

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, April 03, 2019

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, and McCoy(Buckner-Webb)

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Ward-Engelking

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 8:01 a.m. He opened with a reading from the book, *A Heap O 'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest, "Wisdom."

H 293 **Senators Lent** and **Woodward** presented **H 293**, Relating to Education; Public School Funding Formula (PSFF). **Senator Lent** thanked those who contributed to updating the PSFF. He said the proposed legislation is the building block for the next step in developing a new PSFF. He said **H 293** is to determine base definitions for specific educational terminology. These definitions will aid in the collection of data to then better build the PSFF.

Senator Woodward walked the Committee through the proposed updates. He said what seemed to stall the prior PSFF proposed legislation was the lack of current and correct data. There is a need to collect the enrollment data to make better decisions that will lead to child centered funding. He acknowledged the concerns from the stakeholders regarding the pay scale for teachers. He said the intent is to only define the term, not to change the pay scale or to set the Career Ladder.

TESTIMONY: **April Burton**, Business Manager, Caldwell School District, said the proposed legislation needs to make changes regarding the "economically disadvantaged student." She explained how the district calculates that student from the multiplier provided by the federal government. She explained the importance of the community eligibility program (CEP) and how many districts would be negatively impacted. She asked the Committee to please address the CEP (Attachment 1).

Senator Winder asked if she knew how the multiplier number was derived. **Ms. Burton** replied it is provided by the federal government. She said she would report back to him how that specific percentage is determined.

Rob Winslow, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), spoke in support of the collection of data and wanting the data to be as accurate as possible. He listed the concerns to the proposed legislation and asked the Committee to consider those through the rulemaking process (Attachment 2).

Matt Compton, Director of Public Policy, Idaho Education Association (IEA), spoke in favor of **H 293** and said the proposed legislation is moving to a more equitable per-pupil funding. He asked that a letter be drafted so both sides of the bargaining table can use it to conduct salary negotiations without disruption (Attachment 3).

Quinn Perry, Policy and Government Affairs Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) stated **H 293** is an appropriate step in the switch to a new funding formula. She outlined to the Committee the ISBA's concerns (Attachment 4).

Blake Youde, Idaho Charter Schools Network (ICSN), spoke in support of **H 293**. He said there is some disappointment that the process only made it this far and detailed how the 25 year old funding formula does not meet the current needs of students. He said the ICSN will work with the Committee in the rulemaking process (Attachment 5).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** emphasized that the proposed legislation's definition for the local salary schedule and gathering data are not anywhere in code. This is not a statute but only a definition.

Senator Woodward explained the determination of the CEP 1.6 multiplier. He stated that the PSFF did not turn out exactly how it was anticipated, but **H 293** is the step needed to gather the required data to better fund student enrollment.

Senator Lent, using a football analogy, said while this was not a touchdown, it was a field-goal. He explained that good governance includes good management and good leadership. He said data driven decisions need good data. This proposed legislation will provide good data to develop a better funding formula. He emphasized the need for the momentum to continue.

Chairman Mortimer stated there are some issues with the CPE. He concurred with Senator Lent regarding the need to collect accurate data for making better funding decisions.

Senator Winder explained the Interim PSFF Committee's work. He said once the interim work is completed it is handed off to the Germane Committee to make the final decision. He said throughout the Germane Committee's work it was discovered that the data was incomplete. **H 293** offers the opportunity to access the correct data to set the funding policy for the next legislative session. He suggested the Committee play a role in the rulemaking process.

Chairman Mortimer asked Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), to the podium to explain the details and dates of negotiated rulemaking.

Ms. Bent detailed the process the SBE uses for writing rules and named the locations and dates for the meetings. She said she would include Committee members in the email notifications so they could participate in the process.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **H 293** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** expressed her appreciation for the combined work of legislators and stakeholders. She said the tenacity to find a solution is the first step in the process of making changes to the education system. She said this critical juncture in education funding is one part of the puzzle to make education more effective. She said based on the information from the executive summary in the Student Achievement and Accountability Report, it is of utmost importance that improving student education is addressed.

Senator McCoy said it is with better information gathering that better decisions are made. We can work together to better support students, stakeholders, and communities. She said she will be supporting **H 293**.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **H 293** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary