

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 05, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Jared Tatro, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Office; Janet Jessup, Budget and Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Office; Julie Oberle Chief Financial Officer, State Department of Education (SDE); Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy SDE

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

MOTION: **Rep. Galloway** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2 and 3, 2021 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Jared Tatro, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst for the Legislative Services Office, presented an accounting of the current K-12 Public Schools Budget as approved by the Governor's Office. In 2020, the Public Education Stabilization Fund (PESF) was needed until the CARES Act provided federal funds. A priority of the current proposed budget is to restore the increases to the educator career ladder without moving funds from PESF. In answer to Committee questions, **Julie Oberle**, Chief Financial Officer State Department of Education, clarified the schools should be increasing salaries and her department will have data when annual reports are received. In answer to Committee questions, Mr. Tatro clarified the law allows career ladder benefits and salary apportionments to be distributed by the school districts at their discretion. He stated adjustments were made to lower the budget in anticipation of an economic downturn, however the local economy increased.

Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy at Idaho State Department of Education confirmed school districts could use federal funds to reimburse themselves. **Mr. Tatro** confirmed the Governor's Office recommendation is aligned with **Superintendent Ybarra's** request and they have planned for an increase in support units. In answer to Committee questions, Ms. Whitney indicated federal reimbursement dollars could not be used for previously budgeted items.

Janet Jessup, Budget and Policy Analyst with the Legislative Services Office, discussed the budget for higher education and the updated Governor's Office recommendations. Ms. Jessup stated there was a 5% budget reductions for all schools last year, with the exception the budget for the medical school at the University of Idaho with a 2.5% reduction. WWAMI is the UW School of Medicine's one-of-a-kind, multi-state medical education program. The acronym, WWAMI, are the states served by the UW School of Medicine: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. The WWAMI program is one of the cooperative agreements created to offer dental, veterinary and medical classes for Idaho university students and they could not reduce its budget by more than 2.5%. Ms. Jessup discussed the reorganization and changes to the Division of Career and Technical Education

and provided instruction to the Committee on breaking down the Legislative Budget Book by benchmarks.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary