

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 15, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Boyle, Berch

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

**Chair Yamamoto** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chair Yamamoto** welcomed educators visiting for IEA Day on the Hill.

**Joni Stevenson**, Superintendent, Cascade School District, spoke about curriculum re-design and student focused instruction. After learning Cascade School District was one of the lowest performing districts in 2018, focus was placed on improving curriculum, instruction and assessment. She spoke about investing in the children and implementing change. She said things improved when the focus shifted to the student. Currently Cascade is #1 for Science Proficiency in Idaho, a Top 10 District for Math Proficiency, a Top 20 District for English Proficiency, and 2022-23 #4 IHSAA School of Excellence. She said their mission is, "Engaging every student, every day, in character development and rigorous education." She asked the committee to simplify, clarify and remember the target.

In response to committee questions, **Superintendent Stevenson** spoke about the demographics of the school district, professional development, teacher turnover, and student attendance. She expressed the importance of educating all personnel on what's important, students and their achievement. She also spoke about the impact of the School Board having trust in District operations and personnel. She said data-based decisions work and when measured, things get done.

**Chair Yamamoto** put the committee at ease at 9:44 am.

**Chair Yamamoto** reconvened the meeting at 9:45 am.

**Layne McInelly**, President, Idaho Education Association, acknowledged the committee for changes and policies. He spoke about salary improvements and school facility issues which need to be addressed. He also spoke about safety for students, mental well-being, and providing more help for students.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

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Representative Yamamoto  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary