

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, February 28, 2019
- 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 (Nash), Abernathy (Nye), Berch
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
- GUESTS:** Blake Youde, Idaho Charter School Network; Steve Lambert; Tamara Baysinger, Public Charter School Commission; Tim Hill and Julie Oberle, SDE; Mike Keckler and Tracie Bent, SBOE; Chloe Howe; Paul Stark and Matt Compton, Idaho Education Association; Rob Winslow; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office
- Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Goesling** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2019, February 21, 2019 and February 22, 2019, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- S 1058:** **Rep. Boyle** presented **S 1058**, which would create a new charter school administrator certificate. This would allow charter schools to hire administrators that do not have the traditional certification required by public schools. She stated this legislation passed the House and Senate last year, but was vetoed by the governor. The new certificate requires administrators to hold a bachelor's degree, pass a criminal background check, receive training on teacher evaluation, demonstrate a charter school board of directors seeks to hire them and commits to overseeing their work, and have a minimum amount of professional experience. The professional experience requirement can be met by one or more of the following: five or more years experience administering a public charter school; a post-baccalaureate degree and minimum of five years experience in school, public, business or military administration; successful completion of a nationally recognized charter school leaders fellowship; or a minimum of five years teaching experience and a commitment from another charter school administrator to mentor the applicant for at least one year. The new certificate would be valid for five years and these administrators would be subject to oversight from the Professional Standards Commission.
- In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Boyle** stated while these administrators may not have teaching experience, they have leadership and administrative experience. They will be able to utilize colleagues who have extensive education experience and the charter school's board will still have ultimate authority and responsibility for the administrator. She stated charter schools will still be able to hire candidates with the traditional certification if that person best fits the needs of their school.

Blake Youde, on behalf of Idaho Charter School Network, spoke **in support** of the bill. He stated it will provide options for local boards to choose the administrator who best fits their school. He noted other states do not require charter school administrators to hold a traditional certificate, so Idaho's current law makes it difficult for out-of-state individuals to be hired. He stated there was an effort to address this issue through an administrative rule, but the proposed alternative pathway to certification relied on someone holding a certificate from another state to begin with.

Paul Stark, General Counsel, Idaho Education Association, spoke **in opposition** to the bill. He stated this lowers the bar to become an administrator and noted three problem areas: ethics training is not required, "nationally recognized charter school leaders fellowship" is undefined, and there is nothing to limit an individual from getting this certificate for a charter school position and then transferring to a traditional public school. He stated there are already alternative routes for administrators to earn this certificate.

Steve Lambert, Treasure Valley Classical Academy, spoke **in support** of the bill and stated it applies directly to him. He served as a charter school teacher and administrator in Georgia, which does not require certification for these positions, but has been unable to be hired in Idaho.

Rob Winslow, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), spoke **in opposition**. He stated IASA supports the current alternative route to certification, which is based on holding a teaching certificate. He noted administrators oversee teacher evaluations, legal and ethical training, school finance, special education and community engagement. He stated Idaho is already creative in helping people become teachers and administrators.

Tamara Baysinger, Director, Public Charter School Commission, spoke **in opposition**. She stated the Commission's decision boiled down to what is best for kids and noted individuals in an administrative role dramatically impact kids. She stated the Commission values the training and experience of those who have earned administrator certificates and desires additional training for charter school administrators.

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, discussed the attempt to address this issue through the negotiated rulemaking process. She stated the stakeholders came to a consensus, with the exception of the Charter School Network (CSN). The CSN representative felt there were still too many requirements for candidates to meet.

Mike Keckler, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education, spoke **in opposition**. He noted the State Board voted unanimously against the legislation. He expressed concern the standalone certificate for charter school administrators bypasses state standards, which are developed by local educators.

Rep. DeMordaunt noted state code designates ultimate financial, legal and student achievement responsibility to a charter school's board, who in turn, bear complete responsibility for the hiring, evaluation and retention of school administrators.

Rep. Boyle was recognized to close testimony on **S 1058**. She stated the legislation does not lower standards; it provides flexibility to innovative charter schools and follows the examples of other states with proven success.

MOTION:

Rep. Mendive made a motion to send **S 1058** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He stated charters are meant to try new things and he sees this bill as giving them the additional latitude they need.

Rep. Marshall spoke to the motion, stating as a past administrator he does not have a problem allowing charters to hire people who have a different background than his.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. Berch made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1058** for time certain, March 5, 2019. He stated he had requested an opinion from the Attorney General, which states the requirements laid out in the bill are not as rigorous as those for a traditional administrator and it remained unclear how the administrator would assess a certificated educator when they themselves are not certificated.

Rep. Ehardt spoke in support of the original motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

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

Reps. Berch, Kerby and Goesling spoke in opposition to the original motion.

Reps. DeMordaunt and Boyle spoke in support of the original motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

Roll call vote on the original motion was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 5 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Clow, Reps. Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Raymond and Wisniewski. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Vice Chairman Kerby, Reps. Goesling, Nash, Nye and Berch. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary