

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 21, 2022

**TIME:** 8:00 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:** Reps. DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, and Wisniewski

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

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 15, and 16, 2022. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Clow** thanked **Alex Bude** for his service to the Committee.

**Rakesh Mohan**, Director, Office of Performance Evaluations, reviewed the K-12 Public School Building presentation. He explained how the data was collected and thanked those involved in creating the report.

**Casey Petti**, Senior Evaluator, Office of Performance Evaluations, discussed how the report covers building conditions and allocations, bonds and levies, what other states are doing, and charter schools. He discussed how schools are required to submit maintenance plans every ten years and updates to the plan every five years. However, it was noted how these plans are not used or reviewed. He recommended the Legislature should create an office to establish a purpose and use for the plans.

**Mr. Petti** explained how OPE gathered information from school districts regarding the condition of their school buildings. Nearly sixty percent of those who responded rated the conditions of their building as fair or poor and indicated they had deferred maintenance and upgrades needed. He described the potential fiscal impact of completing all maintenance and building upgrades. Mr. Petti explained school facilities are deficient and recommended the Legislature commission a statewide facility assessment. He noted how school districts are required to allocate two percent of building replacement value on school maintenance every year. He explained how the two percent requirement is too low for building needs and changing the maintenance requirements and cost factor could lead to higher allocations.

**Mr. Petti** discussed how special property tax levies have impacted the passing of bonds. It was described how Idaho compares to other states when comparing expenditures on a per student and building gross square feet basis. He noted several differences between Idaho and neighboring states' processes and programs. The number of charter schools and students has grown rapidly over the past ten years. When responding, no charter school administrators rated their buildings as poor. Their biggest challenge reported is acquiring new buildings. Mr. Petti shared how it is OPE's opinion many schools in Idaho are deficient and have deferred maintenance needs. It is their recommendation a facility condition assessment should be conducted to help inform policy.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Petti** described each category of how the schools were rated and what it means. He explained the process of selecting school districts to participate in the follow-up. This report was designed to inform the Legislature and schools of action which needs to be taken. He discussed the building maintenance requirements and the funding used. Currently schools are depending upon their discretionary budget to allocate money towards building maintenance. He shared how OPE met with the Office of School Safety and Security, but explained how they do not look for maintenance needs when surveying schools.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee; the meeting adjourned at 8:51 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Elbia Christensen  
Secretary