

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

TIME: 8:30 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:** Rep. Shepherd

GUESTS: Tim Hill and Julie Oberle, SDE; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office; Tracie Bent, OSBE; Rob Winslow, IASA

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2020 and March 9, 2020 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 27967: **Greg Wilson**, Senior Policy Advisor for Education, Governor's Office, presented **RS 27967**, which complements previous work to build out the career ladder. It strengthens and clarifies reporting requirements for professional and advanced professional performance criteria, it sets a deadline for the completion of teacher evaluation audits by the State Department of Education and it sunsets the Master Educator Premiums program. Now that the third rung of the career ladder has been built out, the Master Educator Premiums program is no longer needed. The state will net the savings from ending this program.

MOTION: **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to introduce **RS 27967**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

RS 27963: **Chairman Clow** presented **RS 27963**, which deals with the confusion in state law about who has responsibility for information services. He reviewed the formation of the State Department of Education (SDE) and how its duties have changed over time. The Technology Services Unit in SDE oversees all K-12 technology, including managing Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE) data from districts. The proposed legislation establishes that SDE duties shall include management of the ISEE system.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to introduce **RS 27963**. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

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

S 1279: **Sen. Lent** presented **S 1279**, which is aimed at expanding accountability. He stated school leadership is second only to classroom instruction in affecting student achievement. School boards must currently conduct an annual written evaluation on their superintendent, but the boards may not be effectively evaluating senior executives on student achievement metrics. The bill provides three areas of focus to measure the academic health of the school district: third grade ISAT Reading scores, eighth grade ISAT Math scores and the high school graduation rate. It also suggests five other areas a district can focus on. It is meant to provide a basic framework school boards can use and build on, when conducting their superintendent evaluation.

Vice Chairman Kerby said this bill will help school boards focus on the goals that really need to happen, while still allowing evaluation of other goals. He said this will offer stability because superintendents will know their job is to meet the three basic goals.

Sen. Lent agreed, saying the bill is meant to simplify the focus of school boards and properly define success.

Rob Winslow, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators; and **Harold Ott**, Director, Idaho Rural Schools, spoke **in support** of the bill. They said a never ending focus on student achievement makes a difference.

MOTION:

Rep. Marshall made a motion to send **S 1279** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Ehardt said she appreciated that the bill provides direction, without mandating behavior. She noted school board members are elected officials and should have the ability to act how they see fit.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Vice Chairman Kerby and Rep. Ehardt will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1285:

Sen. Lent presented **S 1285**, which provides training for school boards. The bill states in the first 180 days the person elected will receive training; every two years each board member will be trained on fundamentals of board governance, current issues in education and innovation and change in public education; and optional training shall be available electronically to people interested in serving on a school board. He stated elected school board members have the responsibility to be accountable, good stewards of tax dollars and make sure they have the skills to do their job.

In response to Committee questions, **Sen. Lent** said the training is not meant to shut down new board members, but help them bring effective change without disrupting the board. There are no repercussions for members who do not attend training within 180 days. He noted districts are allocated money each year for training, but less than 30% of the funds are used. The bill's purpose is not to drive specific training or penalties, but to increase training.

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, explained how the training funding can currently be used.

Rep. Raymond said he has heard concerns about school boards being indoctrinated because the State Board of Education does the training.

Rep. Moon stated this should be optional and left to the autonomy of each board.

Rep. Goesling stated his **support** for the bill and noted the training continues to evolve and become more accessible.

Quinn Perry, Policy and Government Affairs Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) said ISBA has a neutral position on the bill. She stressed that ISBA believes training makes a board incredibly effective and they constantly reevaluate the types of training offered. A concern is that adding training to a volunteer position will make it harder to recruit board members, but she noted they are flooded with requests for training after board elections. She noted the vast majority of school boards receive some type of training and while ISBA conducts a majority of it, they are not the only trainers.

MOTION:

Rep. Berch made a motion to send **S 1285** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He stated if you want to be a school board member, you need to be willing to learn the job and training is critical for this. If a board member does not attend the training, voters will have an opportunity to remember that.

Rep. DeMordaunt stated she was reluctantly **in opposition** to the motion. She spoke against mandating training within a specific time frame. By already allocating money for training, the legislature is expressing confidence that boards will seek out the training they need.

Vice Chairman Kerby spoke **in support**, noting the bill is written very generally, so each board can individualize it to the training they want. He noted school boards frequently violate open meeting laws, which can easily be fixed through training.

Rep. Wisniewski stated if the wording was changed to indicate training was highly recommended, but not mandatory, he could support the bill.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon and Wisniewski requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Goesling** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary