

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, February 20, 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 Hawkins** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**H 623:** **Rep. Skaug** presented **H 623**, legislation regarding a moment of silence in all public schools. He said this would require schools to have 60 seconds of silence at the beginning of each day for student reflection. He said each student can choose their own type of reflection, and shared research indicating improved student behavior.

**Mendel Lifshitz, Dave McGarrh, Allen Gorin, and Daniel Murphy** testified in support of **H 623**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **H 623** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members shared concerns of over-reach and recommend school districts make decisions for schools. Other committee members spoke about students trying to find themselves, traditions, and inspiring reading material.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 4 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, and Hostetler.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Nelsen, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz.** **Rep. Skaug** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 728:** **Rep. Church** presented **H 728**, legislation defining education staff. She explained educational language and said this bill clarifies titles such as instructional staff, administration, classification, and certification.

Committee members discussed school district discretion, rural schools, administration percentages, and unfunded federal mandates.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to send **H 728** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Heather Williams**, Idaho Association of School Administrators, testified in **opposition** to **H 728**.

Committee members expressed confusion and would like more time to research questions they have.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. Pickett** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 728** in committee for time certain, February 27, 2026.

**Rep. Church** said due diligence was done on this legislation and mentioned executive branch input. She asked the committee not to hold the bill in committee.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE and 8 NAY. Voting in favor** of the substitute motion: **Reps. Handy, Nelsen, Sauter, Pickett, Mathias, and Galaviz. Voting in opposition** to the substitute motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Marmon, Hostetler, and Veile.**

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 14 AYE and 0 NAY. Voting in favor** of the original motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz. Rep. Church** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 am.

---

Representative Hawkins  
Chair

---

Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary