

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2020

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, 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** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Thayn**, who reminded the Committee that none of the rules on the agenda for the day would be voted on. He asked the Committee to listen closely to the rules and note to themselves how they planned to vote.

Vice Chairman Thayn shared the story of Palmer Galloway, a high school senior who took advanced placement, dual credit, and career technical classes.

DOCKET NO. 08-0113-1901 **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer of the State Board of Education (Board), introduced the docket, which pertains to the Opportunity Scholarship. The new rule codifies the results of the Board's two-year trial period of the scholarship. She explained the new definitions within the rule, and explained the process required for recipients to remain eligible for the scholarship. **Ms. Bent** explained the GPA requirements for the scholarship and went on that the additional changes to the rule included the deletion of the application date, in favor of the Board's Executive Director to set a more flexible deadline. She also explained that the scholarship allows adult learner recipients to attend college on a part-time basis, and the rule sets out monetary amounts for different credit levels. The other changes to the rule included a six-credit minimum credit hour requirement, the removal of the requirement for reapplication in favor of transferring eligibility data, and further technical and continuity changes.

Ms. Bent responded to Committee questions that there is a four-year limit on how long students can receive the scholarship, with provisions for students to take a break from classes in the instance of military service or serious medical conditions, and that only adult learner recipients were required to complete a graduation plan.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-1902 **Ms. Bent** explained that the rule contained a provision that data formerly reported from school districts to the federal government would now be reported to the Idaho State Department of Education (Department). **Ms. Bent** explained that the state uses the federal definition of "chronic absenteeism." **Ms. Bent** said that she believed the data was identity-protected, and that she would confirm that with the Committee.

DOCKET NO. 08-0204-1901 **Ms. Bent** pointed out where language was added, and that the language addition was a provision that, with no negative action being taken, charter schools would remain charter schools until their certificate was renewed. **Ms. Bent** responded to a question that if the rule was rejected, the Department would pursue legislation to achieve the same end.

**DOCKET NO.
55-0103-1901**

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer State Board of Education, presented the docket pertaining to the calculation of funding for career technical schools. She distributed a handout detailing how the schools would have been funded in the 2018-19 school year under the new methodology laid out in the rule. In the new methodology, funding will not be distributed under an average daily attendance calculation, but by the basis of enrollment, by credit hours of concentrator students. **Ms. Bent** pointed out the definitions found in the rule, and went on to explain the various requirements career technical schools must meet to be eligible for this portion of funding.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Bent responded to Committee questions by detailing the process of making this rule, and assured the Committee that the Board had included school districts in the making of the rule. The Committee expressed concern that this funding was taken all from one pot and divided among the schools, and that if no more money was added, all the schools would lose funding if a new career technical school was founded.

Clay Long, Director of the Division of Career Technical Education, explained in greater detail the changes in the funding formula and agreed with the Committee that the formula encouraged the completion of a capstone project, as the funding was based on the number of students in capstone courses. He responded to Committee questions that career technical schools still had to report their average daily attendance data to their school districts, as this was how they received their base school funding. The new formula applied only to the added-cost funding for career technical schools.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel back to Chairman Mortimer.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:09 pm.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary

Bethany Johnson
Assistant Secretary