

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2025

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Woodward, Nichols, Carlson, Burtenshaw, Zito, 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 3:01 p.m..

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Woodward** moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2025. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE: **Committee to vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Kurt Liebich to the Idaho State Board of Education.** **Chairman Lent** asked to Committee if they had any discussion regarding the appointment. There was none. **Senator Woodward** moved to approve the appointment of Kurt Liebich. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Lisa Paulos of Jerome, Idaho, to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission to serve a term commencing on October 10, 2024 and expiring May 12, 2028.** **Ms. Paulos** stated that she grew up in the Post Falls area and graduated with a Political Science. **Ms. Paulos** stated that she didn't have a huge educational background, but that she did have a background in helping kids. She included that she had been on the board for the Magic Valley Boys and Girls Club and had been instrumental in getting new clubs started across the State. **Senator Cook** asked Ms. Paulos what, in her opinion, was her biggest asset to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (Commission). **Ms. Paulos** replied that her honesty and management skills were her greatest asset. She stated that her history in business granted her with good decision-making skills and time management. **Senator Cook** then asked how she would try to address the historical friction between public schools and charter schools. **Ms. Paulos** advised that communication would be key and that she believed that facilitating conversation would go a long way in easing tensions. **Senator Carlson** stated that she believed Ms. Paulos should make that a top priority and concern. **Senator Nichols** asked what Ms. Paulos' goals would be while she was on the Commission. **Ms. Paulos** stated that the legislation passed last year went a long way in helping streamline charter school procedures. She believed that course should be continued. **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked Ms. Paulos about how she would address or handle student's who needed additional assistance. **Ms. Paulos** answer that she believed every student needed to be addressed independently and teaching be catered to their individual needs. **Chairman Lent** asked if there were any further questions. There were none. **Chairman Lent** encouraged Ms. Paulos to grow her passion and innovation for the education field and thanked her for her time.

RS 31894

School Boards, meetings. **Senator Carlson** shared that this was a clean up bill from last year, regarding parameters of school board comments. There had been an issue with allowing public comments and getting on school board agendas. So, all that she was asking for is a removal of a sentence to clean up the language to streamline that process.

Senator Ward-Engelking stated she was a little worried about the removal of that sentence, as it could lead to a free-for-all in meetings. She stated that she was happy to send it to print, in order to invite further conversation.

Senator Woodward motioned to send **RS 31894** to print. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:13 p.m..

Senator Lent
Chair

Savahanna Phelan
Secretary