

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Chair Yamamoto turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair McCann**.

H 163: **Chair Yamamoto** presented **H 163**, legislation which would reinforce the fundamental rights and responsibilities of parents or legal guardians. Chair Yamamoto introduced **Debbie Critchfield**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education. Superintendent Critchfield said School Districts need a process in place to communicate with parents regardless of residence in the state. She said this legislation would be a minimum requirement for schools.

Vice Chair McCann returned the gavel to **Chair Yamamoto**.

Sandy Cardon, Heidi Pearson, Jennie Jensen, and Chaleena Dean testified in **support of H 163**. They said notification of a survey regarding mental health was not well advertised by the schools. They said after opting out of taking the survey, it was still given to their student.

Amy Henry and Daniel Murphy, spoke in **support of H 163**. They said parents should be informed if a student is bullied or has been in a physical altercation. They said a student should not be interrogated by teachers or administration without a parent or guardian present.

Kristi Hardy, Jessica Fairbanks, and Quinn Perry spoke in **support of H 163**. They spoke about schools within the same district having different policies and confusion with parent and teacher communication. They said there should be a school board and administration balance.

Reps. Hill, Ehardt, Hawkins, and Mendive, spoke in **support of H 163**. They said parents have rights and there should not be secret survey's or agenda's. They said communication with parents is key to a successful education. **Reps. Clow, McCann, and Berch** spoke in **support of H 163**. They said they want to assume the best in people but sometimes parents don't get involved and laws need to be passed to give more direction.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **H 163** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Reps. Galaviz, Nelsen, and Mathias spoke in **support of H 163**. They spoke about the rights and responsibilities of parents. They said teachers and parents need to partner together to provide the best education possible.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 16 AYE, 0 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. McCann, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias, and Yamamoto. Rep. Boyle** was absent/excused. Rep. Boyle will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 30401: **Rep. Cornilles** presented **RS 30401**, proposed legislation which would require the National Motto to be displayed in public school buildings. This legislation would replace **H 105**, making amendments to the bill. **Reps. Berch and Lanting** spoke about concerns regarding the word "must," the size allowed and if school boards have any discretion.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 30401**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 30401** with the following correction: On line 22, change the word "permitted" to "required." **Substitute motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30248: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 30248**, proposed legislation which would require parental permission to participate in school clubs. She said she has been working on this legislation for five years trying to make the wording correct.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 30248**.
Rep. Berch said this legislation was on the floor two years ago and he **opposes** the legislation.**Rep. Hill** said he **supports** parental rights and this legislation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 15 AYE, 1 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. McCann, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Galaviz, Mathias, and Yamamoto. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Rep. Berch. Rep. Boyle** was absent/excused.

DOCKET NO. 08-0111-2201: **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, ISBE explained **Docket No. 08-0111-2201**. In response to questions, she said Western Governor is an all on-line school. **Reps. Clow** and **Nelsen** spoke about the number of Idaho students who utilize on-line schools.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0111-2201**.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: **Rep. Garner** asked unanimous consent to withdraw his motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0111-2201**. There being no objection the request was granted.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned 10:49 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary