

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 02, 2012

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block (Block), Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Trail, Block (Block), Thayn, Chew and Cronin

GUESTS: Jason Hancock, State Department of Education (SDE); Mike Rush and Marilyn Whitney, Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE); Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA)

Vice Chairman Shirley called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 21434**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21434: **Mike Rush**, Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE), presented **RS 21434**. He said that the recent construction of a new elementary school in the Plummer-Worley School District represents the first use of the State failsafe provided through **H 743** (2006), ensuring that no child in Idaho will attend school in an unsafe facility. While the process worked successfully and smoothly in this instance, it highlighted two issues that could become problems in future cases. The first issue is that the State panel that is established to review these cases has no access to funds if additional planning and design work must be completed prior to the panel making a decision. The second is that there is no provision for dealing with construction cost overruns. This legislation deals with the first issue by allowing the panel to expend up to \$150,000 from a dedicated funding source to develop additional plans, if necessary. The second issue is dealt with by clarifying that the panel can request that the Legislature appropriate additional funds from the same dedicated fund, in the event of construction cost overruns. **RS 21434** allows up to \$150,000 to be expended from the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund to develop additional school construction or renovation plans if the State's review panel determines that it is needed. Any requests for additional appropriations from this fund for construction cost overruns would be subject to legislative approval.

In response to questions, **Dr. Rush** stated that community members were originally concerned about the location of new school buildings; decisions about building are based on the safety of the children involved and cost effectiveness. A community is required to attempt to pass a bond prior to utilizing the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund when renovations or new facilities are necessary. Dr. Rush highlighted the steps involved with the bonding process. During the recent construction of the new elementary school in the Plummer-Worley School District, voters did not approve bonds. The State will engage in significant intervention if a school is deemed unsafe and voters do not approve bonds.

Jason Hancock, State Department of Education (SDE), responded to a question. He stated that **H 743** (2006) was the Idaho Legislature's remedy to an order by the Supreme Court.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Vice Chairman Shirley called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 21434**.
Motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Representative Nonini
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary