

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 18, 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:** Rep. Hostetler

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, and 11, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 634:** **Rep. Harris** presented **H 634**, legislation regarding fund distribution by the State Department of Education. He explained this legislation would make sure money is used appropriately. He spoke about intent and accountability.

Committee members discussed supplemental funds, intent language, JFAC policy, and flexibility. They spoke about unique charter schools models, innovation, school board representation and their unique situations. School district audits and state department output.

**Andy Grover**, Executive Director, IASA, testified **in opposition** to **H 634**. He spoke about real time needs, adjusting funds, inflation, and property tax increases.

**Emily McClure**, Idaho Charter School Network, testified **in opposition** to **H 634**. She spoke about charter school models and accountability.

Committee members discussed school districts discretion, accountability, current clauses, the current audit system, and successful organizations. They expressed concerns over micro management.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Garner** made a motion to **HOLD H 634** in committee.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Wisniewski** made a substitute motion to send **H 634** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 3 AYE, 10 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the substitute motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Wisniewski, and Marmon. Voting in opposition** to the substitute motion: **Reps. Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Pickett, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz. Rep. Hostetler was absent/excused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE, 3 NAY, and 1 Absent/ Excused. Voting in favor** of the original motion: **Reps. Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Pickett, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz. Voting in opposition** to the original motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Wisniewski, and Marmon. Rep. Hostetler was absent/excused.**

**RS 33152C1:** **Rep. Church** presented **RS 33152C1**, proposed legislation regarding definitions in Idaho education law.

**MOTION:** Rep. Pickett made a motion to introduce **RS 33152C1. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 am.

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Representative Hawkins  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary