

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2026

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Woodward, Carlson, Zito, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Nichols, Burtenshaw, and Semmelroth

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:03 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **The Gubernatorial Appointment of Peter Koehler of Caldwell, Idaho to the Idaho State Board of Education** to serve a term from August 29, 2025 and expiring July 1, 2030. **Senator Cook** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Peter Koehler** to the Idaho State Board of Education to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **The Gubernatorial Appointment of Jennifer White of Boise, Idaho to the Executive Director of the Office of Idaho State Board of Education** to serve a term from May 12, 2025 and continuing at the pleasure of the Governor. **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Jennifer White** as the Executive Director of the Office of the Idaho State Board of Education to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Idaho State Controller Brandon Woolf** presented on Transparent Idaho. Transparent Idaho was designed by the State Controller's Office (SCO) in 2013 to enable government transparency. In April 2025, the SCO went live with education data which shows transactional data, financial data, and enrollment data. **Controller Woolf** demonstrated the website capabilities by using Idaho Falls School District's information. **Controller Woolf** elaborated that in the future, the SCO wanted to add a component of refining education data with comparisons to help find correlations in education data.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked a question about the ability to break down the data to show schools receiving federal money versus state money. **Controller Woolf** answered that it was a future plan but that it was not available as of January 2026. **Chairman Lent** asked where the funding was coming from for schools (i.e. levies, bonds, etc). **Controller Woolf** answered that he didn't have the information about the sources yet. **Senator Cook** asked about a payment to the Internal Revenue Service from the Bonneville school district. **Controller Woolf** answered that it was probably for taxes but he would need to investigate the situation further.

ADJOURNED There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary