

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** WW02 Lincoln Auditorium
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Ehardt and Raymond
- GUESTS:** Marc Gee, Preston School District; Brad Lutz and Mike Dominguez, Mountain View 244 School District; Steve Smylie, West Ada #2; Marilyn Whitney, SDE; Nancy Gregory, ISBA/Boise School District; Ken Hart, ISBA/NezPerce; Brian Pyper, ISBA/Madison; Travis Manning, Caldwell School District; Jim Stoor, Soda Springs School District; Wally Hedrick, ISBA/Meridian; Michelle Lippert, ISBA; Allison Westfall, ISBA; Steve Cook, Coeur d'Alene #271
- Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.
- MOTION:** **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 and February 12, 2019 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Chairman Clow** introduced the Committee's new page, **Jack Marchant**.
- Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), introduced the Association's President, **Jennifer Parkins**, from Genesee.
- Jennifer Parkins**, President, ISBA, discussed four key areas of focus. She first highlighted "Stand Up 4 Idaho Public Schools", a campaign to highlight the great things happening in the state. Local school governance means each community can establish their own vision of what a great school is. Next she discussed local school board governance and stated local boards must have flexibility to set policies in their school system. She stated higher levels of government must communicate with school boards to see if a proposed policy is viable at the local level. Third, ISBA advocates for equity and excellence in public education. Ms. Parkins stated schools need the resources to meet local and state standards, and funding in districts must be allocated in a manner that supports equitable learning for all children. Finally, she discussed the importance of a nurturing and safe school environment. This includes funding for physical improvements to enhance security, school resource officers and mental health support. She noted school boards need to publicize the link between safety and academic success.
- Mike Dominguez**, Mountain View School District, discussed his district's funding challenges. His district passed a levy by less than 1%, so he does not see a higher levy rate as a viable funding option. He stated per student funding does not work for a small district like his and thinks their budget shortfall is a result of underfunding by the state.
- Nancy Gregory**, ISBA Region 3 Chair, Boise School District Trustee, expressed satisfaction that stakeholder groups are now involved in drafting new funding formula legislation. She expressed concern about both the career ladder being rolled into the formula and the proposed wealth adjustment.

**Ken Hart**, ISBA Region 2 Chair, NezPerce School District, discussed health insurance in school districts. He stated boards and districts need freedom to negotiate these benefits with their staff.

**Brian Pyper**, ISBA Region 6 Vice Chair, Vice Chair of Madison School Board, stated over the years it has become progressively more expensive and difficult to become a teacher. He noted a major hurdle with recruitment and retention of teachers are low salaries. He stated the teachers feel the legislature does not trust them and all the calls for accountability feel oppressive, not supportive.

**Travis Manning**, Caldwell School Board, Vallivue School District teacher, also stated teachers feel disrespected by the legislature, due to the lack of funding for the upper end of the career ladder and the lack of school funding. He noted experienced teachers are embedded in the fabric of the community. He stated part of the reason test scores ebb and flow is the high teacher turnover rate.

**Jim Stoor**, Soda Springs Trustee, discussed the crisis of school infrastructure across the state. He asked that the two-thirds threshold to pass bonds and levies be lowered.

**Wally Hedrick**, Meridian Technical Charter High School Board Chair, President-elect of ISBA, asked for continued flexibility for districts and charters to develop programs within a policy framework. He noted Mastery Education is an example of this.

**Michelle Lippert**, ISBA Region 1 Chair, Post Falls School Board, expressed support for the governor's proposal to raise starting teacher pay to \$40,000. She also noted the need to examine pay for the top tier of teachers.

**Allison Westfall**, Nampa School Board Chair, stated the wealth adjustment is a hasty solution to the complex problem of taxes and urged the legislature to have a conversation about property tax reform.

**Steve Cook**, Coeur d'Alene School District Superintendent, noted a needed statutory change for when districts put a levy into perpetuity.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary