

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 28, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Yamamoto

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

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

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Jenn Thompson, Director, Idaho Public Charter School Commission, shared how there are currently 57 charter schools in operation and 8.26% of Idaho students are served by charter schools. Ms. Thompson shared data regarding Math and ELA ISAT proficiency within charter schools. She discussed how the revised framework for alternative school allowed them to provide supplemental material for at risk students.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Thompson** explained why each school has a different IPCSC Minimum Meet Standard. She discussed the equitable selection process for students to be accepted into a charter school.

Terry Ryan, CEO, BLUUM, shared BLUUM's support of different learning opportunities to help children, families, and educators. Mr. Ryan discussed different grants and investments into charter schools and BLUUM's impact on Idaho economy. Mr. Ryan shared how the legislature passed legislation enabling charter schools to grow their programs, streamline the petition and approval process for public charter schools, and increased teacher pay. Mr. Ryan explained how they would like a revolving loan fund, charter teacher certification flexibility, funding for all day kindergarten, and more parent choice.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Ryan** discussed how they are working with school districts to open more local charter schools and explained the funding mechanisms for charter schools. He discussed how charter schools and the districts are working together to collaborate on different programs.

Kelly Edginton, Head of School, Idaho Virtual Academy, discussed Idaho virtual public charter schools and gave reasons parents and students choose this option. Ms. Edginton shared the different types of students which attend virtual public charter schools. She explained the differences between virtual learning and emergency remote learning.

In response to Committee questions **Ms. Edginton**, shared how virtual students are held to the same standards as in person students. She discussed reasons why their support units will decrease this year.

Emily McClure, Lobbyist, Idaho Charter School Network, introduced **Cory Phelps**.

Cory Phelps, Project Manager, Idaho Housing and Finance Association, discussed how the credit enhancement program was created to help lower the cost of lending. He discussed how, due to this program, money is going back into classrooms.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Phelps** shared how schools applying must be over three years old and are usually more established schools.

In response to Committee questions, **Blake Youde**, Lobbyist, Idaho Charter School Network, discussed how the charter school funds come from the General Fund and shared the formula behind the amount of money calculated for the charter facilities support.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the committee adjourned at 10:32 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Elbia Christensen
Secretary