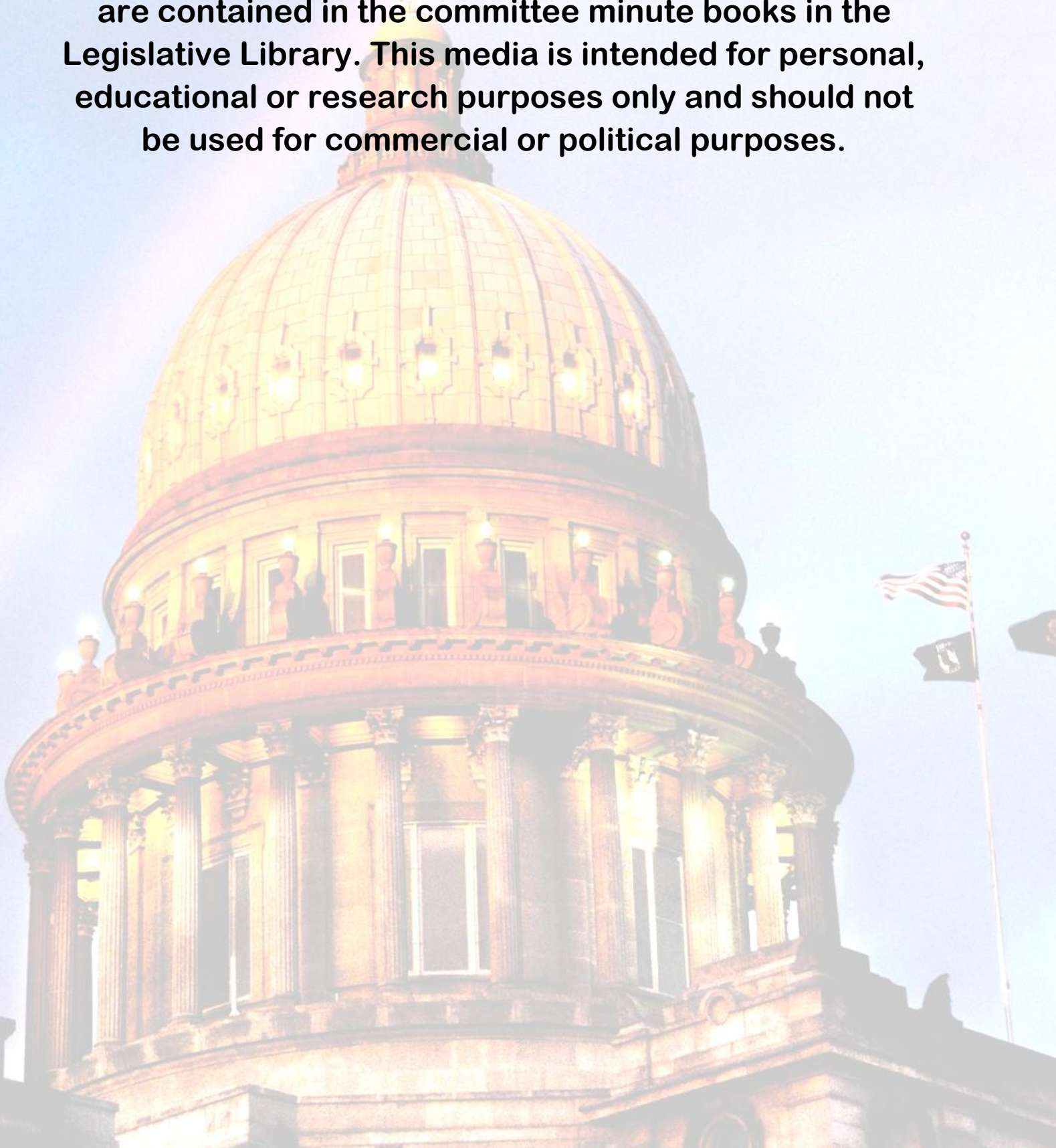


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MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 26, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

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

**Chair Yamamoto** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**RS 31496:** **Rep. Green** presented **RS 31496**, proposed legislation regarding school internet use. She said this would add new requirements for local school boards to update internet use policy. She spoke about digital literacy for students in grades 6-12.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Berch** made a motion to introduce **RS 31496**.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. Ehardt** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 31496**, with the exception of section 1-33-132-C on page one.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE, 10 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Mendive, Ehardt, Hawkins, Hill, and Price. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Yamamoto, McCann, Clow, Wisniewski, Garner, Lanting, Nelsen, Sauter, Berch, and Galaviz. Rep. Mathias** was absent/excused.

**VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:** **Chair Yamamoto** called for a vote on the original motion to introduce **RS 31496. Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Ehardt and Price** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**Ryan Cantrell**, Chief Deputy Superintendent, State Department of Education, spoke about a reading program instituted at West Jefferson School District. He introduced **Shane Williams**, Superintendent of West Jefferson School District. Superintendent Williams explained the science of reading in practice and spoke about research-based reading instruction, intervention, and literacy improvements. He said teachers have regular data meetings to see what adjustments need to be made. He spoke about small school districts and funding.

**Kyle Johnson**, Principal, spoke about believing in students, showing support and watching growth happen.

**HJR 2:** **Rep. Furniss** presented **HJR 2**, legislation regarding indebtedness limits. He spoke about elections and percentage requirements.

**Teresa Rae** and **Dale Layne** testified **in support** of **HJR 2**. They spoke about school bonds, poor conditions of school facilities, and encouraging voter participation.

**Ron Nate**, President, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in opposition** of **HJR 2**, and said there is potential confusion over the language in the bill. He spoke about national and local debt and said this legislation would make it too easy to incur debt.

**Russ Hendricks**, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, testified **in opposition** of **HJR 2** , and said it is important to retain the 2/3 voter support from the community. He spoke about taxes, bonds and additional levy's for farmers and ranchers. He believes there are better solutions to provide money for school facilities.

**Quinn Perry**, Idaho School Boards Association, and **Chris Parri**, Idaho Education Association, testified **in support** of **HJR 2** . They spoke about local community obligations to schools, how the bond threshold affects smaller areas, and the costs associated with building new schools. They mentioned fewer election dates and spoke about volunteers who prepare bond information.

Committee members expressed concern for families, and said there is already an inflation problem and increasing property taxes would add to the burden. They spoke about revenue bonds, funding from the State, and shifting the responsibility to businesses instead of home owners. They spoke about restricting rights verses expanding rights and said this legislation would allow the community to decide on tax increases during elections. Committee members spoke about an obligation to the children attending schools in need of repair and said student safety is most important.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Berch** made a motion to send **HJR 2** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Ehardt, Mendive, Wisniewski, Price and Hawkins** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

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Representative Yamamoto  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary