

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 09, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Tracie Bent and Mike Keckler, State Board of Education; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office; Randy Dewey, Nampa School District; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Jonathan Gillen, West Ada School District; Eliza Walton, Conservation Voters for Idaho; Julie Oberle, Marilyn Whitney, Tim McMurtrey and Chris Campbell, SDE; Hollie Lawrence, LSO; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; April Burton, Caldwell School District

MOTION: **Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

Rep. Abernathy made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Clow turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby.**

**DOCKET NO.
08-0201-1903:** **Vice Chairman Kerby** reviewed the discussion from yesterday regarding this temporary rule. Any new school funding formula will be based on enrollment, but enrollment data is lacking. The State Board of Education wrote this rule to collect enrollment data, along with average daily attendance (ADA). This is a temporary rule that will expire at the end of the session and has no fiscal impact.

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, also reviewed the docket. Based on input received during the session, the State Board will promulgate a new rule, which will come before the Committee next year as a pending rule. The purpose this year is to allow discussion to ensure the future pending rule clearly meets legislative intent. She stated the funding for fiscal year 2020 is based on existing ADA calculations; it will take a statutory change to base funding on enrollment numbers; the State Board and State Department of Education (SDE) could use the data compiled this year to project any change in funding.

Chairman Clow noted under the existing formula, if a district averages 100% daily attendance, they receive all their funding. However, a district with 90% ADA is currently missing out on all the funding they might otherwise receive under an enrollment model.

April Burton, Chief Financial Officer, Caldwell School District, presented her experience using this temporary rule over the past year. She stated Caldwell averages 93% daily attendance, but using enrollment data moves them to 95%, which will positively increase their funding. She complimented SDE on the dashboard tool they created for districts to view their reported data.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Burton** stated her district shares students now, but must bill the other local education agency (LEA) to split the funding based on the percentage of courses in each. She stated the district is not currently funded for homeschool students who attend less than 2.5 hours per day; these students would be funded under an enrollment model. She emphasized even if funding shifts from attending to enrolled students, the district wants students to attend school and will diligently reach out to absent students. She noted a student who has been absent for eleven days prior to the enrollment data collection date is not counted. She also stated her district tracks both number of courses and minutes of coursework, but districts differ in the number of minutes per course.

Jonathan Gillen, Chief Financial Officer, West Ada School District, testified that minutes data is something the district already collects and is a consistent way to share data statewide. Under enrollment, the district will no longer have to negotiate funding for shared students, SDE will be able to do that based on minutes. He also thanked SDE for the dashboard, giving districts the ability to check their data and ensure it matches their expectations.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Gillen** stated he did not have enough information to say whether tracking enrollment by minutes or courses was more accurate. West Ada School District submitted their enrollment data last month and is beginning to examine what the fiscal impact would be of using enrollment instead of ADA.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Bent** stated the intent of the rule is to still allow students in mastery-based education to move at their own pace; this is why "course" is defined in the rule as an "amount of instructional time or [a] predetermined level of content and course outcomes."

Tim Hill, Associate Deputy Superintendent, Public School Finance, State Department of Education, testified measuring the amount of minutes is not a requirement for seat time, or to see how much time was spent in attendance, but are a reflection of the amount of coursework.

Chris Campbell, Chief Technology Officer, State Department of Education, testified about the difficulty of distributing funding based on courses, due to schedule variances across the state. He remarked it is a reality that some schools have more time in their schedule and can take more minutes to teach a standard course than others, but SDE is tracking minutes of the courses.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Hill** clarified that under current law, enrollment reporting does not affect funding. Funding would only change upon amendment of the law to change from ADA to enrollment, or with a change to a new funding formula. He noted 99% of students are full-time at one LEA, so the rule is to identify the 1% and to equitably allocate their funding among shared providers. Because of this, districts should have no incentive to inflate their course minutes. He stated minutes allow flexibility; if you measured enrollment by courses it would influence behavior or require uniformity among districts.

Vice Chairman Kerby discussed the upcoming schedule for the full Committee and the two Subcommittees.

Vice Chairman Kerby turned the gavel over to **Chairman Clow**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

Representative Kerby
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary