

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 01, 2021
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Greg Wilson, Gubernatorial Senior Policy Advisor for Education; Alex Adams, Administrator of the Division of Financial Management; Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBOE); Mike Keckler Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer SBOE; Marilyn Whitney Deputy Superintendent, Communications & Policy, State Department of Education (SDE); Julie Oberle Chief Financial Officer SDE

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Alex Adams, Administrator of the Division of Financial Management, introduced Building Idaho's Future Plan and how it relates to the budget surplus. He stated when the pandemic hit, revenue expectations were reduced and surplus became a large deficit. In budgetary response, hiring and spending freezes cut costs, budgets were reduced by 5%, federal and rainy day funds were approved for use. Federal coronavirus relief funds, plus revenue due to the State's economic rebound, aided in the recovery of educational funds. Mr. Adams answered Committee questions.

Greg Wilson, Gubernatorial Senior Policy Advisor for Education, introduced Building Idaho's Future Plan related to K-12 Education, Building Idaho's Future Investment Package which includes a \$20 million one-time infusion for early education literacy, currently focused on the post-pandemic return to schools. He stated early literacy is a priority in the Governor's Office and is distributed based on individual eligibility. Summer reading programs are also covered by the one-time infusion. The State Board of Education is currently reviewing the proposals and high quality programs. Once the plans are approved, the program will be sent to the schools and subsequently families. Trying to eliminate any achievement gap by teaching students to be proficient readers by the end of 3rd grade. Mr. Wilson answered Committee questions describing a collaborative effort between the stakeholders and the Governor's Office to ensure each LEA receives funding. Mr. Wilson answered Committee questions stating the program is aimed towards at-risk students in elementary and secondary schools.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary