

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Den Hartog
- 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 3:05 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Dr. Tina Polishchuk**, Program Manager of the Idaho Job Corps Demonstration Project (Project), introduced her staff and recognized the students of the project who were listening to the Committee meeting remotely (see Attachment 1). She explained that the purpose of the Project is to help young people ages 16-24 to obtain the skills and certifications they need to obtain a job with a livable wage. She went on that the Project works to specifically serve Idaho residents (see Attachment 2). **Dr. Polishchuk** shared the breakdown of the funds and resources of the Project. She also shared the benefits of the Project, including providing students with housing, meals, medical care, daycare services, life coaching, mental health counseling, and a bi-weekly stipend for attending all classes and activities. She went on to tell the Committee about the requirements of students in the program, including weekly academic progress, weekly meetings with a case manager, two and a half hours of physical fitness weekly, and three hours of community service weekly. **Dr. Polishchuk** concluded with stories about the culture, community, and students of the Project.
- DISCUSSION:** In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Polishchuck** told the Committee that all of the costs of the Project are covered by their federal grant, that students' case managers help them form plans for the teachers, and that the Project recruits students by contacting high school counselors, publishing advertisements in newspapers and on social media, and has a presence at career fairs.
- PRESENTATION:** **Herman Roberts**, State President of the Idaho FFA Association (FFA), introduced the Idaho FFA state officer team.
- Cassidy Plum**, State Secretary of Idaho FFA, thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak. She explained FFA's model for success, which includes experiential agricultural learning, Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), and FFA. She went on to explain the benefits of each of these components.
- Sydney Plum**, State Reporter of Idaho FFA, told the Committee that the state has a membership of over 5,300 members. She went on that Idaho has over 95 chapters, and shared the ongoing developments in Idaho FFA. This included new leadership conferences and other new events.

Katie Hettinga, State Treasurer of Idaho FFA, shared the leadership opportunities that Idaho FFA members have access to, including agricultural expositions and the opportunity to share information between FFA members and consumers in their communities. She invited the Committee to attend the Idaho FFA State Leadership Conference in Twin Falls in April.

S 1329

Senator Lent presented **S 1329** and told the Committee that the bill had been developed with the input of education professionals throughout the state. He went on that the bill identifies a formula to place Career Technical Education (CTE) industry professionals on the career ladder when they begin careers as CTE instructors and streamlines a path for industry professionals to become certified teachers. **Senator Lent** went on to explain the costs of the bill, including regional instructor mentors and a one-time cost to boost recently teaching-certified industry professionals to an appropriate salary on the career ladder.

TESTIMONY:

Karen Echeverria, Executive Director of the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), stood to testify in support of **S 1329**. She went on that many schools had to supplement new instructors' income with funds from levies in order to entice them to stay.

Terry Ryan, Board Chair of Idaho Charter School Network (ICSN) and CEO of Bluum, stood to testify in support of the bill and told the Committee that **S 1329** will allow CTE programs to grow and improve.

Paul Stark, General Counsel at Idaho Education Association (IEA), stood to testify in opposition to the bill. He told the Committee that while much of the bill is appreciated by IEA, the IEA doesn't believe that CTE teachers should be given stipends when no other teachers receive stipends. He went on that CTE instructors should not uniquely receive accelerated placement on the career ladder, and asked that the bill be amended to remove provisions uniquely benefiting CTE instructors.

John Eaton, Vice President of Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI), stood to testify in support of **S 1329** and told the Committee that IACI is focused on CTE and workforce development issues.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Woodward asked who made the decision of where to place new CTE instructors on the career ladder. **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer for the State Board of Education (Board), responded that the placement would be based on showing industry experience and that the State Department of Education (Department) would place instructors on the career ladder based on information provided by the school district. She went on that the placement on the career ladder would be similar to teachers coming into Idaho from other states.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Thayne moved to send **S 1329** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Senator Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary