

Minutes of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee

April 1, 2015

Lincoln Auditorium, Capitol, Boise, Idaho



Cochair Senator Cliff Bayer called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Attending the meeting were Senators Steve Vick, Michelle Stennett, Cherie Buckner-Webb and Representatives John Rusche (cochair), Maxine Bell, Gayle Batt, and Elaine Smith. Also present were Rakesh Mohan, director; Margaret Campbell, administrative coordinator; and other OPE staff. Audience members included the following:

Senators Jim Guthrie and Lee Heider
Representatives Van Burtenshaw, Gary Collins, Marc Gibbs, and Wendy Horman
Pete Koehler, Interim Chief Deputy, Will Goodman, Associate Deputy, Department of Education

Approval of meeting minutes from March 23 and March 24, 2015

Senator Buckner-Webb moved to approve the minutes from the meetings on March 23 and March 24, 2015. Representative Rusche seconded the motion, and it passed by voice vote.

Representative Bell asked if agenda items could be switched to hear the recap of the Schoolnet report first. The switch would accommodate members who must leave for the House State Affairs Committee meeting at 8:30 a.m. Cochair Bayer called on Rakesh to review the agenda. Rakesh said the workload discussion, which was scheduled first, may require a motion. Cochair Bayer said he would like members available for the motion and asked Rakesh to continue with the agenda as scheduled.

Legislative action affecting OPE workload

Rakesh said that if SCR 102, which requested an evaluation on the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC), passed the House, JLOC would need to approve the study before the OPE could begin work. Because session could end quickly, Rakesh said the committee may not have time to meet after the resolution passed and asked members to consider preapproval at this meeting. Cochair Bayer said any motion for SCR 102 should be made pending approval by the whole Legislature and pending approval of funds.

Representative Rusche said he thought this resolution was not an OPE study but rather a legislative study. Rakesh said the resolution was asking JLOC to approve a study that the OPE would oversee. The resolution was a carbon copy of the audit the OPE did of the Idaho Transportation Department in 2008 in which JLOC had moved to approve the study. Representative Rusche said he was not sure the resolution would pass the House. He said he thought a motion should be contingent on passage of the resolution.

Representative Bell said JFAC had approved a trailer bill to fund the study contingent on passage of the resolution. Senator Vick said LHTAC had not had a review like what was being requested in the resolution. Funding was initially going to come from the LHTAC budget but was later changed to go through JFAC. The OPE would be overseeing contracted services.



Senator Vick moved to approve a study on LHTAC if the resolution passed both houses and the subsequent trailer appropriation funded the study. Representative Batt seconded the motion, and it passed by voice vote.

Rakesh said SCR 124 asked for an interim committee to look at various issues about administrative hearing officers. He said that if an interim committee was established, that committee would be looking into the same topic that the OPE would be looking into.

Representative Rusche said leadership were aware the interim committee would be a duplication. He said they would not likely be interested in funding two parallel studies. Cochair Bayer said he would take this concern up with Legislative Council.

Report recap: Idaho's Instructional Management System (Schoolnet) Offers Lessons for Future IT Projects

Cochair Bayer called on Rakesh to introduce the report. Rakesh said the report was released on March 23, but because team lead Lance McCleve was sick and not able to present, members had asked for a recap of the presentation. Lance and Hannah Crumrine presented the report.

Hannah walked the committee through a timeline of Schoolnet contract, funding, and development, and Lance discussed the breakdown of the \$61 million in project costs. Senator Stennett, referring to the first \$21 million of the Albertson grant, asked if the state matched the grant funds as agreed. Hannah indicated the state matched the funds. Senator Stennett asked for the amount of the Schoolnet contract in July 2011. Hannah said it was \$10 million.

Representative Rusche asked if the department documented, either internally or with the help of consultants, how problems would be articulated and addressed in a written plan, particularly in light of how the pilot project plan changed from a few districts to all districts. Lance said much of the plan was done internally by the department; however, under Students Come First, a committee was established, which made recommendations for a plan of implementation for the pilot project. After that pilot plan was put together, the department, on the fly, made a decision to roll out Schoolnet to all districts. The department's plan was primarily spelled out in the contract with the vendor and was not well written internally.

Senator Stennett asked if the matching grant money consisted of state money or a mix of state and private money. Lance said all matching funds came directly from state funding for Students Come First.

Representatives Batt and Smith left at 8:30 to attend the House State Affairs meeting.

Representative Rusche asked if the \$25 million funding for classroom technology was specific to Schoolnet or to technology that would have been adopted at some other time for some other purpose. Lance said the funds were for a broader application than Schoolnet. Districts were able to appropriately implement other classroom technologies. However, the intent language for funding to districts was to support instructional management technologies.

In the second part of Representative Rusche's question, Lance said districts would have likely been funded the \$25 million for the technology—classroom technology had been funded in years past even though just prior to the Students Come First legislation, those funds were not appropriated. The Students Come First legislation made the distribution of those funds a statutory requirement. Lance said he did not know if it would have been funded otherwise, but the funds were instrumental to the foundation's decision to award the grant.



Representative Rusche clarified that prior to the repeal, funding to districts was through a grant request for a specific purpose. After the repeal, the department decided on the project and rolled it out statutorily. Every district received it, regardless of whether they were capable of implementing it or had asked for it. Lance said that was correct for the duration of Students Come First.

Lance reemphasized the total amount (state, federal, and foundation funds) cumulatively spent on software for Schoolnet was \$13.09 million. Equally significant, funding for content that populated Schoolnet and direct support for implementation of Schoolnet was \$10.81 million. The two amounts together, about \$24 million, was the core of the Schoolnet feature.

Representative Rusche asked if there was a clear articulation of what this project was supposed to do. Lance said the outputs were fairly clear; deliverables and metrics for success were in the contract and with the foundation, such as how many students and educators would be using the software. However, outcomes were vague, such as what we expected to happen to the education system and its students.

Representative Rusche asked what the department was trying to do. Schoolnet appeared to be an effort to get federal and Albertson Foundation money without saying how it would improve teaching in the classroom or compliance with good law. Lance said the department had envisioned a diverse set of reasons; for example, Schoolnet was an opportunity for districts to see value in the ISEE system. Unfortunately, districts have not seen how ISEE can benefit them. They have given a lot of data and time to report to the statewide longitudinal data system but have received little in return.

Representative Rusche asked if the districts wanted it. Lance said conceptually yes. Districts recognized the value of the data assessable to them. Unfortunately, Schoolnet was not delivered in a way that was useful to the districts without significant investment on the districts part.

Cochair Bayer asked Rakesh to speak to any considerations or actions for this report. Rakesh said he had suggested at the last meeting to give the department time to come up with decisions. The OPE would provide a status report in January. The committee could decide next steps.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

I approve the minutes of the JLOC meeting on April 1, 2015.

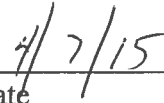
Signature Cliff Baya

Date 4/6/15

I approve the minutes of the JLOC meeting on April 1, 2015.



Signature



Date

I approve the minutes of the JLOC meeting on April 1, 2015.


Mickelle Stennett

Signature

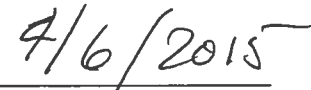
4/7/15

Date

I approve the minutes of the JLOC meeting on April 1, 2015.



Signature



Date

I approve the minutes of the JLOC meeting on April 1, 2015.

Marnie Bell
Signature

4-6-15
Date

I approve the minutes of the JLOC meeting on April 1, 2015.

Rep. Elaine Smith
Signature

April 6, 2015
Date