

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2019

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Chairman Clow, Reps. Boyle and Berch

GUESTS: Emily McClure, Idaho Charter School Network; Keith Donahue, Sage International School; Terry Ryan, Bluum; Matthew Kuzio, Future Public School; Janet Gallimore and Gloria Toticagüena, State Historical Society; Christian Anderson, Zions Bank

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

MOTION: **Rep. Goesling** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019 and March 15, 2019 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 93aaS: **H 93aaS** was brought before the Committee again for consideration of the Senate amendment. **Rep. DeMordaunt** explained the amendment clarifies how state funds would be distributed to eligible nontraditional teacher preparation programs. State funds cannot exceed 25% of each teacher's salary and funding is limited to two years per teacher. Districts must provide verification to the State Department of Education (SDE) that the teacher has fulfilled their contract. Districts must also verify they are providing funding for recruitment and training in an amount equal to at least 10% of SDE funds per teacher.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to concur with the amendments made in the Senate to **H 93aaS**.

Rep. Marshall spoke in opposition to the motion, noting he opposed the original legislation as well.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Marshall, Moon and Wisniewski** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1180: **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **S 1180**, which creates a credit enhancement to help seasoned charter schools get a lower interest rate on bonds, thereby maximizing state dollars. This would help create equity between charters and traditional public schools, which already have access to such financial tools. The bill sets forth stringent eligibility criteria to ensure participating schools are unlikely to default.

Emily McClure, on behalf of Idaho Charter School Network, also presented the bill. She stated schools must meet certain criteria to demonstrate they are financially stable. Participating charters must agree to deposit a minimum of twelve months' payment in a restricted debt service reserve account held by the bondholder. The SDE will send foundational payments directly to the bondholder, who will take out their portion, then forward the remainder to the school. The bill also creates a public charter school facilities program fund in the treasurer's office, which participating schools will pay into, to provide a safeguard against missed payments. Ms. McClure also discussed the protocol for nonpayment. She stated this bill could lower interest rates 2-3%.

Keith Donahue, Executive Director of Sage International School; **Terry Ryan**, CEO of Bluum; **Matthew Kuzio**, Board Chair of Future Public School; and **Christian Anderson**, Vice President of Public Finance at Zions Bank, spoke **in support** of the bill. The school leaders testified about their anticipated savings from lower interest rates when they refinance. Mr. Anderson stated this bill would help charters access a more competitive market of underwriters.

Rep. DeMordaunt was recognized to close testimony on **S 1180**. She stated this bill creates a more equitable approach to funding charter schools and will allow more taxpayer dollars to be spent on kids, rather than facilities.

MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a motion to send **S 1180** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Kerby stated he fully supported the motion.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Janet Gallimore, Executive Director, Idaho State Historical Society, presented on the newly completed Idaho State Museum. She noted the museum is on track for 115,000 visitors annually.

Dr. Gloria Totoricagüena, Idaho Policy and Consulting LLC, presented on the results of the museum's visitor exit survey. She noted 88% of respondents said the museum experience highly exceeded or exceeded their expectations.

MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.

Representative Kerby
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary