

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 19, 2023

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

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

WELCOME: **Chairman Lent** welcomed the visitors that were in attendance.

PRESENTATION: **School Safety. Mike Munger**, Program Manager, Idaho School Safety and Security Program (ISSSP), Office of the State Board of Education, gave an overview of statutory mandates for school safety and security in the State of Idaho. **Mr. Munger** described the foundation of the work at the ISSSP were vulnerability assessments which analyzed facility and operational elements at Idaho schools. He discussed the ISSSP worked closely with local school boards in order to understand individual needs and to notice commonalities in vulnerability between different schools across Idaho. **Mr. Munger** provided past examples of certain shared vulnerabilities that the ISSSP identified and addressed. He also discussed the Governor's Securing Our Future Grants Program (GSOFGP) and how the funds appropriated for this grant would be used in the context of the GSOFGP and the work that it did. He said that the funds from this grant would be spent in meaningful ways based upon the vulnerability assessments conducted at the schools. He explained this money needed to be spent on methods that were proven to be effective and durable for years to come to ensure safety for Idaho students. **Mr. Munger** identified common vulnerability targets across Idaho schools, which included access control, emergency communications, and life safety systems. He encouraged the members of the Committee to support the proposed legislation on the agenda and to direct local school districts to the office of the ISSSP.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lenney** asked for Mr. Munger's thoughts on gun-free school zone policies. **Mr. Munger** responded saying local school boards had the ability to designate individuals who could carry firearms on school premises and he would like to assist local school boards to think through the logistical questions associated with the designated individuals to carry firearms on a school campus. **Senator Lenney** asked whether anyone had considered private security at Idaho schools. **Mr. Munger** stated that the ISSSP was having continuing discussions internally and with local school boards about what kind of security personnel each school should have in order to formulate the best solution possible.

Senator Carlson asked for more information on the See Tell Now! Tipline Program and how students would know who to call to seek help. **Mr. Munger** explained that the program's regional representatives would travel to different schools and relay information about the See Tell Now! Tipline either through a rally or informing school staff. **Senator Carlson** asked if the rural schools were taking advantage of

the See Tell Now! Tipline and if the program was keeping track of who exactly was using this service. **Mr. Munger** sensed there was a higher increase of rural schools taking advantage of the See Tell Now! Tipline because they never had a service like this before. Many urban schools had something similar already in place.

Senator Ward-Engelking expressed her concern for arming classroom teachers and instead conveyed her support for having armed security take the responsibility of protecting students and hoped that was being considered.

Senator Herndon inquired how much was spent on an annual basis on school safety. **Mr. Munger** explained that the primary funding for school safety came from local school boards, so it would be difficult to estimate the grand total for both the local school boards and the ISSSP.

Senator Herndon asked if Mr. Munger believed the root cause of the problem had been identified with school safety or whether they were working to identify the root cause. **Mr. Munger** responded that he could not identify the root cause of problems with school safety, but since 2016, schools in Idaho had seen an improvement in preparing and planning for emergency situations.

Senator Herndon followed up by asking if there was any data on whether psychotropic medications had an impact on school safety. **Mr. Munger** noted that he did not have data on that subject.

Senator Den Hartog clarified for the Committee what exactly the See Tell Now! program was, how the application worked, and what the tangible benefits were for students and parents.

Vice Chairman Toews asked for clarification on where the budget was sourced from and asked how the appropriated funds would be spent. **Mr. Munger** stated the budget was from the Governor's budget recommendation. He explained the funds would be used towards addressing the vulnerability targets outlined in the presentation and assured Senator Toews that funds were used only for solutions that were meaningful and effective.

Senator Nichols asked for more information on how exactly the See Tell Now! Program operated, where exactly the data that was submitted went, and whether or not the information was secured. **Mr. Munger** explained the information was captured via website and phone lines were securely sent to a 24-hour monitored live-response center. **Senator Nichols** asked whether or not the See Tell Now! program was targeted towards a certain age group. **Mr. Munger** explained the primary target was for secondary school students, since they had the most knowledge about potential dangerous situations that should be reported, but that this program was also open to all community members who had information on these subjects. **Senator Nichols** asked for the website link for See Tell Now! **Mr. Munger** stated that it was seetellnow.com.

Chairman Lent asked Mr. Munger what he would like the members of the Committee to take away from the presentation and subsequent discussion. **Mr. Munger** summarized that he hoped the members of the Committee knew that Idaho students were safe and that the ISSSP was working towards making meaningful connections with students.

PRESENTATION: Rules Overview. **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Idaho State Board of Education (ISBE), described where in Idaho Code the rule making process for the ISBE was laid out and described the process in detail. First, the ISBE posted a notice that it intended to promulgate rules and invited the public to contact them if they wanted to participate in negotiated rule making. The ISBE also reached out to stakeholders to obtain input for potential rules. The input taken from these sources were submitted as proposed rules to the ISBE and each proposed rule was open for public comment. Once a proposed rule was approved, it was published on the ISBE website and subject to a 20-day public comment period. These public comments were taken into consideration by the ISBE, such that they could decide if a proposed rule needed to be modified in any way. After modifications, these proposed rules became pending rules, which were the ones presented before the Committee. **Ms. Bent** laid out the process for navigating the rules binders that were provided for each member of the Committee. She described the process of forming and adopting temporary rules and how they were different from proposed and pending rules.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lenney** asked if the Committee had the power to review rules that were not specifically before the Committee. **Ms. Bent** stated that the Committee could review rules not before them and described the process that could be taken for these rules. Action that could be taken on these rules was whether to accept or reject them. This could be accepting or rejecting new language or completely rejecting a section out of a rule so it did not exist anymore.

RS 29945C2 **Extended Learners Program.** **Ms. Bent** stated the proposed legislation would close a loophole that was available in the previous draft. This proposed legislation ensured that students who were utilizing the Extended Learners Program and the Self-Directed Learners Program and were attending different schools part-time, were not being counted as full-time students by a school for funding purposes.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Carlson** asked for clarification on how the proposed legislation would count students for funding purposes. **Ms. Bent** explained that schools would only receive funding for the portion of the day that the student was at the school if they were not considered a full-time student. The proposed legislation would not allow schools to report part-time students in these programs as full-time students for funding purposes. **Senator Carlson** asked if full-time students had to be in school all day because of this or whether they were still allowed to attend apprenticeship-type classes elsewhere. **Ms. Bent** responded this was already allowed regardless of the changes made.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 29945C2** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairmen Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Linette Grantham
Secretary

Tyler Allen
Assistant Secretary