

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 16, 2020

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, and Buckner-Webb

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Ward-Engelking

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.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Debbie Critchfield**, President of the Idaho State Board of Education (Board) introduced former Senator Shawn Keough and listed some of her accomplishments.

Ms. Keough introduced herself and her husband before expressing her honor at the appointment. She shared her passion for education and support of public education, and her gratitude to the public school system. **Ms. Keough** went on to detail the benefits of access and inclusion to public schools. She concluded by expressing her excitement for the work ahead. In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Keough** stated that she looked forward to helping guide the course of public education, and that the education system will always have room for continual improvement. She also responded to Committee questions that in a rapidly-changing world, her vision is to ensure that the education system remains nimble enough to prepare students for the world after school. **Ms. Keough** shared that the Board and Legislature need to engage continually in communicating and marketing the resources that students and parents possess to ensure student success.

RS 27256 **Mike Keckler**, Chief of Communications and Legislative Affairs of the Idaho State Board of Education (Board), explained that the purpose of this RS was to eliminate the code sections establishing a fund created 37 years ago that had not been funded for over a decade.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 27256** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 27244 **Mr. Keckler** explained that the purpose of the RS was to reduce the number of publicly announced finalists for presidents of four-year secondary education institutions. The number of published finalists' names would be reduced from five to three. Because finalists' names must be published, **Mr. Keckler** explained that this change may reduce the cost of transporting candidates to campus, and may protect the privacy of candidates.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 27244** to print. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 27257 **Mr. Keckler** introduced the RS and explained that its purpose was to change the language of the code setting forth licensing exemptions for educational interpreters. The change would allow exempted educational interpreters to serve students who are not in grades K-12, but still fall under the Idaho Code definition of "school-aged."

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **RS 27257** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Sherri Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Idaho State Department of Education (Department), thanked the Committee for the opportunity to report on the state report card and expressed her pride in Idaho's education system's improvement.

Karlynn Laraway, Director of Assessment and Accountability for the Department, then showed the Committee how to navigate the Department Report Card tool, as well as the different uses and future features that the tool will have available for parents and legislators to access. She mentioned that the report card tool will help engage parents in the education system. **Ms. Laraway** responded to Committee questions that per-pupil expenditure data will be calculated by the school, broken down into state funds, federal funds, and shared resources within school districts. She then continued her presentation by sharing her excitement for the additional information that will be incorporated into the report card in the near future.

Ms. Laraway showed the Committee the Similar Schools Tool, which allows users to compare schools of similar size. The tool also allows schools to compare demographics and proficiencies in various subjects. She agreed that the tool could be improved by showing higher performing schools in certain subject areas if it was possible to protect student personal data in the process.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary

Bethany Johnson
Assistant Secretary