

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 04, 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:** Harold Ott, IRSA/IASA

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Tony Ashton**, Executive Director, Teach For America (TFA) Idaho, presented to the Committee. TFA works to ensure every student has access to an excellent education and works to recruit and retain high-quality teachers and leaders. TFA corps members commit to teach for at least two years in a rural community that serves low-income students. They have forty teachers in the Treasure Valley, teaching over 3,000 students in seven communities. Their teachers receive over three months of intensive training before the first day and ongoing coaching and professional development from TFA staff and Boise State University. Nearly two-thirds of TFA-Idaho teachers continue teaching for a third year.

**The Honorable Sergio Gutierrez**, Retired Justice from the Idaho Court of Appeals, TFA-Idaho Regional Board Member, discussed the positive ways TFA teachers are engaging parents. He stated he sees TFA as a strategic, targeted partner in Idaho's overall education work.

**Christine Ketterling**, Federal Programs and Curriculum Director, Homedale School District, discussed her district's experience with TFA. She stated TFA teachers have allowed the district to fill positions months ahead of time, instead of sometimes the day before school starts. She noted TFA's professional support focuses on data, which all the district teachers can learn from. She has seen corps members work hard to be involved in the community, including through home visits.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Ashton** explained TFA-Idaho only has teachers in the Treasure Valley, but is exploring expanding to other areas of the state. He noted 98% of the resources used in Idaho are raised through private donors and federal grants, and additional financial support from the state would be needed for TFA to expand.

**Sherri Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, reviewed Idaho Mastery Education, which provides personalized instruction that allows students to advance once they have mastered content or skills. This system makes students more invested in their own learning. Mastery Education does not work for every student and there must be community and school support. She stated Idaho's mastery based incubator schools are succeeding because they are afforded flexibility and innovation.

**Kelly Brady**, Director, Instructional Support for Student-Centered Learning, State Department of Education, further discussed Idaho Mastery Education Network (IMEN) schools. She highlighted differences between traditional and mastery classroom instruction, progression and assessment. She stated Mastery Education will prepare Idaho students for a rapidly changing world by teaching the necessary skills to engage more deeply with content, while teachers are given the flexibility needed to meet the needs of Idaho's diverse student population. The funds appropriated by the legislature for the Mastery Education Initiative were used for salaries/benefits, professional development, purchased services, supplies/materials, travel and capital objects. The current IMEN cohort includes 32 schools and the State Department of Education is working toward adding a second cohort.

**Donell McNeal**, Principal, Central Academy in the West Ada School District, discussed his school's success with Mastery Education. Their ISAT scores and graduation rates have increased and moving to Mastery Education has created a school culture with a focus on developing strong relationships, where everyone feels they belong.

**Tyson Woods**, a senior at Central Academy, spoke of his transition from falling behind in a traditional school, to becoming prepared to graduate and go on to college after transferring to Central Academy and the mastery system.

In response to Committee questions, **Principal McNeal** discussed how Central Academy utilized their Mastery Education Initiative funds.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary