

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Lincoln Auditorium

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Shepherd

**GUESTS:** Andrew Grover, Melba School District; Danyelle Davis, Idaho Association of Teachers of Language and Culture; Ryan Cantrell, Bruneau-Grand View School District; Jordan Chesler, Idaho School Counselors Association; Chad Martin, Jefferson School District; Tracie Bent, OSBE; Aleisha McConkie, MSD 134; Marilyn Whitney, SDE; Steve Smylie, West Ada Schools

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

**Wally Hedrick**, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) President, Board Member at Meridian Technical Charter High School, introduced the ISBA officers. He stated their approach to education is transparency, accountability and local governance.

**Margaret Hall**, ISBA Region 1 Chair, Trustee at West Bonner School District, discussed the successes, challenges and issues facing districts in far northern Idaho. The Boundary County and West Bonner School Districts expressed concern that the expenses required to equitably fund special education are far beyond what is provided. The Lake Pend Oreille School District expressed concern about the legislature wanting more control over educational matters, and requested more funding. Ms. Hall discussed mental health issues facing these districts.

**Ms. Hall** responded to questions about funding by clarifying 26% of West Bonner's budget is from levy dollars. She acknowledged difficulty in passing the levies and stated without the amenities these dollars allow them to offer, they will lose students.

**Louis Pifher**, ISBA Region 9 Chair, Board Member at Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School (MMACHS), presented on MMACHS, which is a health-science focused, site-based high school.

**Marg Chipman**, ISBA Past President, Trustee at Weiser School District, highlighted their Career Technical Education programs. She stated the district believes in positive placement after high school, which includes religious missions, joining the military, entering the workforce and going on to college.

**Brian Pyper**, ISBA Region 6 Vice Chair, Trustee at Madison School District, highlighted the excellence of the district, including a 95% high school graduation rate and 86% go-on rate.

**Michelle Lippert**, Region 1 Vice Chair, Trustee at Post Falls School District, discussed her district's traditional and alternative high school graduation rates and their alternative to suspension program. She highlighted the value of social emotional learning and discussed their suicide prevention program, "Sources of Strength." She noted the district lost two students to suicide this school year.

**Mr. Hedrick** closed the ISBA presentation. He asked the Committee to remember the importance of local governance and specifically named **H 393** and **H 347** as bills that make school trustees' jobs harder. He asked the legislature to provide financial and emotional support to school districts and recognize successes that can't be measured by a test score.

**SCR 120:**

**Vice Chairman Kerby** presented **SCR 120**. He explained the ISAT test is administered in tenth grade, then the SAT is given in eleventh grade. This resolution directs the State Board of Education and State Department of Education, in conversation with stakeholders, to consider eliminating one of the tests. He argued having both is duplicative and an unnecessary testing burden. Teachers report kids lack motivation for the tenth grade ISAT, while the SAT affects college admissions and includes a workforce component, so all students are motivated for that test.

**Sen. Thayne** also presented **SCR 120**. He noted many other states are using the SAT or ACT. He suggested the solution is to either make passing the ISAT a high school graduation requirement, or try something different as this resolution recommends.

**Dr. Andrew Grover**, Superintendent, Melba School District; **Ryan Cantrell**, Superintendent, Bruneau-Grand View School District; and **Jordan Chesler**, past president of the Idaho School Counselors Association, testified **in support** of the resolution. They agreed kids lack motivation to try their best on the ISAT because it does not affect them. In contrast, ACT/SAT scores equate to scholarship money and college admissions. The SAT takes far less time to administer than the ISAT and would provide better data.

**Vice Chairman Kerby** was recognized to close testimony and stated this would be an easy, positive change to make.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to send **SCR 120** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.** **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 480:**

**Rep. Raymond** presented **H 480**, which recognizes students who have reached proficiency in one or more world languages, by creating a seal of biliteracy that can be attached to their diplomas. Proficiency will be measured by state and nationally recognized assessments. The creation of the seal would be overseen by the State Board of Education.

**Danyelle Davis**, President of the Idaho Association of Teachers of Language and Culture; **Dr. Kelly Arispe**, Second language acquisition specialist at Boise State University; and **Chad Martin**, Superintendent, Jefferson School District, spoke **in support** of the bill. A seal of biliteracy gives official recognition to students who achieve a high proficiency level in both English and an additional language, so it will lend support to all students, including English language learners. In response to questions about the cost of testing for proficiency, Ms. Davis and Mr. Martin felt those costs would already be built into immersion programs, or covered by Advanced Opportunities funding from the state.

**Rep. Raymond** was recognized to close testimony. He noted the bill lists five different opportunities for testing. He stated it is not a testing bill, it is a seal bill for those who reach biliteracy.

**Rep. Marshall** expressed concern about the requirement to assess English proficiency and stated he would prefer that decision be made by districts, rather than the State Board.

**Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, was called upon and stated her interpretation was the current ISAT test could be used; the ELA proficiency score is already set by the Board. She felt the bill would also allow other assessments to be evaluated and a proficiency level set.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:**

**Rep. Goesling** made a motion to send **H 480** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Rep. Moon** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 480** in Committee at the Call of the Chair. She expressed concern with how to determine English proficiency and stated she did not think the Fiscal Note was accurate.

**Reps. DeMordaunt, Marshall and Kerby** spoke **in support** of the original motion, expressing confidence in the Fiscal Note and the ability of the State Board to set a process to determine English proficiency. They felt this bill will encourage students to work hard in studying both foreign languages and English.

**Rep. Boyle** stated if the original motion passed, she hoped **Rep. Raymond** would address how the bill will increase the need for Advanced Opportunities funding.

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Motion failed by voice vote. Rep. Moon** requested to be recorded as voting **AYE**.

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:**

**Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Moon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Raymond** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 481:**

**Rep. Raymond** requested to withdraw **H 481** from Committee consideration due to time constraints.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary