

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 24, 2019

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room C310

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Co-chairman Bair, Johnson, Lee, Agenbroad, Crabtree, Grow, Burtenshaw, Woodward, Ward-Engelking, and Nye.

Representatives Co-chairman Youngblood, Horman, Anderson, Amador, Kauffman, Raybould, Syme, Troy, Wintrow, and Toone.

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

CONVENED: **Co-Chairman Bair** called the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (Committee) (JFAC) to order at 8:00 a.m.

AGENCY

PRESENTATION: **STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (SDE)**

PRESENTER: **Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent of Public Instruction**

The State Department of Education's three strategic goals supports its vision of sustaining schools and aligning resources to provide strong local education systems. The strategic goals are: (1) all Idaho students persevere in life and are ready for college and careers; (2) all education stakeholders in Idaho are mutually responsible for accountability and student progress; and (3) Idaho attracts and retains great teachers and leaders. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget request reflects these goals and the priorities of superintendents, principals, teachers, trustees, business leaders, parents and students.

Ms. Ybarra reflected on progress stemming from the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education recommendations of 2013, including the teacher career ladder, mastery-based education, technology devices and software, teacher training, Advanced Opportunity programs, and early literacy support. The Legislature also funded training for teachers on new science standards.

High school graduation rates over the past five years are at 82 percent, and 18 schools achieved 100 percent graduation for 2018.

LSO STAFF

PRESENTER: **Robyn Lockett, Analyst, Legislative Services Office (LSO)** Ms. Lockett reviewed the FY 2018 appropriations and expenditures, and the FY 2019 appropriation.

Ms. Ybarra reviewed highlights from the SDE's FY 2020 budget request of \$1,916,000,000, a 6.8 percent increase in General Fund dollars, excluding the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind. Most of the proposed increase for FY 2020 would be spent on statutory requirements, including a \$48,000,000 increase for the teacher career ladder in order to retain and recruit qualified teachers. **Ms. Ybarra** stressed the importance of a continued investment in the career ladder.

In addition to the career ladder, the SDE requests \$11,900,000 to fund the first year of master education premiums for teachers who meet certain requirements and show evidence of mastery in instructional techniques and professional practices. Approximately 25 percent of Idaho educators may qualify for this premium. The State Board of Education will oversee review of qualifications to determine premium awards.

Other significant line item requests include Idaho Safe & Drug-Free Schools; Advanced Opportunities; Mastery-Based Education; Math Initiative, Technology, Professional Development; Teacher Pipeline Initiative; Keep Idaho Students Safe; and increases in operational funding.

DISCUSSION:

In answer to questions from the Committee, **Ms. Ybarra** and **Karen Seay**, SDE, Director of Federal Programs, confirmed that neither the state nor the federal government dictates curriculum in Idaho public schools. Federal dollars do support Title I schools, serving low-income communities, with additional resources and professional development.

Gideon Tolman, Division of Financial Management, Office of the Governor, explained that the Governor did not recommend the SDE's FY 2020 request of \$1,050,000 for expansion of mastery based education. The Governor plans to form a public education task force to engage all stakeholders, educators and interested parties to review programs and to recommend future needs.

Additional funding in mastery-based education would expand the program from 19 incubator schools to a total of forty. **Ms. Ybarra** suggested that up to 50 school districts are waiting to be included in the program. The SDE is reviewing federal testing requirements to ensure that the program meets standards while still maintaining flexibility.

Tim Hill, Deputy Superintendent, Public School Finance, SDE, fielded questions and responded in depth concerning growth in student population and funding needs.

Chris Campbell, Chief Technology Officer, SDE, discussed school technology needs.

Ms. Ybarra stated that she has served on the Interim School Funding Formula Committee. Legislation is now in committees and until the legislation is finalized, she cannot predict how the funding formula may impact the FY 2020 budget request.

Ms. Ybarra emphasized the progress that has been made in Idaho which now ranks 25th in the nation for achievement. Its mastery-based education program has attracted attention from several states desiring to emulate Idaho's model. Idaho's reading achievement outpaces all other states, except two. **Ms. Ybarra** urged the Committee to stay the course on current programs to advance positive outcomes. In speaking with parents, teachers, students and stakeholders around the state, **Ms. Ybarra** relayed their concern and priorities regarding educator shortages and school safety.

A detailed discussion ensued concerning proposed changes in the school funding formula and its implications. See [Presentation](#) and [Audio](#).

AGENCY

PRESENTATION: **SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

PRESENTER: **Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Ms. Ybarra reported that the proposed FY 2020 technical budget for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent) is a maintenance budget with no enhancements other than standard replacement items and one Full Time Position (FTP).

Three guiding principles direct the Superintendent: (1) the needs of children must drive any necessary change; (2) every student can learn and must have a highly effective teacher in every classroom; and (3) current and new resources must focus on the demands of the 21st Century.

LSO STAFF

PRESENTER: **Robyn Lockett, Analyst, LSO**

Ms. Lockett reviewed the FY 2018 budget and expenditures. The Superintendent received a total appropriation of \$38,818,000. A transfer of \$375,100 was made from operating expenditures to capital outlay and trustee and benefit payments to purchase miscellaneous equipment. The Superintendent reverted \$8,820,100, approximately 23 percent of the budget, which was in the federal grant fund and other dedicated funds. Total FY 2018 expenditures were \$30,005,000.

In FY 2019, the Superintendent received a Program Maintenance budget of \$39,663,000 that included funding for two line items and 142 full time positions. A legislative requirement restricted any funding from this appropriation for a statewide wireless contract.

Ms. Ybarra presented the Superintendent's FY 2020 budget request of \$40,059,000 which includes an FY 2019 supplemental request for an additional FTP for a crisis communication counselor. The Governor did not recommend this position.

Other requests: \$203,200 in replacement items which includes four network servers, switches and other technology equipment; statewide cost allocation; annualizations and Change in Employee Compensation (CEC).

The Superintendent's request totals \$40,059,000. The Governor's recommends \$40,021,800.

AGENCY

PRESENTATION: EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

PRESENTER: Brian Darcy, Administrator, Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind
Mr. Darcy explained that the Idaho Bureau of Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind (Idaho Bureau) provides a continuum of supplemental educational services for all students across the state who are deaf, blind, or impaired, from birth to age 21. Services are based on the need of service, not necessarily the severity of the disability. Services include hearing or visual enhancement devices for those in public school, as well as a residential campus in Gooding, ID. At the present time, the Idaho Bureau serves approximately 2,100 students plus 95 students at the residential campus. The Idaho Bureau works closely with the Department of Health and Welfare to identify infant children and to teach parents compensatory skills for their child to lay the foundation for future education. The Idaho Bureau currently serves 114 babies and toddlers.

In addition to core education, the Idaho Bureau provides guidance in job interviewing and behavior, interviewing skills, and summer jobs, funded by a vocational rehabilitation grant. Twenty-seven students have participated in the program, and all were hired into positions after their summer employment. The National Deaf Center has identified the Idaho Bureau in the top five for numbers of students graduating from high school, top five for number of students obtaining employment, and number one for students completing their bachelor's degrees.

LSO STAFF

PRESENTER: Robyn Lockett, Analyst, LSO
The FY 2018 total appropriation and estimated expenditures were \$10,884,300. After adjustments for replacement items, CEC and Endowments, less benefits cost, the FY 2019 base Program Maintenance Budget was \$10,763,500. The Idaho Bureau received three line items for career ladder equivalence, a hydraulic snowplow attachment and portable auditory response testing equipment resulting in a FY 2019 request of \$10,979,400.

Mr. Darcy underscored the need for teachers who both have a degree in communication skills for the deaf and compensatory skills, such as Braille and orientation mobility for blind students. The Idaho Bureau competes nationally for qualified teachers.

Ms. Lockett reviewed specific FY 2020 budget requests for replacement items totalling \$147,600: an ongoing General Fund request of \$279,800 to bring Idaho Bureau teachers to public school salary equivalency; ongoing General Fund request of \$86,700 for a speech-language pathologist to address increasing campus enrollment; an ongoing General Fund request of \$76,700 for an IT specialist; a ongoing General Fund request of \$79,500 for a licensed sign language interpreter for the campus program; an ongoing General Fund request of \$69,200 to move temporary paraprofessional positions to permanent paraprofessional positions; an ongoing operating expenditure for technology funding and an ongoing General Fund request of \$82,300 for a certified orientation and mobility instructor.

The Idaho Bureau FY 2020 request totals \$11,673,500. The Governor recommends \$11,373,200.

DISCUSSION: A discussion followed which elaborated on early detection outreach, teacher training, language development, and transportation logistics of the resident school in Gooding, ID. See [Presentation](#) and [Audio](#).

ADJOURNED: Having no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Bair** adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Senator Bair
Chair

Elaine Leedy
Secretary