

MINUTES
Approved by the Committee
Public School Funding Formula Committee
Tuesday, March 27, 2018
10:00 A.M.
Room EW 42
Boise, Idaho

- MEMBERS:** Co-chairs Senator Chuck Winder and Representative Wendy Horman; Senators Dean Mortimer, Cliff Bayer, Steven Thayn, and Janie Ward-Engelking; Representatives Scott Bedke, Julie VanOrden, Sage Dixon, and John McCrostie; and nonlegislative members Dr. Linda Clark, State Board of Education; and Tim McMurtrey on behalf of Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Superintendent Sherri Ybarra and Dr. Linda Clark.
- ATTENDEES:** Marilyn Whitney, Office of the Governor; Tracie Bent, Office of the State Board of Education; Julie Oberle, State Department of Education on behalf of Tim Hill; Gideon Tolman, Division of Financial Management; Tamara Baysinger, Idaho Charter School Commission; Sue Wigdorski, Idaho Education Association; and Quinn Perry, Idaho School Board Association. Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff: Paul Headlee, Robyn Lockett, and Tetiana Powell.
- NOTE:** Copies of presentations, handouts, and reference materials can be found at www.legislature.idaho.gov and are also on file in the Legislative Services Office. The reference documents for this meeting's presentations can be viewed at: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2018/interim/psff-materials/>.
- CONVENED:** Co-chair Winder called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.
- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Sen. Winder welcomed those in attendance and thanked the members for their continuing participation and dedication to the 2018 Public School Funding Formula interim committee. He invited Michael Griffith and Emily Parker, Education Commission of the States (ECS), who participated via conference phone, to start their presentation.
- PRESENTATION:** **PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A NEW SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO**
- PRESENTERS:** **Michael Griffith and Emily Parker, Education Commission of the States (ECS)**
Michael Griffith, School Finance Specialist, ECS, stated that his organization would like to offer help for the state to reach the goal of moving from a resource allocated system to the weighted student funding formula. Mr. Griffith believes that ECS can achieve this goal by working with members of the Committee and legislative staff and by gaining public trust and receiving input from those who are directly involved in education, as well as from parents and taxpayers. The ECS will give the report to the committee after gathering the information, and based on that, will help to design a new funding formula.

**COMMITTEE
DISCUSSION:**

Co-chair Winder asked Mr. Griffith to explain how the ECS is planning to interact with stakeholders and the public in regional meetings. He explained that in previous years such an approach was used and the reaction of the public wasn't successful. Mr. Grriffith responded that there will be pushback whenever a proposal is shaped without first getting public input and suggestions. He said that the ECS will hold five regional meetings around the state of Idaho to develop a better understanding of priorities and needs from every region and district, and to gather suggestions and concerns about the new formula.

Co-chair Winder requested examples of the input from stakeholders in other states. Mr. Griffith mentioned Wyoming, where the concern was over what each district would lose in the process of changing the formula, and ECS had to explain that there were "hold harmless" provisions in place to eliminate any possibility of that; another concern was teacher certification rules. Mr. Griffith talked about Michigan having a concern that the new formula would be used for school district consolidation, and how ECS had to explain that consolidation was not an intent of the new formula.

The committee also discussed an accountability system and framework with Mr. Griffith; whether it would have to change or stay the same, and requested that ECS provide more information about this matter for the future meeting.

Sen. Mortimer asked whether the travel cost and cost per meeting were included in the total cost of the proposal. Mr. Griffith responded that all five regional meetings and four committee meetings are included, along with everything that is listed in the proposal.

Co-chair Winder requested a motion in regards to the proposal.

MOTION:

Sen. Den Hartog made a motion to adopt the proposal by Michael Griffith and Emily Parker, Education Commission of the States, to develop a new school funding formula for the State of Idaho. Sen. Bayer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-chair Winder called for the approval of the February 15, 2018 minutes.

MOTION:

Sen. Bayer made a motion to approve the February 15, 2018 minutes. Sen. Den Hartog seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**FUTURE
MEETING:**

The committee's next meeting is on Tuesday, April 17, at the State Capitol.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.