

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representative(s) Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive (Mendive), Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Shepherd, Boyle
- GUESTS:** Sue Widgorski, IEA; Maria Wruter, Idaho PTA; Harold Ott, ISBA; Sara Fry.  
**Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
- RS 24871:** **Blake Youde**, Idaho State Board of Education presented **RS 24871** relating to teaching certificates obtained during or prior to 1947.
- MOTION:** **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to introduce **RS 24871**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Arthur Vailas**, President of Idaho State University gave his presentation. He explained that ISU is one of five institutions in the United States that is accredited in all levels of technical colleges. Their mission is to increase creativity and ingenuity in the classroom, increase entrepreneurship, and encourage business partnerships. They are forming an intra-collaboration, and cross training between the departments and colleges for the students degrees. He stated they are leaders in both health care and energy, and have been working extensively in cyber-security with INL for twenty years with a two year, four year, and a graduate program. ISU is increasing their medical education with emphasis on clinics for the rural areas of Idaho.
- Mr. Vailas** explained their demographic is non-traditional students who left higher education when their Pell Grants ran out. They are attracting back these non-traditional students by creating internal scholarships for them. The two largest road blocks for graduation are financial aid, and math. The typical math Algebra pathway is not applicable for today's environment so new practical math pathways are being developed. Tuition is the lowest in the nation and at the same time has a high rate of pay for the professors. ISU provides the largest work force for energy and are now joining a partnership with nuclear medicine. He concluded that there has never been a point in history that education investment has been needed more.
- Tony Fernandez**, President of Lewis and Clark State College gave his presentation. They were founded in 1893. Their three part mission encompasses traditional academic programs, career and technical education programs, and community college in community service programs. The college offers a wide range of professional programs leading to associate and baccalaureate degrees, and certificates. LCSC works in collaboration with other state and regional postsecondary institutions to serve students, business, and industry. Seventy percent of their enrollment are first generation students and 79% of enrollment needs financial aid. The enrollment has gone up 13% for high school seniors, and they have implemented dual credit enrollment. They have developed a work scholarship program which enables the student to work ten to twelve hours a week on campus to eliminate their debt with tuition. He stated in 2020 they will have a new regional CTE facility along side the new Lewiston High School. He concluded with the support of local industry, 66% of the students stay in the Idaho workforce.

**Maria Lorcher**, Advocacy Chair with Idaho PTA gave her presentation. She explained her role is to represent the Idea PTA on current issues which affect our children including education, safety, and nutrition. They have close to 7,000 members in 120 schools. Everyone of the members works on a volunteer basis, and there are no paid employees. They have nine regions with a director for each, who provide guidance within their own area. PTA continues to create exposure to the organization by participating in the Week of the Young Child Celebration hosted by AEYC. Their executive board is working closely with the Idaho Department of Education on several committees including the Standards and Assessments Work Group for the ESSA Implementation in Idaho, the Superintendent's Education Parents Advisory Council, and The School Safety and Security Advisory Board. One of their most popular programs is the National PTA art contest called Reflections. All grades participate and this year's theme will be "What is Your Story". The winners will be celebrated at the annual state convention in April. This year, they have added their name in support to proposed legislation to the Keep Idaho Safe Act. It is basically a do-not-contact registry for e-mail, fax, mobile phone, and instant messenger technology belonging to children under the age of 18 years old. This will block all adult content on-line. PTA supports the Governor with his continued focus on the career ladder for teachers. Their members volunteer in the classroom, lunch room and throughout the school with the clear intention of helping teachers and students.

**Ms. Lorcher** addressed the elimination of fees to curricular classes this school year. The goal was made to make classes more accessible without the fear of cost associated with them. The reality of it has been disastrous. With the elimination of fees, districts are experiencing significant financial shortfalls in both curricular and co-curricular classes. PTA units have been put in a very challenging position in regard to these classroom fees. Fund-raising is something they do but does not represent who they are. The money these schools need to adequately fund some of these programs are beyond the ability of their members. They can only ask the same parents over and over again for support. PTA recognizes this is a district issue but if the legislature can see to it that discretionary money becomes more flexible to the districts so that these curricular classes can still be an important part of our students education.

**Ms. Lorcher** closed with the acknowledgement that Idaho PTA quietly works throughout the state doing amazing things for our students and schools. She thanked the committee for the time and dedication to provide for our students.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.

---

Representative VanOrden  
Chair

---

Ann Tippetts  
Secretary