

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee  
April 3, 2003  
Gold Room  
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Senator Shawn Keough called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. Committee members Senator Bert Marley, and Representatives Margaret Henbest, Debbie Field, and Donna Boe attended. Representative Maxine Bell joined the meeting in progress. Staff members Rakesh Mohan, Director, and Margaret Campbell, Administrative Assistant, also were present, as were all other OPE staff.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Representative Boe moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2003, meeting. Senator Marley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**REPORT RELEASE: *OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES***

**Representative Field moved to receive the report and Senator Marley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.** Copies of the report and executive summary were handed out to those in attendance.

Mr. Ned Parrish, Principal Performance Evaluator, Paul Headlee, and Chris Shoop, Performance Evaluators, presented a summary of the report information. Co-chair Keough called on Dr. Marilyn Howard, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, for agency response. Dr. Howard said OPE had “done a good job of taking information routinely collected by the State Department of Education and combining it into this single report.” She said the report would be useful to many people and a good starting point for a larger analysis of local decision-making. (A full copy of her remarks is available by request.)

Representative Henbest referenced the disparity in the funding formula and asked if some districts had extra money to spend. Dr. Howard said she did not know. However, with regards to local decision-making, Dr. Howard said “the real story is what are [their] sources, how are [they] spending, what are [their] needs, and how are [they] meeting them.”

The committee discussed revenues from the Albertson Foundation and the federal *Leave No Child Behind* program and clarified that this funding did not replace base programs, but was designed for program enhancement and to supplement the state’s effort.

Co-chair Keough called on Dr. Darrel Deide, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor, for response. Dr. Deide said this report was a good first step in an effort to find efficiencies. He said an evaluation of school districts should be continuous because improvement occurs through monitoring and reporting. He recommended that JLOC proceed with the second phase of the public education evaluation.

The committee discussed and asked questions of staff about the State Department of Education data. They asked if staff to see if data was detailed enough to show funding for athletic activities.

**Representative Field moved to conduct an in-depth evaluation of public education, seeking input from Leadership and the Education Committees to develop a scope for JLOC's consideration. Senator Marley seconded the motion.**

Representative Henbest invited Legislators to send their suggestions for the scope, in writing, to OPE for presentation to Leadership. She asked that, if possible, OPE develop the scope before session ended so JLOC could consider it before going home.

**The motion to conduct an in-depth evaluation of public education passed unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **CONSIDERATION OF PHASE 2 OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SELECTION OF OTHER EVALUATION TOPICS**

Co-chair Keough said, in addition to preparing for the next phase of the public education study, staff also had three agency follow-ups to conduct for a summer JLOC meeting and work on a study of higher education residency requirements, which was currently tabled. She called on Mr. Mohan to brief the committee on topics submitted for consideration.

Mr. Mohan reviewed requests for evaluation. He said, in addition to Senator Bunderson's request for an evaluation, other Legislators and agency heads had expressed an interest in evaluating agency performance measures. The Committee discussed topics and indicated another request from Senator Bunderson may be met by rolling an evaluation of public school transportation into the scope of the next phase of public education.

Mr. Mohan said a request for a study on investment tax credits, submitted by Representative Elmer Martinez, had been delivered to members before the meeting. If the Committee selected an evaluation of investment tax credits, staff would need to conduct some in-depth background work to determine the nature of the study. Members asked unanimous consent to hear from Representative Martinez.

Representative Martinez said he requested an evaluation to determine whether investment tax credits were stimulating jobs and economic growth. He said he did not believe there was a cost/benefit analysis in Idaho to measure the effectiveness of the program. He wanted to make sure the value of the credit was weighed against alternative uses of the income lost. In discussion, Representative Henbest asked OPE to develop a scope on investment tax credits to determine time and complexity in conducting an evaluation.

In response to Committee questions, Mr. Mohan said he thought staff had work through June or July, and could revive the unfinished higher education residency requirements study to balance workload, if necessary.

**Senator Marley moved to table the approval of any new topics, and keep the previously suggested topics (ones included in the committee notebook) active until the Committee considers them in the future. Representative Field seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**Senator Marley moved for OPE to work on another higher education study (a general description of the study was contained in the Committee notebooks), with the understanding that work on the unfinished higher education residency requirements would be completed before beginning work on the broader higher education study. Representative Bell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.**

The Committee thanked OPE for their great work in a limited amount of time on the public education report. They requested the report be made available to all Legislators. Mr. Mohan said the office would encourage people to download the report from the website to reduce the cost of the report. He said they planned to mail the executive summary to everyone who expressed interest, and would mail a copy of the report to the Education Committee chairmen and JFAC.

*The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.*