

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

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:** None

GUESTS: Tracie Bent, OSBE; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Senators Dean M. Mortimer and Steven Thayn; Sue Stud, Senate intern

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

SCR 132: **Sen. Mortimer** presented **SCR 132**, which would establish an interim committee to consider and recommend a process for adopting new content standards for Idaho schools. The interim committee should consider the time necessary for the review and implementation of new standards and testing, and the preparation of supportive instructional materials. The legislature has struggled to find common ground and new content standards provide an opportunity to start fresh with challenging standards that also encourage parental participation. He stated the resolution is brought in the spirit of compromise to improve education.

In response to Committee questions, **Sen. Mortimer** said he expected the interim committee to have representation from the State Board and State Department of Education. He said developing new content standards will allow all stakeholders to get on board and do something better than past standards.

MOTION: **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to send **SCR 132** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. She expressed confidence in the legislature's ability to lead on the issue of content standards.

Reps. Raymond, Marshall and McCrostie and **Chairman Clow** spoke in support of the motion. They expressed appreciation for the emphasis on cooperation and said it is important that all parties come to the table, including practitioners.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Chairman Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1293: **Sen. Thayn** presented **S 1293**, which creates a structure where parents and teachers partner to individualize and maximize the education of each child, recognizing learning also takes place outside of school. Elementary students who are a year ahead will have the ability to negotiate a flexible attendance schedule. They have to maintain at least 65% attendance and the flexible schedule must be agreed upon by the parents, teacher and principal. K-3 students have different eligibility requirements than grades 4-6; the student must also be rated advanced by their teacher. He said his motivation is what is good for children; this will address boredom in school and help prevent burnout.

In response to Committee questions, **Sen. Thayn** said the student requirements will create an opportunity for parents and teachers to communicate and work together on areas of weakness. If a student drops below 65% attendance the school will not receive full funding. He noted it is optional for districts to offer flexible schedules and middle schools can decide whether to offer it to 6th graders.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **S 1293** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Reps. Ehardt, DeMordaunt and Marshall and **Vice Chairman Kerby** spoke in **support** of the motion, saying this will allow for experimentation and help parents provide educational opportunities for their children.

Reps. McCrostie, Goesling, Berch and **Boyle** spoke in **opposition** to the motion, arguing parents are able to take their children on trips or to other activities now, without needing a flexible schedule. They stated they did not have enough information and not enough input was gathered from stakeholders.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Rep. Boyle** requested a roll call vote on **S 1293**. **Motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE, 5 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused**. **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Reps. Shepherd, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall** and **Wisniewski**. **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Goesling, McCrostie, Abernathy** and **Berch**. **Rep. Raymond was absent/excused**. **Vice Chairman Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary