

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 09, 2020

TIME: 2:30 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 meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 2:50 p.m. He opened with a reading from the book *A Heap o' Living Along Life's Highway* by Edgar A. Guest, the poem entitled, "Family Prayer for Difficult Days."

PRESENTATION: **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (Board), told the Committee about the requirements and framework for the Board's report on teacher evaluations. **Ms. Bent** told the Committee that each year, roughly 20 percent of school administrators are randomly selected to be reviewed. **Ms. Bent** provided a breakdown of how the evaluations are conducted. She said much of the information used for these evaluations is the same information used for career ladder mobility (see Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: In response to questions from the Committee, **Ms. Bent** said that new teachers are required to have mentors, which accounts for the high degree of performance change in the first few years of their careers. While the changes in teachers farther into their careers may be slight, it is still a positive change. She further explained the use of student success indicators in the evaluation of instructional and support staff. **Ms. Bent** told the Committee that the number of staff members who were not evaluated in fiscal year 2020 was typical, and that staff members who had not been evaluated in several years would not be able to move on the career ladder. She provided data showing the student success indicators.

H 501 **Quinn Perry**, Policy and Government Affairs Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), presented **H 501** which addresses the unintended consequences of excision. Currently, only the voters residing in the area of excision may vote on excision or annexation. The bill would allow all the voters in both school districts in question to vote on both issues.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **H 501** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Thayn will be the floor sponsor.

H 511aa

Blake Youde, Idaho Charter School Network, presented **H 511aa**. He said some charter schools face closure between reviews of their charters and that authorizers are not currently able to review charters ahead of schedule. **Mr. Youde** told the Committee that the bill required that any public charter school with less than 15 days of cash on hand would have one year to improve the financial deficiency before the authorizer would begin the process of charter revocation. He said that schools in their first two years of operation, and virtual schools, would be exempt from the bill.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Mortimer inquired if any Idaho charter schools would be subject to the provisions of the bill. **Mr. Youde** replied there would be two schools subject to the provisions.

Marc Carignan, CFO of Bluum, told the Committee that 15 days of cash on hand represented roughly 4 percent of the school's budget.

MOTION:

Senator Lent moved to send **H 511aa** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Crabtree will be the floor sponsor.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Vice Chairman Thayn moved to approve the Minutes of February 17, 2020.

Senator Lent seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Ward-Engelking moved to approve the Minutes of February 18, 2020.

Senator Crabtree seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

INTRODUCTION:

Chairman Mortimer invited Sue Steed, an intern, to introduce herself to the Committee. **Ms. Steed** said she is currently a senior at Idaho State University and her plans are to become a college professor. She stated that she has enjoyed her time spent working with Chairman Mortimer and the Committee.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary

Juanita Budell
Assistant Secretary