

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 18, 2016

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Nonini, Patrick, Souza, Den Hartog, Anthon, Buckner-Webb and Ward-Engelking

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 Mortimer** convened the Senate Education Committee (Committee) at 3:08 p.m. He started the meeting by reading the poem "Because He Lived" by Edgar A. Guest.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1510 State Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Sherri Ybarra** introduced Special Assistant Tim Corder to present the rules. She also introduced the Director of Teacher Certification and Professional Standards, Lisa Colon, and the Director of Special Education, State Department of Education (SDE), Dr. Charlie Silva.

Tim Corder handed out a summary page of **Docket No 08-0203-1510** (attachment 1). **Mr. Corder** explained that they desired the Committee to codify what has been in practice, specifically the insertion of the words "physical education" under sub 01 on page 101. He clarified that this was an oversight, and the SDE already complies with the standards.

MOTION: **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to adopt **Docket No. 08-0203-1510**. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 08-0202-1504 Lisa Colon, Director of Teacher Certification and Professional Standards for the SDE, presented the a revised rule for **Docket No. 08-0202-1504**. She guided the Committee through the updates. She handed out a summary page with background and information on the teaching standards of the SDE (attachment 2). She explained how and when the standards are updated via the standards review.

Ms. Colon specified that the Professional Standards Commission adopts the standards for preparation programs. The Idaho Teaching Standards were adopted in 2012. There are specific standards for teachers of different subject matter. In **Docket No. 08-0202-1504**, the rules in question apply to universities and colleges in Idaho. All schools of higher education in Idaho must comply with these standards.

Ms. Colon directed the Committee to page 33 concerning standards for communication arts teachers. She walked the Committee through the revisions.

Ms. Colon explained that the revisions, consisting of omissions and additions, are due to reorganization to match the Idaho Teaching Standards of 2012. She added that on page 34 the Committee would see updates to knowledge and performance standards. She clarified that there is a difference between the reorganization of the standards and changes to knowledge and performance areas. Candidates for teaching positions are deemed qualified by the specific knowledge and performance areas relating to their studies.

Chairman Mortimer asked if the revised standards, one through nine, are the same in different areas of study throughout the document. **Ms. Colon** answered in the affirmative. She explained that the revision pattern stays the same for all the different subject areas. She outlined which subjects were changed.

- Communication Arts
- Journalism
- Speech and Debate
- Blended Early Childhood Education
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Health
- Physical Education
- Social Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- American Government/Political Science
- History
- Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Special Education for students who are deaf or hard of hearing
- School Psychologists
- School Social Workers

Chairman Mortimer asked about page 38, section 13, the use of the word "democracy" rather than a more specific term in reference to government. **Ms. Colon** explained that it was decided by content experts in standards revisions. **Chairman Mortimer** expressed his belief that the wording is incorrect. **Dr. Pete Koehler**, Chief Deputy Superintendent, SDE responded as a historian and stated that the U.S. is a democratic republic and explained why the term "democracy" is used; it means the people have a voice in the election of their government.

Senator Patrick referenced page 34, line 8, and asked about the potential of teacher bias, specifically the interpretation of news sources. **Dr. Koeler** indicated there are biases, but the goal is to never put a bias in the lesson. He then explained the process of determining which concepts are taught. That is the responsibility of the administration of the schools. **Senator Patrick** stated that lessons are open to interpretation. He wondered if at the university level, disgruntled parents were complaining to the right people. **Dr. Koeler** felt it was more important to focus on the high school/middle school level. In those levels, the goal is to have no bias in the classroom.

Senator Nonini asked if this rule and new language are not adopted, what are the ramifications? **Ms. Colon** answered that the standards would be implemented as they are now.

Vice Chairman Thayne referenced Idaho Standards for blended early education on page 55. He pointed out that it would be important to define what "play" is.

Chairman Mortimer asked that page 93, item 4, be looked at because of a typo that mentioned the Common Core instead of Idaho State Standards. **Ms. Colon** agreed that it was a mistake and it will be updated. **Chairman Mortimer** pointed out a standard on page 186 and asked if the word choice "power" should be changed to "authority," or another word. **Ms. Colon** said the word "power" was in the original standards and these comments from the Committee will be brought back to Standards.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked if a content specialist would be able to decipher what might appear to be nebulous word choice. **Ms. Colon** confirmed that when a person has that knowledge of a particular content area, it is much easier to understand.

Chairman Mortimer noted a typo on page 265, item 14; the word "the" was missing. He complimented the standards committee. He noticed many good things concerning working with parents. He reaffirmed that the quality of the standards were excellent.

Senator Patrick thanked the SDE for the format of the rules and reference because it was easy to follow.

MOTION: **Chairman Mortimer** to accept **Docket No. 08-0202-1504**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1508 **Dr. Charlie Silva**, Director of Special Education, SDE, presented **Docket No. 08-0203-1508** and a summary handout to the Committee (see attachment 3). It is a revised rule to bring SDE in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

MOTION: **Senator Souza** moved to accept **Docket No. 08-0203-1508**. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: **Vice Chairman Thayn** passed the gavel to **Chairman Mortimer**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Anna Roser
Assistant