

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 22, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Lent, Senators Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Blair (Johnson), Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

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

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Cook** moved to approve the Minutes of January 26, 2022. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Lent** moved to approve the Minutes of February 7, 2022. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Idaho FFA Association, FFA State Officers** provided a brief history including Future Farmer's of America (FFA's) establishment in 1928, and now with ninety-seven chapters in Idaho and still growing. Other members of FFA described experiences in the organization, including the growing diversity of agriculture business. Today's FFA organization includes scientist and engineers, not just farmers. The members are taking what they are learning through a supervised agricultural experience, which is a hands on activity outside of the classroom. **Senator Blair** asked if any of the members will be going into a field of agriculture study because of FFA. Several of the FFA members stated that they would be pursuing an Agriculture Degree. **Chairman Thayn** inquired what percentage of students are engaged and knew where they were going. It was stated that a high percentage of students did not have a trajectory, however being a FFA member can help to excel you forward into programs and help find a career. The organization has a unique opportunity to learn about different agricultural industries and furthers their education.

H 533 **Representative Clow** introduced **H 533** which is relating to the Master Educator Premium (MEP). The MEP program started in 2015 with the very first career ladder. **Representative Clow** stated that the teachers had to have eight years in education and very good evaluations to qualify for the premium. The next steps included applying through the State Board of Education (SBOE), and presenting artifacts and a history of their teaching. Once qualified a teacher would go through a three year period of getting \$4,000 dollars of additional appropriation. He stated that within a few years of the program's start, some of the teachers would pursue career advancement, and become a principal or vice-principal of a school. These educators were no longer on the career ladder because they were now on a different section of code. This piece of legislation is saying that a teacher that qualified for MEP and went through all the steps can continue to receive the appropriation as long as they are still in Idaho. **Representative Clow** stated that there are roughly 23 identified teachers with about 29 premiums remaining that haven't been paid out because the teacher transitioned to a principal or vice-principal role. The fiscal note states that there's no additional money that

hasn't already been budgeted that would be paid out last year for the year before. **Nancy Jones**, Twin Falls School District testified in **support of H 533** because of her change in position to a principal role, which disqualified her from receiving the last two installments of her premium.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 533** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

INTRODUCTION: The Committee welcomed Katelyn Berry as the new page for the Senate Education Committee.
Senator Cook asked what future plans Ms. Berry has. **Ms. Berry** stated that she would like to join the National Guard and attend Boise State University.
Senator Lent asked what Ms. Berry's perspective is for knowing what they want to do as they go through high school and graduate. **Ms. Berry** stated that opportunities are available through career counseling and technical education centers.
Senator Den Hartog commented that thinking about all the problems in the world and thinking about how you want to impact this instead of figuring out a specific career can open a lot of opportunities.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Katy Morden
Secretary