

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 422: **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 422**, proposed legislation regarding Public Charter Schools. **Alex Adams**, Administrator, Division of Financial Management, spoke about the need to update Charter School statute. He discussed the balance of accountability and earned autonomy, performance certificate reviews and providing support to Charter Schools. He said **H 422** de-clutters language, fixes cross references, and he explained the application of the law concerning Charter Schools.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Adams** spoke about the authorizers fund, rules and provisions, and the application process of education service providers.

Jacob Smith and **Alan Reed**, Charter School Commission and **Tom LeClaire**, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families, spoke **in support** of **H 422**. They said this bill supports families, allows schools to be more efficient, and spoke about collaboration and education service providers.

Blake Youde and **Terry Ryan**, Idaho Charter School Network, and **Jon Wood** spoke about negotiations and collaboration. They spoke **in support** of **H 422** and said this bill provides efficiency and more resources for the growing population. **Janet Cox**, Idaho Home Learning Academy, also supports **H 422** and asked committee members to consider changing growth limits.

Monica White, Elevate Academy, and **Andy Johnson**, spoke **in support** of **H 422**, and emphasized accountability, high standards, and teacher certification. **Kelly Trudeau** also supports **H 422** and said the landscape has changed and this bill allows for updates.

Dr. Victoria Young and **Dr. Jean Henscheid** spoke **in opposition** of **H 422**. Dr. Young spoke about laws and rules which govern the replication of Charter Schools, commission structure and public input. Dr. Henscheid voiced concerns over state leadership not being involved.

Brandon Durst and **Nicole Garnett**, Professor, Notre Dame University, spoke **in opposition** of **H 422**, and said public funds should not be withheld from private schools.

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Education, State Department of Education, and **Alex Adams** spoke about fostering and providing support in the creation and language of the bill.

MOTION: **Vice Chair McCann** made a motion to send **H 422** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Berch spoke in **opposition** of the motion, stating his concern over multiple charters under the Local Education Agency and raised questions about funding.

During discussion on the motion, committee members spoke in **support** of the motion. They spoke about collaboration, accountability, support for Charter Schools, and innovation. Committee members discussed the applicability of the Blaine Amendment. They said all involved parties had to make compromises in the writing of this legislation and said this would simplify the charter process.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chair Yamamoto** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 422** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 15 AYE, 1 NAY, 1 absent/excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Yamamoto, McCann, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Galaviz, and Mathias. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Rep. Berch. Rep. Boyle** was absent/excused. **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary