

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Hawkins, Vice Chairman Handy, Representatives Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, Veile, Mathias, Galaviz

**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.

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

Rep. Sauter made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. Tanner (14), Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) Co-Chairman, explained education budgets and outcome base. He said the funding formula needs to be updated because it hasn't changed since 1996. He spoke about enrollment growth and decline across the state.

Committee members inquired about maximizing impact in schools and how they could educate themselves on the budget to make thoughtful decisions. They spoke about JFAC working groups, recommendations, and revenue verses spending. Parental involvement and protecting kids was mentioned.

Rep. Tanner (14) said Idaho is a growing state and discussed supplemental and obligated funds, cost savings, and policy decisions. He explained audit reports and recognizing problems.

Committee members discussed responsibility, accountability, and effectiveness. They inquired about adding a sunset policy to legislation and asked for suggestions on moving forward to correct problems. They discussed evolving policy decisions, finance separation and mental health resources. The committee showed interest in having information gatherings to educate themselves and mentioned asking local school boards, teachers, and parents for feedback.

Rep. Tanner (14) concluded by asking committee members to look backwards to see what is or isn't working. He asked them to view LSO and audit reports and spoke about conformity, the bottom line, and a balanced budget.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary