

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 08, 2020

**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 3:01 p.m.

**WELCOME:** **Chairman Mortimer** said he is continuing the weekly tradition of reading a poem from the book, *A Heap O' Living Along Life's Highway*, by Edgar A. Guest. He then read the poem, "The Price of Joy."

**PAGE INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** welcomed the new page, Sarah Young, from Boise, Idaho, and invited her to the podium to introduce herself and share her future aspirations and long-term goals.

**SECRETARY INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Mortimer** welcomed the new secretary, Morgan Howard, and invited her to introduce herself to the Committee.

**PRESENTATION:** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Idaho State Board of Education (Board), provided a handout of a summary of the Board's omnibus rule-making. She then explained that the Board had to re-codify all of their administrative rules, and had taken the opportunity to clean out any unnecessary rules. She also drew the Committee's attention to the handout, which she said detailed what rules had been removed and why. **Ms. Bent** explained that the rules that had been removed were redundant or unnecessary, and that the processes detailed in those rules were still in place as Board policy or in statute. **Ms. Bent** also said that her explanation only included the rules set forth by the Board.

**PRESENTATION:** **Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent of Policy and Communication, Idaho State Department of Education (Department), gave an overview of the new language that the Department introduced this year. She shared that of the three dockets the Department introduced, the first two received no public comments, and that the Department would make the comments on the third docket available. In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Whitney** reaffirmed that the Department did not handle the omnibus rules process, but that the rules the Department put forward did affect some rules on the omnibus docket.

**PRESENTATION:** **Dennis Stevenson**, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Division of Financial Management, stated that Ms. Whitney and Ms. Bent had covered the administrative rules process extensively, and that his prepared presentation would be redundant. He answered Committee questions, stating that the omnibus rules for the Committee contained some language changes, but that the substantive rule changes were being presented as separate dockets.

**RULES:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked the Committee members to express to him privately if they had a desire to listen to an extensive presentation on the omnibus rules, then stated that the Committee would begin hearing individual rule dockets on Monday.

**COMMITTEE WORK:** **Chairman Mortimer** read some potential future agenda items to the audience and asked that the Committee send any of their desired list additions to him directly.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:53 pm.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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Morgan Howard  
Secretary