

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025

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

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Pickett, Vice Chairman Hawkins, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Harris, Marmon, Tanner(13), Mathias, Church

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Ehardt and Sauter

**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.

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Church** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 27 and 28, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31925:** **Rep. Clow** presented **RS 31925**, proposed legislation regarding Idaho's community college tuition. He said this would update the community college tuition cap to meet the realities of 2026.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 31925. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 42:** **Rep. Hill** presented **H 42**, legislation regarding a School Safety and Advisory Board. He said currently the board consists of thirteen people appointed by various officials. With a board this size, it has been difficult to establish a quorum for its required meetings. He said this bill would reduce the size of the board, while still ensuring broad stakeholder representation.

**Matthew Reiber**, Chief External Affairs and Strategy Officer, State Board of Education, spoke about a board of volunteer experts.

**Quinn Perry**, of Idaho School Boards Association, testified **in opposition** of **H 42**. She believes a school official should be on the committee, and mentioned they would find a school board member willing to attend meetings.

**Chris Goetz**, spoke **in opposition** of **H 42**, stating a law enforcement representative should be on the board and they would appoint someone who has a passion to fill the required responsibilities.

**Rep. Hill** explained the purpose of structure, good leadership, and leverage of all resources. He said too many board members creates too many problems. In response to committee member comments, he mentioned the School Safety and Advisory Board gives recommendations to school boards.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Garner** made a motion to send **H 42** to General Orders.

Committee members shared concern about proposed number of board members and recommend more individuals be allowed to serve on the board.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Clow** made a substitute motion to send **H 42** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members debated the bill and said a lower number of board members is a good idea to make a quorum at meetings. They also believe shrinking the number of board members is a good idea but think school board and law enforcement individuals should be on the board. Other committee members emphasized school board members and law enforcement are invited to share thoughts and concerns but not be allowed to vote, which could be problematic. Lack of communication was also discussed, along with State code.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested.. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 4 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Pickett, Hawkins, Clow, Mendive, Wisniewski, Nelsen, Harris, and Marmon. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Garner, Tanner(13), Mathias, and Church. Reps. Ehardt and Sauter were absent/excused. Rep. Hill will sponsor the bill on the floor.**

**Chairman Pickett** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Hawkins**.

**Chairman Hawkins** announced **Docket No. 08-0111-2401** would not be presented today.

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0113-2401:**

**Matthew Reiber**, Chief External Affairs and Strategy Officer, State Board of Education, presented **Docket No. 08-0113-2401**, Rules Governing the Opportunity Scholarship Program.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0113-2401. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO.  
08-0201-2401:**

**Matthew Reiber**, Chief External Affairs and Strategy Officer, State Board of Education, presented **Docket No. 08-0201-2401**, Rules Governing Administration.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0201-2401. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Hawkins** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Pickett**.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.

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Representative Pickett  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary