

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 31, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Yamamoto, McCann, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the Legislative Library.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to accept the minutes of January 25 and 26, 2022. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Kurt Liebich, President, State Board of Education, discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and praised educators response to it. President Liebich expressed his support of **Governor Little's** budget recommendation to invest in Idaho students. He acknowledged the need to revise college entrance exams and Idaho Standards Achievement Tests. He discussed the impact of the current labor shortage on higher education institutions. President Liebich expressed concern about the rapid increase of inflation and explained SBE's response. Last year SBE created their first Postsecondary Student Experience Survey to see if students felt valued, respected and a sense of belonging. He explained how the board will continue to ensure all students feel safe and their opinions respected.

In response to Committee questions, **President Liebich** discussed how SBE is supporting and has helped create different school options across the state to enable parent choice. When asked how many complaints relating to critical race theory, social emotional learning, racism or indoctrination SBE has received, President Liebich explained how they have received no documented examples from higher education institutions. He explained how complaints from the K-12 schools are dealt with at the local level. He discussed the National Equity Project and shared how SBE is open to conversations. He explained how incremental investment into education has not made the impact they had hoped.

RS 29179: **Mike Keckler**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education, introduced **RS 29179**. He discussed how the requirements of the Postsecondary Credit Scholarship are making most students ineligible. Mr. Keckler shared how **RS 29179** would take out the requirements of a merit based scholarship, allowing more students to be eligible.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Keckler** discussed how the state will match the scholarship obtained from a business or industry. He shared the requirements needed for students to apply for this scholarship.

MOTION: **Rep. Marshall** made a motion to introduce **RS 29179**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29178: **Mr. Keckler** introduced **RS 29178** and discussed the requirements for a student to receive the Armed Forces Scholarship. He shared this proposed legislation would update Section 33-4302(7) Idaho Code regarding the determination of disability of members of the Armed Forces.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Keckler** explained how **RS 29178** would complement **H 461**.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to introduce **RS 29178**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the committee adjourned at 10:07 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Elbia Christensen
Secretary