

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 05, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Marilyn Whitney and Tim McMurtrey, SDE; Tracie Bent, OSBE; Kirk Chandler, Washington County; Jay Shaw and Dennis Stevenson, DFM

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Chairman Clow turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby**.

ORIGINAL MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0000-1900, Chapter 08.02.03 Rules Governing Thoroughness**, in its entirety.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a substitute motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0000-1900, Chapter 08.02.03 Rules Governing Thoroughness, with the exception of Section .004.01.d including Appendices A, B and C, h and j and Section 105.01.d.i.(3), ii, iii and iv**. She stated this is the first chance the Committee has had in ten years to review the standards. She has heard many complaints over the years, test scores have not gone up and kids and parents are frustrated. She stated it was time to pitch these standards out and find an alternative that works for Idaho kids. She argued the State Board of Education can issue a temporary rule at the end of the legislative session, then take a year to look at what other states, like Florida, are doing. In rejecting the English, math and science standards, this motion sends a clear message to the Board to revisit and take a serious look at the standards.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Chairman Clow** made an amended substitute motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0000-1900, Chapter 08.02.03 Rules Governing Thoroughness, with the exception of Section .004.01.d Appendices A, B and C, j all supporting content and Appendix A and Section 105.01.d.i.(3), ii, iii and iv**. This motion preserves the standards, while rejecting supporting content that begins to include curriculum.

Rep. Raymond spoke in support of the amended substitute motion, which he felt separated standards from content and the point of delivery. He expressed concern about the testing associated with the content standards, but noted that wasn't being voted on. He acknowledged challenges in our schools, but stated those stem not from the standards themselves, but from their presentation, which is a local decision. He expressed concern about what would happen if Idaho changes its standards while other states chose not to.

Rep. Berch spoke in opposition to the amended substitute and substitute motions. He argued those two motions get rid of standards and the Committee should not reject the standards, then assume the State Board of Education will do the right thing for them. He stated science is content, so making the supporting content optional removes the common base of knowledge being taught. He also noted even if supporting content was optional, it could still be on the test. He stated the Committee should work with the State Board and Department of Education as partners in modifying individual pieces of the standards, rather than eliminating all of them.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Rep. Moon spoke in support of the substitute motion. She argued the state should not legislate content and removing the standards would not cause chaos. She felt "Common Core" is creating a generation of kids who do not enjoy learning and it especially leaves behind special education students. She felt flat test scores and the college go-on rate reflect this failure.

Rep. McCrostie made a unanimous consent request to amend the original motion to reject the senior math requirement, Section 105.01.d.i.(3), ii, iii and iv. **Reps. Moon** and **Wisniewski** objected.

Rep. McCrostie spoke in support of the original motion, noting the English and math standards are already scheduled for review next year. He felt the State Board properly gathered public feedback during negotiated rulemaking and the Committee heard public testimony; the consensus expressed by teachers was the standards are working. He expressed concern about the overemphasis on test results and stated a general, uniform and thorough system of public education does not require all kids to perform well on a test.

Rep. Marshall spoke in support of the substitute motion. He stated his support for standards, but said he opposed retaining "Common Core" and Next Generation Science Standards because they have become too politicized. He expressed his belief that Idaho can create better, more age-appropriate standards, while eliminating the animosity created by continuing to support the existing standards. He stated the current standards leave behind kids who struggle.

Rep. Mendive spoke in support of the substitute motion, based on feedback from his district. He stated "Common Core" tries to force young children to learn concretely, when they learn abstractly.

Rep. Wisniewski spoke in support of the substitute motion. He stated if remote testimony had been available, the public opinions heard by the Committee would have mainly opposed the standards. He said surgically removing the most objectionable standards gives the impression the Committee approves of the rest of them.

Rep. DeMordaunt spoke in support of the substitute motion, saying there has been plenty of time to adjust to the new standards, yet parents and students remain frustrated. She believes the State Board can consider other standards that will keep families involved in their children's education, and that are sequential, thorough, developmentally appropriate and foster critical thinking.

Rep. Berch argued the way to de-politicize the standards is to distinguish between content, curriculum and assessments. He argued the problem was not in the standards or "Common Core", but in making sure Idaho makes proper investments in teacher training and skill to teach to higher standards.

Chairman Clow spoke in support of the amended substitute motion, saying it allows for some immediate changes, followed by a more comprehensive, orderly change. He noted test scores appear to be flat, but with more difficult standards and increased testing requirements, this means students are actually performing better.

Rep. McCrostie testified teachers feel devalued and demoralized, in part because they continue to testify in support of the standards, yet the Committee does not act on their input.

Rep. Ehardt spoke in support of the substitute motion. She stated the state should not prescribe content and the current standards take the fun out of learning.

Rep. Goesling stated it was time for the state to review the standards, because they are not accomplishing what they should.

Vice Chairman Kerby spoke in support of the amended substitute motion, expressing his preference for a thoughtful, stable review process. He testified much of the issue is from implementation, curriculum and instruction, not the standards.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
AMENDED
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion failed by a vote of 3 AYE and 12 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby and Rep. Raymond.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy and Berch.**

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 5 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond and Wisniewski.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Reps. McCrostie, Abernathy and Berch.**

Vice Chairman Kerby turned the gavel over to **Chairman Clow.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Representative Kerby
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary