

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 25, 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:** Reps. Mathias and Galaviz

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.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Hawkins** made a unanimous consent request to change the agenda order to allow **Rep. Beiswenger** to present first. There being no objection, the request was granted.

RS 33413C1: **Rep. Beiswenger** presented **RS 33413C1**, proposed legislation regarding non-academic activities, participation.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to introduce **RS 33413C1. Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 712: **Rep. Veile** presented **H 712**, legislation to create a State Seal of Excellence in Civics. Idaho's public schools have a responsibility to educate future citizens who possess civic knowledge, skills, and values to sustain our constitutional republic. In order to attain this seal, students must meet civic knowledge and participation requirements. The State Department of Education will provide support for those school districts and public charter schools who participate in awarding this seal.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to send **H 712** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Edward Clark, Idaho Family Policy Center, testified **in support** of **H 712**.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Chairman Hawkins** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 712** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Veile** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 33400: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 33400**, proposed legislation regarding student enrollment.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 33400. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33461: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 33461**, proposed legislation regarding non-academic activities, dual enrollment.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 33461. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Debbie Critchfield , Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced **Kari Peterson**, Mayor of Fruitland. Mayor Peterson explained the purpose of the Mayor's Youth Council and introduced attending students. **Ella Smith**, Chair of the Mayor's Youth Council, shared what this new program offers.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary