

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 16, 2017  
**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW41  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle, DeMordaunt, Moon  
**GUESTS:** Dennis Stevenson, Rules Coordinator; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News

**Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

**Christopher Mathias**, Deputy Director, Higher Education, presented What Is Smarter Balanced? Smarter Balanced (SB) is a state led consortium, and operates with zero federal dollars. It is a public agency currently housed inside UCLA, governed by Idaho and its other state members. They govern by a transparent, member-led process with the goal of consensus for all decisions. Members vote on Executive Committee members, the budget and policies, and perform other oversight tasks. Idaho is one of fifteen governing states.

**Mr. Mathias** stated that SB is a comprehensive assessment system built around three interrelated components: Digital Library, an online collection of high-quality instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for pedagogical skills; Interim Assessments, non-secure assessments that can be used in a variety of ways and provide teachers actionable information for instruction; and Summative Assessments, secure, standardized assessments that serve as a wellness check regarding how well students are doing. These are computer adaptive assessments and thus customized to each student. He explained SB is unique because it is aligned to the Idaho Core Standards, built and continuously improved with input from Idaho educators, it is low cost while allowing states to acquire a high quality, customizable, comprehensive assessment system that they would otherwise not be able to afford. SB has cutting-edge accommodations and accessibility designed so all students can fully participate and demonstrate what they know and can do. SB has accessibility to resources that address visual, auditory, and physical access barriers such as, stacked Spanish translations, pop-up glossaries in 10 foreign languages and 4 dialects, and videos in American Sign Language. The beneficiaries of SB are students and families, teachers, employers, colleges and universities, policy-makers, and taxpayers.

**Karlynn Laraway**, Department of Education, explained that Smarter Balanced allows a committee made of the State Board, Administrators, teachers, parents, and citizens to review all 30,000 questions in the SB testing database and adapt them to the local needs of districts. SB testing covers English, language, arts and math and science. It's financial cost is 1.1 millions dollars or \$9.55 per student. Ms. Laraway stated that she would send the complete budget breakdown to the committee.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 am.

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Representative VanOrden  
Chair

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Ann Tippetts  
Secretary