

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 08, 2021

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

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 Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Nelson** moved to approve the Minutes of January 25, 2021. **Senator Cook** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 0022 **Relating to Public Charter Schools; Removes a Dated Section of the Education Funding Formula in 33-5208.** **Chairman Thayn** asked for further discussion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Woodward** handed out a document titled "Charter School Funding Cap Temporary Removal" (Idaho Code 33-5208) (see Attachment 1). **Senator Woodward** said the plan outlined in the document would fund the online charter schools without changing code. **Senator Lent** seconded this plan, noting it will keep the cap in place. **Senator Den Hartog** asked about the implications for charter schools next year if this plan is followed. **Senator Woodward** said schools are funded for 130 support units this year, and 160 next year under code. Students will most likely then return to their traditional schools, so there will be a decline in enrollment in online charter schools, thus funding should not be an issue moving forward.

Senator Den Hartog asked when would funding be made available. **Senator Woodward** said to his understanding the Department of Education will distribute funds prior to the next payment period, which is scheduled for May 15. **Senator Woodward** made a commitment to take his plan to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). **Senator Den Hartog** wanted it made part of the record that it is important for the Committee to take up the policy issue of the cap at a later time.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved that **H 0022** be held in Committee subject to the call of the Chair. **Vice Chairman Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Crabtree.

RS 28426 **Relating to Education; Creates a Kindergarten Jump-Start Program.** Chairman Thayn reviewed this bill for the Committee members and stood for questions.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 28426** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Crabtree passed the gavel to Chairman Thayn.

PRESENTATION: **Ryan Cantrell**, Superintendent/Special Services, Bruneau-Grand View School District gave a presentation titled "Ideas for Learning Loss" (see Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lent** talked about the value of a well-informed school board. **Mr. Cantrell** said the board at Bruneau-Grand View meets monthly and reviews school data so that everyone understands how the students are doing. **Senator Den Hartog** asked if Bruneau-Grand View used any of the K-3 literacy dollars for these interventions. **Mr. Cantrell** said yes they did. **Vice Chairman Crabtree** asked if this type of program were implemented on a statewide basis, what would be the cost. **Mr. Cantrell** said most school districts are already implementing some version of this program throughout the state. More funding would allow more individualized intervention.

Senator Ward-Engelking asked about the students who are failing classes, if Friday school was mandatory, and was transportation provided. **Mr. Cantrell** said Friday school was mandatory, but transportation was not provided. If a student did not attend on Friday it was treated as a truancy and they would then spend the following Monday with staff until they were caught up in the class.

Senator Lent asked Mr. Cantrell for his thoughts in how best to develop Superintendents. **Mr. Cantrell** said what would be most helpful was for everyone to learn from one another; educators tend to reinvent the wheel instead of learning best practices from others.

Chairman Thayn asked what the reduced lunch rate was at Bruneau-Grand View. **Mr. Cantrell** said that rate was around 70 percent. **Chairman Thayn** also asked how the schools implement Idaho Reading Indicator data. **Mr. Cantrell** said teachers spend two hours a month in a joint meeting discussing what is working well and what is not, and then address how best to move forward. **Chairman Thayn** asked how the Legislature can provide support. **Mr. Cantrell** said data leads them, and let the schools continue to build on that data.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Florence Lince
Secretary