

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 01, 2024

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives 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 8:00 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 27, and 28, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 595: **Rep. Petzke** presented **H 595**, legislation regarding outcome-based funding. He said this bill creates a formula for outcome-based funding based on student success. He spoke about math proficiency and growth, graduation rates and post-secondary achievements. He explained a section about the legislative review process.

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, spoke about modernizing school funding and aligning outcomes to expectations. She described funding initiatives for math, graduation, and career readiness, and explained the statewide accountability plan and support for school districts.

Trent Van Leuven, Idaho Teacher of the Year, **Pam Kantack**, Shelley School District, and **Beverly Hott**, Idaho Falls School District, testified **in support of H 595**. They spoke about Career Technical Education, workforce readiness, and said this legislation would be a good incentive for teachers.

Committee members discussed data driven instruction, extra support for non-english speaking students, future funding, and matrix monitoring.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to send **H 595** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members voiced concern about discretionary funds distribution.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chair Yamamoto** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 595** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Petzke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1274: **Rep. Petzke** presented **S 1274**, legislation regarding diversity statement prohibition. He spoke about diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), and state policy regarding hiring and admission decisions.

Grace Howat, Idaho Family Policy Center, testified **in support of S 1274**. She spoke about DEI and group characteristics vs. merit.

Committee members spoke about diversity groups and views, preferential treatment, and hiring based on experience, not specific ideology. They mentioned statutory support.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to send **S 1274** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members spoke about racial minorities who overcome barriers, discrimination, and efforts to undo historical discrimination.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chair Yamamoto** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1274** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Berch, Mathias, and Galaviz** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Petzke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 663: **Rep. Green** presented **H 663**, legislation regarding school internet use. She said this bill would allow limited access to websites and material on devices owned by schools, including WIFI. She said policy prohibiting personal devices would be left up to local school board of trustees.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **H 663** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Green** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 684: **Rep. Healey** presented **H 684**, legislation regarding behavioral telehealth in schools. She said this bill would help students obtain counseling while limiting time away from school. She explained schools do not have any rights or access to the student or counselor, they only provide a safe and secure room for the student during telehealth appointments.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **H 684** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Healey** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chair Yamamoto put the committee at ease at 9:41 am.

Chair Yamamoto reconvened the meeting at 9:51 am.

Chair Yamamoto spoke about educational budget recommendations which will be presented to JFAC.

Ryan Cantrell, Deputy Superintendent, State Department of Education (SDE), explained educational budget requests for SDE. He spoke about funding distribution and budget cut ramifications. He detailed the base budget and priorities yet to be funded.

In answer to committee questions, **Gideon Tolman**, Chief Financial Officer, SDE, spoke about appropriated and discretionary funds, and Higher Education funding.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary