

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, January 23, 2020
- TIME:** 3:00 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 Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Sherri Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Idaho State Department of Education (Department), opened with an explanation of the selection of the Teacher of the Year award. She introduced this year's Teacher of the Year, Stacie Lawler of Timberlake Junior High, and detailed her achievements.
- Ms. Lawler** shared the stories of her son's and daughter's journeys with mental health. She expressed her support for students' access to mental health care. She shared her own story of teaching her students about mental health and fighting the stigma of mental health within her community. **Ms. Lawler** responded to Committee questions that Idaho schools are making strides in fighting the stigma around mental health.
- PRESENTATION:** **Superintendent Ybarra** shared the Department's goals for the past year and their achievements in relation to these goals. In addition, she provided a handout to the Committee (see Attachment 1). These achievements included breakfast programs, greater service to severely cognitively disabled students, student safety programs, curriculum support, assessment review, and many others.
- PRESENTATION:** **Karlynn Laraway**, Director of Assessment and Accountability for the Department, opened with a brief explanation of the different methods of student assessment (see Attachment 2) before sharing Idaho student assessment results for the past school year. **Ms. Laraway** explained the differences between the results and uses of the different standardized assessments in the state. She shared the results of standardized tests in the state. **Ms. Laraway** explained how Idaho students' performance measures up to that of other states. She concluded with an overview of graduation rates and student, parent, and staff engagement rates. **Ms. Laraway** responded to Committee questions that many school districts use the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) as a marker for student achievement.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Eric Studebaker**, Director of Student Engagement and Safety Coordination for the Department, opened with a comparison of Idaho's Advanced Opportunities program to other states' programs (see Attachments 3 & 4). He then shared a breakdown of student use of and budget utilization in the Advanced Opportunities Program. He went on to demonstrate the impact of dual credit enrollment on college enrollment. **Dr. Studebaker** also shared the success of the workforce training program. **Dr. Studebaker** responded to Committee questions that the Department has not looked at workforce training cost projections, and that students enrolled in dual credits and workforce training received credit if they earned a D or higher letter grade.

ADJOURNED There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary