

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 15, 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: Tracie Bent and Mike Keckler, SBOE; Nanna Hanchett, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; Shannon Purvis and Jane Donnellan, IDVR/Extended Employment Services; Harold Ott, IRSA/IASA; Karen Echeverria, ISBA; Amy Lorenzo, Dwight Johnson and Steve Rayborn, ICTE

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

Matt Freeman, Executive Director, State Board of Education, reported on the Opportunity Scholarship Program. This need- and merit-based scholarship has been awarded to over 8,000 students for college or Career-Technical Education and the current fiscal year appropriation is \$13.5 million. Last year the legislature authorized up to 20% of the funds to go toward Adult Learner Scholarships, with priority given to veterans, Hispanic and Native American students, and students living in rural areas. The average scholarship award for both high school seniors and adults is \$3,400 and students must attend an Idaho institution in order to accept. Mr. Freeman also announced his office has been awarded a \$400,000 Adult Promise Grant from the Lumina Foundation to raise awareness of postsecondary opportunities, including the Adult Learner Scholarship, with a pilot program in 10 rural or under served counties.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Freeman** explained his staff's efforts to market the Adult Learner program, despite a lack of funding for promotion. They collaborated with institutions, particularly Boise State and Idaho State Universities, and the Workforce Development Council provided funding for a website. He noted it will take several years of data to create a baseline from which to judge the success of the Adult Learner Scholarship, but his staff does track and analyze this information.

Brian Armes, Manager, Idaho Office of School Safety and Security (IOS3), reported on the Office's progress toward their institutional goals, as informed by the authorizing statute. Their mandate is to be on every school campus within three years, but the number of campuses constantly increases, especially charter school locations. IOS3 begins with a security assessment for each school, but is most valuable in training and consulting. They are co-located within the Division of Building Safety, which is advantageous in selecting new school sites. IOS3 applied for two grants from the U.S. Department of Justice, to create a threat assessment model for schools, and a statewide confidential tip line. The goal is for the tip line to go live on March 1, 2019. These two initiatives aim to prevent violent action, rather than respond afterward. They are also working on the Idaho Command Responses, a group of four initial response protocols for Idaho's schools in case of emergency. Mr. Armes noted suburban schools typically have better resources than rural schools and are better able to meet security challenges.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Armes** stated over a three year period there is 25% turnover among administrative staff, making communication between schools and first responders in their community more difficult. IOS3 encourages the first responder community to introduce themselves to the school community every fall and think more proactively about how to increase school security.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary