

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 04, 2021

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** WW02

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Woodward, Lent, Johnson, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, and Toone

**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 Clow** called the joint meeting of the Senate and House Education Committees (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m. **Chairman Thayn** and **Chairman Clow** made welcome statements to members of the Committees from both Houses.

**PRESENTATION:** **Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy, State Department of Education, gave a brief introduction of the presenters from each of the disciplines (see Attachment 1).

**PRESENTATION:** **Mr. Jacob Williams**, Senior Researcher, Region 17 Comprehensive Center, gave a presentation on the Region 17 Content Standards (see Attachment 2).

**PRESENTATION:** **Mary Spiker**, K-2 teacher, and **Whitney Wagoner**, District Instructional Coach, presented a recap of the work done by the English language arts interim committee (see Attachment 3).

**INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Clow** introduced the members of the Senate and House who served on the English language arts interim committee: Chairman Thayn, and Representatives McCrostie and Marshall.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Thayn** reiterated the English language arts interim committee's recommendation that creating an essential standards list is critical, and that the list would be helpful to teachers. **Representative Marshall** stated the comprehensive literacy plan is also essential and should be aligned with the standards document.

**PRESENTATION:** **Lex Godfrey**, science teacher (6-12), and **Jeff Macare**, community member, presented a recap of the work done by the science interim committee (see Attachment 4). **Mr. Macare** mentioned that it would have been helpful for the committee members to have had clarification as to what constituted political language.

**INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Clow** introduced the members of the Senate and House who served on the science interim committee: Senators Den Hartog and Woodward; and Representatives Toone, Moon, and Wisniewski.

**DISCUSSION:** **Representative Toone** was impressed that data showed Idaho was comparable with the rest of the United States in terms of student outcomes, which means Idaho students are competing well in science. **Senator Den Hartog** said the interim committee members were focused on the letter sent by the Senate and House Education Committees, and felt that a lot of progress was made. **Representative Moon** said she wished more parents had served on committees. **Representative Wisniewski** said the next stages of the standards need to be addressed now to help the students. **Representative Marshall** said if the standard is for students to do school work we need to not take away their text books.

**PRESENTATION:** **Kenn Roberts**, community member, and **Kelli Rich**, District Instructional Coach (K-5), presented a recap of the work done by the math interim committee (see Attachment 5).

**INTRODUCTION:** **Chairman Clow** introduced the members of the Senate and House who served on the math interim committee: Senators Ward-Engelking and Lent, and Representative Kerby.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Thayn** said the number one thing that can be done to increase math scores is to teach students so they know basic math by the end of the third grade. He thanked the interim committee for its recommendations.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Clow** adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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Senator Thayn  
Chair

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Florence Lince  
Secretary