

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 12, 2026

**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 meeting of the the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Burtenshaw** moved to approve the Minutes of February 4, 2026. **Senator Zito** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33277C1** **To establish provisions regarding the Idaho high-needs student funds.** **Senator Blaylock** presented the bill which would help schools with additional expenses for students. The bill was initially introduced in 2025, but failed on the floor. This version was strengthened to be more fiscally responsible.

**MOTION:** **Senator Semmelroth** moved to send **RS 33277C1** to print. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33271** **Pertaining to Social passes for home school students attending local district events.** **Senator Kohl** presented the bill which would allow students in grades 8-12 to purchase a \$25 social pass to attend local school district events like dances, college fairs, etc. It would bridge the gap between home school students and traditional students.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Nichols** asked if this happened often in rural areas. **Senator Kohl** responded that a constituent brought him this issue and that they received conflicting answers on whether home school students could attend district events.

**MOTION:** **Senator Zito** moved to send **RS 33271** to print. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33334** **Pertaining to Foreign national student athletes in Idaho's higher education institutions.** **Senator Okuniewicz** presented the bill which limited the number of foreign student athletes on higher education sport teams.

**MOTION:** **Senator Semmelroth** motioned to send **RS 33334** to print. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33335** **Repeals or updates 14 sections of Idaho Code in Title 33 relating to education.** **Senator Semmelroth** presented that this was a product of 2025 H 14 to cleanup old code in Idaho Code Title 33.

**MOTION:** **Senator Nichols** moved to send **RS 33335** to print. **Vice Chairman Cook** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION: Hayden Canyon Charter School. Sam Abrams**, Charter Administrator/Superintendent, presented to the Committee on what he wanted to do to improve the state education system (Attachment 1). **Mr. Abrams** stated he wanted to decrease the amount of seat time students had, improve the happiness of students, and show that learning was more than a series of exams. **Mr. Abrams** stated the current system was based on the Carnegie system but believed the State should design a system that would inspire growth over time.

**DISCUSSION: Chairman Lent** commented that Mr. Abrams' presentation showed how Idaho's education could further grow. **Senator Ward-Engelking** agreed with Mr. Abrams' presentation and stated that the state system needed to grow. **Senator Zito** thanked him for his presentation because she could relate to changing the system to fit each student's needs.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

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Senator Lent  
Chair

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Lauren Young  
Secretary