

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 10, 2019
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: C. Silva, State Department of Education; Tamara Baysinger, Public Charter School Commission; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Harold Ott, IASA/IRSA

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Terry Ryan, CEO, Bluum Foundation, presented to the Committee the \$17.1 million federal grant awarded to Idaho in 2018. He explained Bluum is a nonprofit that works exclusively in Idaho to support charter, private and innovation schools. They were awarded a Charter Schools Program (CSP) grant to open, replicate and expand public charter schools with a goal of adding 8,200 quality charter school seats over 5 years. At least 90% of the total will be distributed in competitive subgrants to do this, 7% must be used at the state level for technical assistance and program evaluation and research, and no more than 3% will go for administrative costs. He noted grant money cannot be used for construction of new facilities. Each subgrant will be capped at \$800,000 and the first 6 subgrants will be available in April.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Ryan** explained the 7% distribution is for sharing ideas that work in charter schools with school districts and traditional public schools, thereby benefitting all students. He stated Bluum is very interested in working with school districts to authorize additional charter schools and strengthen cooperation between charter schools and their district. He also clarified charter and traditional schools do not compete for the same federal dollars; Congress authorizes a separate allocation for charter schools.

Several Committee members questioned **Mr. Ryan** about the demographics of charter schools and how they encourage disadvantaged students to enroll. Mr. Ryan noted historically charter schools have not been as diverse as traditional schools, but administrators are actively recruiting students and seeking out more special education, at risk, and free and reduced lunch students.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Ryan** explained that Idaho law changed in 2015 to allow nonprofits to become the state entity to apply for and distribute federal dollars. He noted Bluum had the support of state agencies to apply for the CSP grant.

After discussion, **Chairman Clow** invited the Public Charter School Commission to present to the Committee at a later date and give additional information on how they will use their portion of the CSP grant funds.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary