

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 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.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, and February 5, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33237: **Rep. Petzke** presented **RS 33237**, proposed legislation regarding Idaho Digital Learning Academy.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to introduce **RS 33237**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33027: **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 33027**, proposed legislation regarding schools, moment of silence.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to introduce **RS 33027**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 33027** with the following change: On line 10, remove "at or near the beginning of each school day."

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made an amended substitute motion to introduce **RS 33027** with the following change: On line 11, after each school day, insert "or as deemed necessary by the instructor."

ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Amended substitute motion failed by a vote of 2 AYE and 12 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Hostetler and Veile. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Mathias, and Galaviz.**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE and 9 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Mathias, and Galaviz. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, and Veile.**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Original motion carried by a vote of 14 AYE and 0 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz.**

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

H 588: **Rep. Pickett** presented **H 588**, legislation regarding virtual public education. He said this updates and aligns provisions governing virtual education programs operated by school districts and public charter schools. He spoke about education innovation and evolution and acknowledged stake holders input.

Rep. Galaviz highlighted continuity in Idaho code for both public school districts and public charter schools. She said this legislation was created in collaboration with individuals involved with providing virtual education to students. She spoke about Education Service Providers (ESP) contracts, maintaining proof of Idaho residency, and curriculum material. She explained services and cost transparency, supplemental learning fund disbursement, eligible expenses, and she said educators must have a teaching certificate.

In response to committee member questions, **Rep. Galaviz** explained therapy services, Individualized Educational Plans (IEP), local control, testing, and student success.

Steven Thayne testified in opposition to **H 588**.

Alejandro Zamora, Wilder School District, **Robin Merrifield**, Boundary County School District #101, **Scott Woolstenhulme**, Bonneville School District 93, and **Terri Sorensen**, Idaho Home Learning Academy, testified in support of **H 588**.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelson** made a motion to send **H 588** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Pickett requested the committee **HOLD H 588** in committee because he has trailing legislation to replace **H 588**.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Rep. Nelson** asked unanimous consent to withdraw his motion to send **H 588** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection the request was granted.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to **HOLD H 588** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33283: **Rep. Pickett** presented **RS 33283**, proposed legislation regarding virtual public education. He said this would replace **H 588**.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 33283**, and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary