

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 28, 2013

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc, Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News; Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association; Jason Hancock, State Department of Education; Russ Joki, parents; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Association; Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Horman** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2013. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Tom Luna**, Idaho State Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the progress made in the Idaho education system and presented recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year. He reviewed the accomplishments of the past year to include; outperforming in reading and math and high graduation rates. He stated too few are not going on to higher education and those that do are not prepared. Due to that, he stated, they made a goal to have sixty percent of Idahoans earn a post secondary education by 2020.

**Mr. Luna** discussed the states longitudinal data system, the Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE). He stated Idaho was the last state in the nation to put a longitudinal data system in place. ISEE has streamlined data collection and improved data quality. He explained the more accurate data helped produce the fiscal report card. He said for the future they will work to expand the fiscal report card and provide easy access of this information to the public. He showed examples of ways to chart this information using bubble charts.

For the FY13 budget, **Mr. Luna** stated there was an increase in the General Funds to Idaho's public schools and an increase in compensation for teachers. He went over the breakdown of the budget in categories to include; classroom technology and professional development, math and science teachers and dual credit. The FY14 budget was submitted with a 3% increase in General Funds. He said there was a request for continued funding for high school graduation requirements and discussed ways to help these requirements. The budget also requests funds for a math initiative, reading initiative and ISAT remediation. He explained how Idaho moved out of the tenants of no-child-left-behind and started a star rating system for accountability. He said it allows people to track a schools performance in proficiency, academic growth, graduation rates, advanced opportunities and college entrance exams. Currently, he said they are able to put federal funds to one and two star schools but requested additional funding for technical assistance. He discussed the dual credit program and how it helps cut post secondary education costs. He mentioned other states have been enjoying these benefits for many years and requests funding to restore this program. He said school technology

spending is not a one time expenditure and needs to be treated as a utility bill. He gave examples of schools using technology and stated there was a need for additional funding. He explained the Idaho Education Network where teachers can share classes and students can take courses from other schools. He explained School Net, which makes sure data gets back into the classroom and teachers can track student performance.

**Mr. Luna** presented the Idaho Common Core Standards stating they are updated every five years. He discussed the development process and adopting the standards. He stated the federal government has never reviewed Idaho's standards or Common Core. He requested more funding for professional development for Common Core. He explained it will take several years to master these standards. He mentioned the Safe Schools Task Force and discussed plans to bring ideas for better school security. He also said the budget requests more compensation of Idaho teachers. He closed by stating the solutions to these subjects will require challenging and difficult decisions.

In responses to questioning regarding teacher compensation and early retirement, **Mr. Luna** stated he requested an increase in teachers minimum pay. He explained the early retirement was an incentive to teachers and a way to save money. He stated the number of people retiring early did not increase and it became an ineffective use of money. In regards to the Think Through Math Program, he stated it is a widely successful program and they are having conversations to make it accredited.

**Mr. Luna** explained the '8 in 6' program and dual credit funds. He said students can complete eight semesters in six with funding from the program. Dual earning allows you to use funding for college credit. He said the budget request for these programs is an estimate and that they have seen a decrease in students applying for these programs due to the uncertainty of the availability of funds. In regards to no-child-left behind mandates and the star program, he explained Idaho has more flexibility with the star program since the repeal of no-child-left-behind but still has to work under the federal system.

**Mr. Luna** explained that the math and reading initiative and ISAT remediation are three separate programs that work independently of each other. He stated math is done on the computer in the classroom, reading is based on assessments of in-class reading scores and the ISAT is not distance learning. He explained the dual credit learning is done online, in the classroom and through distance learning. He mentioned the Idaho Education Network is also used statewide to provide access to those teachers that can teach dual credit classes.

In response to questions of teacher bonus pay in regards to base pay, **Mr. Luna** explained bonus pay was additional to base pay. He stated teacher performance pay is based on how many years they have taught and their education and it is also additional to base pay. He explained base pay will stay the same with the potential for bonuses each year.

**Mr. Luna** explained the multiple consortium groups throughout the different school districts. He stated they are all connected to the Idaho Education Network in which one classroom per school has the ability to do real time distance learning. He said the state board setting a graduation requirement to have distance learning credits helped some schools that would otherwise not have it. Schools conformed by adopting the same schedule and calendar.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jackie Wright  
Secretary