

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 08, 2024

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

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chair Yamamoto** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**H 451:** **Rep. Galaviz** presented **H 451** which would allow multilingual students in grades K-3 an exemption from Idaho Reading Indicator for literacy - the state test for literacy. The indicator is mandatory for all Idaho public schools in fall and spring for K-3. The exemption would apply to students who have not been enrolled in U.S. schools for more than two years, and scored less than a two on the English Language Proficiency Assessment. If another language besides English is spoken in the home, a screener is prompted to indicate 6 levels of reading, talking, listening and writing. Each local school district has various language instruction programs to help students who receive the exemption. The data without this proposed legislation will not be accurate for educators.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Galaviz** said there is potential for financial impact. 50% of funds are provided up front, the other half is distributed based on proficiency from the state test. Rep. Galaviz also explained there are state dollars available based on student population. Rep. Galaviz clarified that the strike-outs in the bill were to clean up two outdated assessments that are no longer conducted. As to whether parents are included in any of this, Rep. Galaviz said assessments are communicated to all parents at the local district level. Parents will also be notified if their children are exempt. She stated parents have the right to not allow their children to take the test. Rep. Galaviz responded that they will not need to sit for an exam that they don't understand, it will reduce their stress, as well as prevent false-negatives in reports for schools, and the child will then get the tailored instruction they need.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to send **H 451** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Galaviz** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Debbie Critchfield**, Superintendent of Public Education for the State Department of Education introduced the Idaho Teacher of the Year, **Trent VanLeuven**, and explained the selection process to the committee.

**Trent VanLeuven**, agri-science instructor at Mackay High School, presented on how to develop talent pipelines and talent scouts, and their importance. He also discussed partnerships with Idaho colleges, and also discussed the dual credit program benefits. He mentioned the importance of professional volunteers working with students.

In response to a committee question, **Trent VanLeuven** would be willing to present information about the Mackay High School fish lab to the committee.

**RS 31016C1:** **Sen. Den Hartog** presented **RS 31016C1**, Charter School Revolving Loan Fund. This is a technical correction to last year's legislation - IHFA cannot directly draw down funds from the revolving loan fund, this allows the State Treasurer to direct the funds from the public charter school revolving loan fund to be withdrawn and distributed to the school after certification from IHFA. This will make sure the flow of the funds is appropriated and can be directed.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 31016C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

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Representative Yamamoto  
Chair

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Monica Anderson  
Secretary