

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
April 16, 2003
House Environmental Affairs Room 406
Boise, Idaho

Co-chair Representative Margaret Henbest called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Committee members Senators Shawn Keough and Bert Marley, and Representatives 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

Co-chair Henbest said the Committee needed to clarify the April 3 minutes concerning Senator Marley's motion to conduct an evaluation on higher education. At issue was whether the motion referred to the existing study on higher education residency requirements or a different higher education study (a general description was included in the Committee notebook).

Senator Marley said the intent of his motion was to direct OPE to conduct a broader higher education study, with the understanding that it start only if OPE needed another project. He suggested clarifying the motion by including a sentence to indicate that work on the higher education residency requirements would be completed before work on a broader higher education study was begun.

Co-chair Henbest said the proposed evaluation questions in the broader higher education study would need to be reworked and fine-tuned. Mr. Mohan said that OPE would conduct more background work and furnish the Committee with a scope statement.

Senator Marley moved to approve the minutes of the 4/3/03 meeting, with the addition of a clarifying sentence explaining the priority of assignments in the paragraph that addressed the motion for a broader higher education study. Representative Field seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED SCOPE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

Co-chair Henbest indicated OPE had met with Leadership in the House and Senate to discuss their interest in the next phase of the evaluation. Mr. Mohan said Leadership had provided input on the direction and the scope for the next phase. He said the office had also talked with the House and Senate Education chairs, made a presentation to the Senate Education Committee, talked with the Darrel Deide of the Governor's Office, and talked with several Legislators, including members of JLOC. Based on this input, the office had prepared a proposed scope.

Mr. Ned Parrish, Principal Performance Evaluator, presented the proposed scope for the second phase of the public education study. In response to questions, Mr. Parrish said the office had not decided on the number of districts or which districts to study in-depth. With the approval of the

scope, the office would develop a formal plan for approaching the work and methodology. He said they would take advantage of statewide information to look at a large number of districts. When selecting districts, they would try to pick a judgmental sample to get representation of different types of districts—large districts, small districts, districts that contracted transportation, districts that transported students on their own, etc.

Senator Keough said she would like to know where districts had spent technology dollars to date and whether the purchases fit within the strategic, long-term plan. Representative Bell agreed and said inventory information would be useful.

Representative Boe asked if a proposed study of instructional issues would include a review of dollars spent for technology staffing and teacher training. Mr. Parrish said they would look at how dollars were spent for equipment and staffing/training.

Representative Field moved to approve the proposed scope of public education. Senator Marley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Co-chair Henbest said Representatives Stevenson and Wood requested limited background work of the Parks and Recreation Department concerning compliance with IDAPA rules (whether they followed their rules in changing grant criteria for waterway improvement) and testimony of HB210. Mr. Mohan said he would do some background research to see if OPE could answer their questions. If questions required more work than outlined in Committee Rule, he would let the requestors know.

The Committee discussed the timing of the next meeting. Mr. Mohan said there were three follow-up reports due in June. He had some questions about requiring follow-ups every six months considering how early OPE needed to contact agencies to prepare for the report. Also, if OPE found an agency had not made progress during the last six months, he questioned whether it was worth the Committee's time to meet or for OPE to produce a report. He suggested delaying follow-ups when the agency had not made progress, and reminding the agency that the Committee expected a compliance report on the recommendations.

Representative Field suggested waiting for a bigger meeting at the end of the year to hear follow-ups. Members discussed if the Committee was required by Rule to hold a meeting for follow-ups. Mr. Mohan clarified that OPE cannot issue a report until it had been presented to the Committee. However, he said it was not clear if follow-ups had to be issued every six months. Members discussed alternative methods of meeting, such as phone or video conferencing. Mr. Mohan said he would look into alternatives, keeping in mind the ease of Committee discussion and public accessibility.

Co-chair Henbest suggested tentatively scheduling a meeting sometime during the summer. If members were required to physically attend, she would plan the meeting around other Legislative meetings for the best use of travel resources. Representative Bell said JFAC was

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considering meeting one time in August, instead of the usual June and October meetings. She said she would let the co-chairs know as soon as a meeting decision became final, in case they wanted to plan a JLOC meeting around the same dates.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.