

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 02, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Ehardt, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** none

GUESTS: Sherri Ybarra, Idaho Superintendent, Marilyn Whitney, Idaho Deputy Superintendent, Louie Konkol, Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) Chief Financial Officer, Karen Seay, Director of Federal Programs, Julie Oberle, Chief Financial Officer Public School Finance, Lisa Colon-Durham Director of Certification and Professional Standards, Alayna Knop, English Language Arts Coordinator.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order 9:01 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Galloway** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 28 and 29, 2021 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Marilyn Whitney, Idaho Deputy Superintendent, presented changes that were made to accommodate technology and support student nutritional needs during the pandemic lock-down. Ms. Whitney provided an overview of the presentation on non-cognizable and supplemental appropriations related to federal COVID-19 relief funds, how the federal funds were acquired and are being used effectively, and what's being done to promote academic recovery, close the digital divide and subsequent achievement gap, and social and emotional support for students. Ms. Whitney answered Committee questions.

Louie Konkol, Idaho State Department of Education Chief Financial Officer, presented where the federal funds for the CARES fund originated, and State program distributions. CARES funds originated in the U.S. Treasury, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture, and have been distributed through: CARES Coronavirus Relief program (CFAC), CARES ESSER I, and CARES Child Nutrition State Grant. He reviewed funds that were received and went unspent during 2020, which went unspent until 2021. Mr. Konkol answered Committee questions. **Rep. Boyle** asked about the funds earmarked for Social and Emotional Learning.

Karen Seay, Director of Federal Programs for the SDE, presented federal grant CARES Coronavirus Relief program (CFAC) and their specific uses; Special Distribution for coronavirus, technology, blended learning, child nutrition, oversight and their distribution. She stated ESSER funds come from the U.S. Department of Education and have fewer restrictions. She also stated her department also oversees CRRSAA ESSER II. Ms. Seay answered Committee questions. **Ms. Whitney** answered that some of the federal funds were able to be used toward covering the increased salary expenditures.

Julie Oberle, Chief Financial Officer Public School Finance, reviewed the distribution of 2021 discretionary funds, revisions being made at the Governor's State of the State request, much of which is allocated to cover educator salaries and benefits. Adjustments were made for increased Full Time Enrollment (FTE) reported by schools. Budget worksheets are typically shared with the Legislative Services Office. Ms. Oberle answered Committee questions. **Ms. Whitney** confirmed there was some flexibility in ESSER allowable uses. Ms. Oberle confirmed funds schools received for salaries were paid out completely, some in excess of the appropriation.

Lisa Colon-Durham, Director of Certification and Professional Standards, presented a summary of the Idaho Educator Preparation for Literacy and Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Standards. Current Standards I, II, III, and IV were created during the 2015-2017 development and are updated annually. She presented current and ongoing educator standards including a new certification in early literacy proficiency.

Alayna Knop, English Language Arts Coordinator, discussed the collaborative leadership focused on developing professional educators, instruction and intervention. Ms. Knop discussed assessment and data analytics in comparison to what other states have successfully implemented to improve early literacy in students who have experienced learning loss. The Idaho Teaching & Learning Community Office is focused on educator improvement, school and family outreach. Ms. Knop answered Committee questions regarding the origination of learning loss statistics. **Ms. Colon-Durham** answered Committee questions.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary