

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 22, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Semmelroth

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 Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

PRESENTATION: The PLC Process: Driving Student Achievement. Jason Lords, Director of Instruction and Learning, Bonneville Joint School District 93, presented to the Committee about the positive impact of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in the district (Attachment). The goal of PLC was to achieve high levels of learning for all students. He explained that PLC was an ongoing collaborative process among teachers to identify essential learning standards, assess student achievement relative to those standards, and to evaluate what worked and areas that needed improvement. **Mr. Lords** thanked the Committee for investment in teacher professional development and literacy funding.

DISCUSSION: There was interest as to why 6th grade math scores were low and what the district was doing to address this (Attachment 1, p. 15). **Dr. Scott Woolstenhulme**, Superintendent, Bonneville Joint School District 93, responded. **Dr. Woolstenhulme** explained that math proficiency continued to be an area of focus for the district. He questioned whether ISAT Assessment scores truly reflected student learning. Other formative assessments used in classrooms and online showed different results at times. **Dr. Woolstenhulme** shared about the effect of staff turnover in the district. Math was an area of high teacher turnover which affected student outcomes in that subject. He spoke about the importance of having committed and well-trained staff to help the district realize its goal of having all students achieve at high levels. **Dr. Woolstenhulme** explained that many factors affected test results including the type of test administered, the population of test takers, and the interpretation of test results themselves. **Dr. Woolstenhulme** also addressed the issue of student behavioral challenges in schools.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lisa Stein
Secretary