

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Thursday, January 30, 2020
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- 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 Mortimer** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Wendi Secrist**, Executive Director of Idaho Workforce Development Council (Council), introduced members of the Council, her daughter, and the Council staff. She shared the goals of the Council as well as the organizations with whom the Council worked. **Ms. Secrist** continued with an overview of the Council's responsibilities and activities over the past year. She expounded upon the Council's goals in relation to under-served communities, prison inmates, and refugee populations. She continued with a description of new initiatives the Council would be implementing in the coming months (see Attachment 1).
- In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Secrist** described how participating schools are using funds to pay for their students to take part in the new initiatives. She gave a description of the Council's use of funds over the 2019 calendar year and highlighted the grants that the Council awarded. She concluded with a story about the Council's teacher extern, and how the teacher extern used her experience in the classroom.
- DISCUSSION:** **Ms. Secrist** responded to Committee questions that the Council and the Next Steps program are working to change the cultural idea that career and technical education is not a desirable option. She also responded that the Council is working to assist education institutions with finding funds for start-up programs in the face of reduced state appropriations.
- RS 27397** **Senator Ward-Engelking** explained that the RS increases the reimbursement from the State Department of Education to school districts in order to make driver education more affordable for student education.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **RS 27397** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 27478** **Senator Lent** told the Committee that the RS is intended to help guide school boards in superintendent evaluation.
- MOTION:** **Senator Woodward** moved to send **RS 27478** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 27518** **Vice Chairman Thayn** told the Committee that the resolution directs the State Board of Education and State Department of Education to recognize alternative paths to high school graduation. He continued that the Board was already planning to undergo the research, and that the resolution allowed the Legislature to express support for the endeavor.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 27518** to print. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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Morgan Howard  
Secretary