

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017

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

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc (Tway), McCrostie, Toone

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Harold Ott, ISBA & IASA; Finia Dinh, STEM Action; Steph Lee, STEM Action; Angela Hemingway, STEM Action; Erica Compton, STEM Action; Crispin Gravatt, STEM Action; Arald Sopot, STEM Action; Rod Gramer, Idaho Business for Education; Jayson Ronk, Micron; Matt Freeman, Board of Education; Emma Atchley, Board of Education; Vikki Reynolds, Advance Ed Idaho; Misty Swanson, ISBA; Dale Kleinhert, NWAC/Advanced

**Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.

**H 70:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **H 70** relating to STEM designation for public schools. She explained that STEM designation requires no funding from the State, completely voluntary, and flexible. STEM's intent is to encourage and support the students, teachers, and schools, and is especially beneficial for rural schools. Idaho public schools can apply to STEM for eligibility by meeting certain criteria through evaluations, and when accepted the school will receive grant funding and a five year certificate showing they have met the best practices through STEM.

**Angela Hemingway**, Director of STEM Action Center, testified **in support of H 70**. She explained the STEM committee represents all areas of Idaho, and noted that rural Idaho with populations of minorities and low income students will, along with the families and community, benefit from STEM.

**Rod Gramer**, Idaho Business for Education, testified **in support of H 70**. He stated there are a large amount of technical jobs in Idaho, but Idaho has a lack of skilled employees for those jobs. STEM provides the necessary criteria for students to ultimately fill those technical industry positions. STEM designated schools will assure student readiness with technical abilities.

**Jason Ronk**, Micron, testified **in support of H 70**. He stated that Micron is a strong advocate of STEM as it utilizes project based learning techniques that supports Idaho industry through students that are job-ready employees.

**Matt Freeman**, Director State Board of Education, testified **in support of H 70**. He explained the State Board of Education worked as partners with the STEM board to develop this legislation, and it has a standard of quality that will impact all of Idaho.

**Dale Kleinert**, Director AdvanED Idaho, testified **in support of H 70**. He explained that AdvanED has been working with STEM and the State Board of Education in the accreditation process since July 2016.

**Rep. DeMordaunt** explained there is a sense of urgency for this legislation so that STEM can be a conduit for students as future employees for Idaho industry. The seal of STEM designation will represent excellent student inner discipline, and family and community support and confidence. The designation will be good for five years.

- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman McDonald** made a motion to send **H 70** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- RS 25257:** **Rep. Malek** presented **RS 25257** relating to the provision of technical and other assistance for all connectivity for Idaho's school district. The program is called EORC(Education Opportunity Resource Committee). He explained how important EORC is in bringing connectivity throughout Idaho as it advises and gives recommendations to the Department of Education.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Clow** made a motion to introduce **RS 25257. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Emma Atchley**, President State Board of Education, presented K-12 Governor's Task Force and State Board of Education Update. She explained Idaho and Rhode Island are the only two states who have education governance with a single governing board. The State Board of Education's mission is intertwining Policy, Advocacy, and Leadership. The Idaho State Board of Education has direct links to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, Office of the State Board of Education, Public Charter School Commission, Public Schools, and all Idaho Universities and Colleges. There are currently 371,784 students enrolled in public elementary, secondary, postsecondary, and charter schools.
- Ms. Atchley** stated the FY 2018 priorities are the Task Force for Improving Education, Idaho's Go On rate and strategies for improvement, Initiatives from the Governor and the Board, and Education as an Economic Imperative. The Task Force Initiatives are Career Ladder, Professional Development, Technology, Advanced Opportunities, and College & Career. She explained that going on to college is crucial for our Idaho students and is their main focus. In the 2015-2016 school year there was an increase of college bound students who stayed in Idaho but there was still 54% of graduating students that chose not to go on to college. If students do not enroll in the fall after high school graduation there is a significant amount that are never going to go to college. Idaho now ranks third in postsecondary enrollment growth, showing a marked improvement from previous years. The strategies to improve "Go On" rates are streamlining college admission and application processes, holding down cost of college, and increasing state financial aid. They have launched the online application process with the web page "Nextsteps.idaho.gov" as a resource portal for students and parents giving direct admission, and automatic enrollment options to all Idaho's universities and colleges. Idaho has the lowest tuition and fee increases in almost 30 years and this helps immensely with the cost barrier some students have.
- Ms. Atchley** explained they are increasing access and affordability with advanced opportunities, a new community college in Eastern Idaho, and an adult degree completion scholarship. The access to statewide dual credit in public schools has benefitted students by decreasing the amount of tuition they must pay when going on to postsecondary education which increases the percentage that will go on. The dual credit option also causes the younger student to think about the possibility of college when they have not been encouraged or supported with that idea by their families. The new Eastern Idaho Community College will help the demand for college access in the Bonneville County area. In January 2017 the State Board approved the measure for the community college, and in May it will be put on the ballot. The Adult Postsecondary Completion Scholarship will incent adult students to complete a certificate or degree with academic financial eligibility for use at any Idaho public or private higher education institution who are enrolled at least part-time.

**Ms. Atchley** explained the State Board supports the Governor's funding for higher education building projects. Those include, BSU's center for Materials Science Building, ISU's Gale Life Science building remodel, U of I's Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, and the Lewis-Clark State College Career and Technical Education. The State Board of Education is vested in the general supervision of the educational institutions and public school systems because economic benefits associated with an education, especially a college degree will last an entire lifetime.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

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Representative VanOrden  
Chair

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Ann Tippetts  
Secretary