

MINUTES
TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE
Online Learning Implementation Subcommittee

DATE: December 12, 2011
TIME: 1:00 PM
PLACE: EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andy Grover, Vice-Chair Aaron McKinnon, Spencer Barzee, Cliff Green, Michael Fornander, Mike Caldwell, Brad Patzer, Penni Cyr, John Goedde, Maria Nate.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grover.

Chairman Grover reiterated that two online classes were to be required for graduation, with one being asynchronous and the other being synchronous and that the Committee had decided to base fractional ADA on credits. Fractional ADA only applies to summer school if it was a “state paid summer course.”

The Committee discussed the idea of fractional payment to online providers in order to encourage course completion. Concerns included: quality of coursework going down as cost goes down, having a different pay structure for online vs. face-to-face and that providers will be more concerned on passing students to receive full payment instead of giving a rigorous course in which students learn.

The Committee discussed performance indicators, such as parent evaluations and communication with students as methods to ensure that teachers are being as effective as possible while teaching online courses. It was mentioned that a joint effort is needed to ensure student success, with schools/districts working with providers to give students the knowledge and skills they need to pass an online course.

MOTION: Cliff Green moved to have the SDE consider that a portion of payment to online providers be contingent upon successful completion of the course by the student.

The Committee discussed the notion of a portal where students could look at online course ratings and register for the online courses. Senator Goedde suggested there should be a way for students to withdraw from the class within a certain number of days within the portal, too. The Committee also discussed whether the portal should state what is considered a passing grade, so that students and parents know when enrolling.

The committee discussed the need to examine how online courses are reimbursed versus traditional courses. The Committee also discussed fractional ADA and dual enrollment.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed on a roll call vote: 5 aye, 4 nay. Voting in favor of the motion: Barzee, Fornander, McKinnon, Green, and Goedde. Voting in opposition of the motion: Nate, Cyr, Patzer, and Caldwell.

MOTION Senator Goedde moved that a school district sending a student off campus does not participate in fractional ADA for the period the student is gone.

Mike Caldwell questioned whether the motion was intended to include students taking online courses away from campus, as well as dual enrolled students on a college or university campus. Senator Goedde withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Cliff Green moved to have the SDE review non-online dual enrollment options between Idaho school districts that could be excluded from fractional ADA.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion carried on a voice vote.

MOTION: Mike Caldwell moved to review fractional ADA for any course in which expenses are not incurred at the home school district.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion passed on a roll call vote: 6 aye, 3 nay. Voting in favor of the motion: Fornander, Barzee, Caldwell, McKinnon, Patzer, Nate. Voting in opposition of the motion: Cyr, Green, and Goedde.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.