairman Clow updated the Committee on the legislation drafting process for the Student Based Funding Formula (SBFF). He addressed the definitions of: child with disability, special education, economically disadvantaged, English language learner, Local Education Agency, local salary schedule and remote school. He stated the first residential and professional rungs of the career ladder will be minimum salaries written into code.

In response to Committee questions, **Chairman Clow** stated there are currently 19 line items in the draft, but the Committee has the ability, during the drafting process, to designate whether expense categories will be rolled into the per-student formula calculation, or be listed as separate line items.

Chairman Clow discussed student weights and stated they will not increase automatically, because that takes money away from the base per-student allocation. If the legislature wants to increase a weight, the bill will have to be changed and designated funding appropriated. He stated the special education weight will take into account maintenance of state support and maintenance of effort funding. He stated the district economic weight, often called the wealth adjustment, will be written into the bill, but not assigned a weight. This will preserve the mechanism as an option in the future. He noted if a particular appropriation receives additional funding, the weights would need to be adjusted to reflect that.

In response to Committee questions regarding student mobility, **Vice Chairman Kerby** noted this is a problem with the current funding formula and 85% of funding is based on the first enrollment count of students. The new formula will have different count dates to better reflect mobility.

Chairman Clow stated the draft legislation uses a hold positive mechanism for three years to ensure schools will not receive less than the current funding. He noted Idaho Digital Learning Academy's funding will be modified slightly and IDLA will receive a minimum appropriation of \$1.6 million. He stated the Committee may choose to specify how much of the formula funding is intended for the career ladder. To move from cell to cell, student achievement will be the main driver.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 am.

Representative Kerby
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary