

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 19, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Blair (Johnson) and Ward-Engelking

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.

WELCOME: **Chairman Thayn** welcomed new Committee Secretary Katy Morden.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Cook** moved to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2022. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

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

DOCKET NO. 08-0000-2100 **Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking - State Board of Education (SBE)**, p. 4. **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, SBE, introduced herself to the Committee. **Ms. Bent** gave an overview of changes from the previous year's rules. She advised that the SBE made changes to streamline procedures or eliminate duplicative and redundant language. The SBE moved some rules to different sections or rewrote them for clarity, she said.

DISCUSSION: In response to questions from **Senator Den Hartog** about enrollment and data reporting, **Ms. Bent** confirmed that enrollment is calculated based on the amount of instruction, not student seat time. She advised that the SBE gained consensus for the language changes from interested school districts. **Ms. Bent** replied that districts have 30 days to report data so the SBE has current information necessary to calculate funding. She added that districts have three years to correct data.

In response to Committee questions regarding certification requirements for occupational license holders, **Ms. Bent** answered that only some support staff positions require a standard certificate. The requirements are set forth in Idaho Code. She advised that someone holding both a current occupational license and a standard certificate can renew the certificate without taking additional credit hours. **Ms. Bent** said that the rules establish a minimum standard for support staff in the best interest of the students. She reported that many certification requirements are fulfilled by occupational licensing requirements, simplifying the certification process for license holders.

In response to questions from **Senator Den Hartog** about moving endorsement requirements from rule to policy, **Ms. Bent** answered that Idaho Code establishes procedures for the SBE to establish policy. She said it is more practical to allow subject matter experts to recommend endorsement requirements. Policies can be changed more quickly than rules to respond to unique circumstances, she added. **Ms. Bent** reminded the Committee that a teacher can also pass an exam to demonstrate eligibility for an endorsement.

In response to Committee questions regarding career technical education (CTE) course requirements, **Ms. Bent** answered that engineering was moved from the science category to the math section through negotiated rulemaking. She clarified that computer science will be classified as a science course, and math taken through the CTE program will count toward graduation credit. **Ms. Bent** advised that the SBE added a requirement for a career exploration case to be taken at the middle school level.

In response to questions from **Senator Den Hartog** about changes to the entrance exam requirement, **Ms. Bent** responded that schools can continue to require the college entrance exam, but Idaho's four-year colleges no longer require applicants to take it for admissions purposes. She predicted that exam scores will go up because only students interested in post-secondary education will take the exam.

In response to Committee questions about eliminating the satisfaction and engagement survey, **Ms. Bent** answered that the information captured was not valid for accountability purposes. She stated that engagement is more appropriately measured by chronic absenteeism. **Ms. Bent** suggested that stakeholder groups could discuss where the survey might fit within the accountability framework. She pointed out that the SBE did not remove the engagement survey from requirements for alternative high schools.

- DOCKET NO. 08-0102-2101** **Rules Governing the Postsecondary Credit Scholarship Program (New Chapter)**, p. 110. **Ms. Bent** stated the only change to this docket is to remove a portion of rule that is duplicative of statute.
- DOCKET NO. 08-0110-2101** **Idaho College Work Study Program (New Chapter)**, p. 113. **Ms. Bent** reported that this docket eliminates language that is duplicative of Idaho Code.
- DOCKET NO. 55-0000-2100** **Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking - State Board of Career Technical Education**, p. 116. **Ms. Bent** noted the docket contains minor grammatical changes.
- DOCKET NO. 08-0000-2100F** **Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking (Fee Rule) - State Board of Education**, p. 4. **Ms. Bent** advised that this fee rule is unchanged.

Vice Chairman Lent announced that the Committee will vote on the dockets at a later date.

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

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Katy Morden
Secretary

Jeanne Jackson-Heim
Assistant Secretary