

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 17, 2022

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Lent, Senators Den Hartog, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senators Crabtree, Woodward, and Blair (Johnson)

**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 Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Thayn** introduced Mr. Layne McInnelly, Idaho Education Association (IEA) president.

**Mr. McInnelly's** presentation included Governor Little's recommendations for which there is support among Idaho's educators.

**Mr. McInnelly** listed several actions that Idaho students deserve and elaborated on each, they were:

- Appropriate class sizes for all grade levels;
- Fully funded all-day kindergarten for all Idaho schools;
- Highly qualified, certified educators in every classroom;
- More school counselors and mental health professionals;
- Good facilities and technology regardless of school location; and
- More support staff and resources.

After two of the most difficult years ever faced by the education profession, the legislature has a once in a millennia opportunity to resolve many of these problems.

**Mr. McInnelly** closed his presentation by stating that schools are central to our communities. The Idaho Constitution demands we establish and maintain a general, uniform, and thorough system of public, free common schools. He added that the table is set for us to meet that obligation and provide every student, regardless of their zipcode, the highest standard of education possible.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Lent, who presided over the rules discussion.

**RULES:** **Vice Chairman Lent** introduced Ms. Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Office of the State Board of Education, who explained the process for pending rules and pending fee rules. Some of the rules have been removed due to duplication or statutory changes. No action was taken.

**RS 29170** **Chairman Thayn** presented **RS 29170** and said this legislation sets up a structure where a greater degree of innovation can occur between teachers, students, and parents by focusing upon learning rather than seat time. Students that demonstrate they are self-directed learners can qualify for added flexibility. There is no fiscal impact to the state general fund nor any impact upon local school district budgets.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 29170** to print. **Senator Cook** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Senator Lent passed the gavel to Chairman Thayn.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

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Senator Thayn  
Chair

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Ann Yanak  
Secretary

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Juanita Budell  
Majority Staff Assistant