

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 11, 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:** Richard Ledington, Division of Professional-Technical Education; Vera McCrink, Division of Professional-Technical Education; Kristin Magruder, Idaho Education Network; Julie Best, Idaho Education Network; Roger DeMordaunt; Gary Zedum, Idaho Education Network; Camille Wells, State Department of Education; Brady Kraft, Idaho Education Network; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Association; Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education; Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association; Bert Marley, Idaho Education Association; Jane Wittmeyer, Coalitia; Jim Stoor, Idaho School Boards Association; Jason Hancock, State Department of Education

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Julie Best**, Communications Director, Idaho Education Network (IEN), presented the Idaho Education Network by giving an example of how it works within Homedale High School. Homedale High School had a need for an advanced level math teacher and she explained how IEN helped to set up a 'receive room' so that students could take an advanced math class taught by a teacher from a different location. She noted the amount of trained users and teachers that have been through the IEN training program for blended interactive digital learning. She gave the accomplishments in dual credit courses, student completion rate, credits awarded and tuition savings gained. She explained IEN is much more than teleconferencing and outlined how they help with bandwidth utilization. She said with student use continuing to grow, bandwidth utilization has increased. In the future, she explained IEN will add more subjects to their interactive digital learning classes to include a virtual cadaver session.

**Ms. Best** explained the quarterly report for IEN gives a good overview of what they are doing now in the last quarter. She said the connectivity report shows all the districts in the state and the bandwidth each one uses. She stated this information is also posted to their website.

In response to questions, **Ms. Best** explained that every school in the state is connected to the bandwidth with one exception; Valley School District in Hazelton. She said every school has at least one teleconferencing unit. She explained that scheduling can be a problem, but the creation of consortiums and common schedules have helped. She said no one is currently pursuing or using on-demand type courses. In regards to questions about class size she explained that there can be up to four locations connected at one time. She said teachers will be the ones to decide what numbers they can handle, IEN will not set class size limits.

When asked about funding, **Ms. Best** responded by saying money is not changing hands. She explained that some schools charge a small fee for paper and photocopying, other courses are being offered on an exchange basis and others are just great citizens helping out students. She explained the Albertson study in which the funds stay with the student would certainly benefit the adoption of more of these exchange of classes. She said the online credit requirements helped increase an interest in coming up with a funding solution. She explained that the savings in tuition shown was per credit based on a part time student, that did not include what the state of Idaho saved.

**Brady Kraft**, Technical Director, Idaho Education Network (IEN), explained the wireless capabilities in the state. He explained they did a background study on the first third of school districts that received wireless and the majority of them had adequate infrastructure in place to connect with IEN. He said most of the schools have made some attempts to make wireless deployments. He explained how IEN is more cost efficient than other states by providing less bandwidth and monitoring the actual consumption and adjusting accordingly. He said this saves them from paying for bandwidth that is not used.

**Todd Schwarz**, State Administrator, Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE) explained the history and background information on PTE. He said their primary goal is to prepare the youth and adults in Idaho to have the necessary skills for the current workforce environment. He said one of the challenges they face is lack of understanding. He explained PTE is an agency of the State Board of Education. This helps ensure the quality of their program to provide Idaho a highly skilled workforce directly lined with industry expectations. He said PTE works to provide valuable occupational skills through hands-on applied learning to those that do not go on to college, but they are finding that more people that complete their programs have gone on to higher education. He explained PTE's post-secondary programs to include the workforce training network which involves apprenticeships and custom and workforce training. He reviewed the projected education and job distribution needs for 2018. He said they need to work to focus their resources, better integrate business and industry into instruction, and align opportunity and education.

**Mr. Schwarz** responded to questions regarding the statistic that shows the majority of jobs requiring less than a four year degree as current and consistent to what the market demands. In regards to the possibility of making revenue, he cautioned the need to be sensitive when competing with private sector programs. He explained most of the training and education is done on a cash flow basis.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** reviewed the Public Schools Support Program Budget. He explained the budget chart for this year and the Governor and Superintendent Luna's recommendations for next year. He explained that he will make recommendations in terms of education on behalf of the Committee to JFAC. He asked the Committee review this budget and be prepared to discuss it on Wednesday.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jackie Wright  
Secretary