

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2019

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Shepherd

GUESTS: Fred Birnbaum, Idaho Freedom Foundation; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Senator Dean Mortimer; Tracie Bent, SBOE; Hollie Pettersson, Ed Direction; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office; Marilyn Whitney, SDE

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Goesling** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019; March 8, 2019; and March 11, 2019 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1029: **Sen. Mortimer** presented **S 1029**, which gives formal direction to the State Board of Education (SBOE) on how to use currently appropriated funds for an existing program to help low performing schools. It creates a voluntary framework to provide schools in need of intervention with experts to formulate and implement a school turnaround plan. To qualify as a turnaround expert a person must have a proven track record of improving student achievement, along with other criteria. One quarter of their compensation will be based on performance. The school will form a turnaround committee of school and community members to implement the turnaround plan. The plan must have measurable achievement goals and objectives, professional and leadership development strategies, a detailed budget with a timeline, and strategies to assess and report on progress. If a school does not improve within two years, the SBOE may grant an extension or recommend further actions, including changes to the funding and resources allocated to the school. Schools that do improve will be eligible for monetary rewards, subject to available funding. The State Department of Education (SDE) will provide resources and support to the SBOE, school turnaround committees, the turnaround experts and schools in need of intervention.

In response to Committee questions, **Sen. Mortimer** stated he could not get support for a mandatory program. He noted \$750,000 has already been appropriated to the SBOE to assist low performing schools, with another \$1 million appropriated for administrator training, so this bill will take advantage of those funds. He stated the SBOE is responsible for holding schools accountable, while the SDE is responsible for interfacing with the schools and providing day-by-day administration.

Fred Birnbaum, Idaho Freedom Foundation, spoke **in opposition** to the bill and stated the existence of already appropriated funds is not sufficient rationale to continue a program, particularly when it lacks accountability.

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, SBOE, spoke **in support** and noted the Board voted unanimously to support the bill. She stated the existing program and funds have allowed the SBOE to work with all low performing schools, not only federally designated Title I schools. The existing program awarded funds to a single vendor to provide turnaround experts, whereas this bill will allow schools to choose their expert. She stated the SBOE will review the turnaround plans for conformity and handle contract management, but will not be involved with the development of the plans. The money for the rewards would come from the \$1 million additional appropriation for administrator training.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Bent** clarified the bill gives clear direction from the legislature on how to administer the existing program. She felt if the program was mandatory, current resources would not allow the Board to work with all the schools in the lowest performing 5%.

Hollie Pettersson, Ed Direction, spoke **in support** of the bill. Her firm worked with schools in Utah under a similar program. She stated it's not a matter of testing interventions to help low performing schools, but of matching the right intervention, at the right intensity, with a school's specific needs. She supported starting small with a voluntary program. She noted it takes a lot of effort to raise performance and participating schools have improved up to the state average.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Kerby** made a motion to send **S 1029** to General Orders. He stated discussion needs to occur regarding mandatory/voluntary, the role of SBOE/SDE and accountability.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a substitute motion to send **S 1029** to the floor without recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Moon** requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 6 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Clow, Reps. Mendive, Ehardt, Marshall, Raymond, McCrostie, Abernathy and Berch. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Vice Chairman Kerby, Reps. Boyle, DeMordaunt, Moon, Goesling and Wisniewski. Rep. Shepherd was absent/excused. Chairman Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary