

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Thursday, March 14, 2019
- TIME:** 2:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 2:02 p.m.
- MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to approve the Minutes of February 7, 2019. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2019. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- Senator Lent** moved to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2019. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- INFORMATION SESSION:** **Chairman Mortimer** said today they will be discussing some of the questions posed to the Committee regarding the draft of the Public Schools Funding Formula. He welcomed Michael Griffiths, Senior Finance Analyst, Education Commission of the States, Robyn Lockett, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Office (LSO), Elizabeth Bowen, Senior Legislative Research Analyst, LSO, Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy, State Department of Education (SDE), and Tim Hill, Associate Deputy Superintendent of Finance, SDE. He said they are here to address any questions from the Committee.
- Chairman Mortimer** set forth the parameters for the information session and welcomed Senator Den Hartog to lead the discussion.
- PRESENTATION:** **Senator Den Hartog** thanked Committee members, the interim committee, and the stakeholders for giving their time and expertise to help in the drafting process.
- Chairman Mortimer** said the definitions that will be reviewed today in the proposed legislation are from collaborative work with the SDE and SBE.
- Ms. Bent** reviewed for the Committee the definition of economically disadvantaged and explained the four areas of which a student could qualify if they are in the existing programs at the State and Federal level. She said typically students are identified at the beginning of the school year but identification can happen anytime during the school year.
- Senator Den Hartog** clarified the definitions of the Local Education Agency (LEA) and Local Salary Schedule in the proposed legislation. She explained the applicability of the specific section and how it aligns with Idaho Code. Senator Den Hartog then explained the definitions of remote schools, special education, hold harmless, and continuous improvement plan. She asked Ms. Lockett to address Student Based Foundation Funding.

**Ms. Lockett** explained to the Committee, by using the funding formula tool, how the per student base amount is determined. She said each student is equal to one unweighted count. She noted that number can be adjusted upward if the student qualifies for some of the other weights. **Ms. Lockett** walked the Committee through each of the weighted line items in the funding formula tool. She demonstrated how the model can adjust accordingly with the insertion of a variety of weight scenarios.

**Mr. Griffith** demonstrated for the Committee through the budget tool how the weights adjusted as other specific weights are determined. He stated using the tool projects future funding estimations.

**Mr. Hill** explained how the funding is allocated at six different times to school districts and detailed the specific calculations used to determine the correct amounts.

**DISCUSSION:** Committee members asked questions regarding special education formulation, salary schedules, Career Ladder, hold harmless calculations, Career Technical Education, and enrollment formulas. All questions were answered to the satisfaction of the Senators.

**RECORDING LINK:** To hear the complete Public School Funding Formula information session, go to; <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary