

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 09, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Board President Debbie Critchfield, State Board of Education; Sherri Ybarra, Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Matt Freeman Executive Director, State Board of Education (SBOE); Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer (SBOE); Senator Dave Lent, District 33; Layne McInelly, President of Idaho Education Association (IEA); Ryan Cantrell, Idaho Rural Schools Association (IRSA); Blake Youde, Idaho Charter School Network (ICSN); Misty Swanson, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Quinn Perry ISBA; Matt Compton, Idaho Education Association; Marilyn Whitney Deputy Superintendent, Communications & Policy, State Department of Education (SDE); Karlynn Laraway, Communications Director SDE; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office Senior Policy Advisor; Matt Freeman, Executive Director SBOE

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Clow turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby**.

RS 28212: **Rep. Yamamoto** presented **RS 28212** which limits the fees organizations who offer higher education classes can charge. The proposed legislation would allow students to opt-out of non-required fees. **Chairman Clow** discussed concern about the rising cost of higher education and supports the proposal because it enhances the right of the student to choose how funds are spent.

ORIGINAL MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to introduce **RS 28212**.

Rep. Yamamoto answered Committee questions regarding the breakdown of student fees and legislative implementation. In answer to Committee questions, SBOE Executive Director **Matt Freeman** stated the fees are currently mandatory but rules would be created by the State Board of Education in order to differentiate which fees can be opted out by students.

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to call for the previous question. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Berch** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Vice Chairman Kerby turned the gavel over to **Chairman Clow**.

H 69: **Vice Chairman Kerby** presented **H 69** to streamline the effectiveness of education with access to funds to be based on results. Performance certificates could be used in lieu of continuous improvement plans because they demonstrate improvement. School would be required to share literacy goals and outcomes with an Advisory Council created by the State Board of Education, which would measure whether schools are meeting performance goals.

Superintendent Ybarra spoke **in support** of the legislation, stating the need to immediately address the current student learning loss and strengthen professional development. In answer to Committee questions, she stated her office is examining assessment data and the widening group of at-risk students, with special attention toward strategic planning for the types of services they anticipate students will require post-pandemic.

Misty Swanson ISBA spoke **in support** of the legislation to support the professional development efforts for the large group of administrators represented by ISBA.

Ryan Cantrell of IRSA and **Blake Youde** of the ICSN spoke **in support** of the bill because it demonstrates the strength of educational choice. Mr. Youde stated the legislation will heighten the examination of student achievement and growth through increased scrutiny of school performance.

Layne McInelly of the IEA spoke **in support** of the legislation, noting the lengthy development of the legislation to address multiple issues and benefit all levels of education. **Sen. Lent** answered Committee questions, describing the proposed legislation as an accelerated version of other plans meant to improve educational standards and student achievement.

President Critchfield stated the SBOE is discussing assessments and how to best address the pandemic-related learning loss and growing number of at-risk students, lending her individual support to the proposed legislation.

In answer to Committee questions, **Vice Chairman Kerby** stated a school will submit a report which lists its goals, the tools used, and its students' achievement. He stated the legislation will increase much needed accountability without bureaucracy.

Sen. Lent discussed the Advisory Committee and the frequency of system evaluation. He confirmed charter schools would be held to the same performance standards. **Sen. Lent** spoke about the value of the standards and the vertical alignment of the proposal.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **H 69** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 69** in Committee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Chairman Clow** made a unanimous consent request to extend adjournment to 10:55 a.m. There being no objection, the request was granted.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Chairman Clow** made a unanimous consent request to extend adjournment to 11:00 a.m. There being no objection, the request was granted.

ADJOURN: Due to time constraints, the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary