

# RESOLUTIONS 2009

*Resolutions representing the aims and purpose of the Idaho School Boards Association, Inc., legislative and otherwise, shall be considered one of the most important functions of the annual convention.*  
**(ISBA By-Laws, Article X, Section 1)**

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## 2009 RESOLUTION NO. 1

### PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

**WHEREAS**, a strong educational system is essential for a healthy business climate and economic development;

**WHEREAS**, as real property becomes tax exempt, the remaining taxpayers must pay a greater share of the cost to support school levies, school plant and facility levies, and school bonds;

**WHEREAS**, for many Idaho communities the remaining taxpayers are local residents/homeowners who are faced with paying higher taxes to meet the needs of school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts are reliant on positive outcomes of locally run levy and bond elections that contribute to funding the essential operations of school districts.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association opposes any further property tax exemption legislation, unless such legislation also includes a provision that the tax which would have otherwise been paid by the exempt property owner will now be paid by the State of Idaho. This provision is specific to general fund revenue, levies and bonds.

<b>PASSED</b>	<b>AYES</b>	<b>3701</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>291</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3992</b>

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In order to assist in the passage of levies and bonds and to keep the tax burden as low as possible for homeowners, the Idaho School Boards Association should oppose any further property tax exemption legislation unless the legislation assures that the revenue lost by the school district will be replaced by the state.

**Submitted by Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25**

**2009 RESOLUTION NO. 2**

**DISCRETIONARY FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, school districts have experienced rising costs in the day to day operations;

**WHEREAS**, costs associated with maintenance/utilities, transportation/fuel, technology, school food service programs, increased math and science requirements, and health care benefits have increased dramatically;

**WHEREAS**, the costs for essential operations are increasing at rates beyond school districts' abilities to pay;

**WHEREAS**, school districts have little room to reduce expenditures to balance future budgets;

**WHEREAS**, the removal of local M&O taxing ability has limited discretionary fund availability;

**WHEREAS**, unit funding has not kept pace with expenditures associated with education;

**WHEREAS**, school districts are meeting the mission of educating the children of the state of Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts are accountable to the taxpayers.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the legislature, the State Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the Governor to affect a significant increase in the allotment of discretionary money in the 2009 session of the Legislature, including, but not limited to, costs associated with maintenance/utilities, transportation/fuel, technology, school food service programs, increased math and science requirements, and health care benefits.

<b>PASSED</b>	<b>AYES</b>	<b>3945</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>79</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4024</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

As local districts experience increases in the day to day operations of schools, the 0-3% annual increases in discretionary funding does not keep pace with the actual costs associated with school operations. The Idaho School Boards Association supports increases to the discretionary fund.

**Submitted by Cassia County Joint School District #151, Gooding School District #231, Jerome School District #261, Minidoka School District #331, Buhl School District**

**#412, Castleford School District #417, Murtaugh School District #418, Shoshone Joint School District #312, and Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25.**

## **2009 RESOLUTION NO. 3**

### **CATEGORICAL FUNDING FOR TRUANCY OFFICERS**

**WHEREAS**, school districts are responsible for educating the children in the state of Idaho;

**WHEREAS**, to effectively educate the children in the state of Idaho, they must regularly attend school each day and on time;

**WHEREAS**, an analysis of daily attendance rates compared to total membership will show that students throughout the state of Idaho are not attending school each day;

**WHEREAS**, parents are responsible to see that their children attend school each day and on time;

**WHEREAS**, some parents are attentive to see that their children attend school each day and on time and some parents are not;

**WHEREAS**, districts' resources are scarce and fully stretched to cover the essential classroom needs;

**WHEREAS**, school districts do not have the resources to dedicate a staff member to serve as a truancy officer;

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement, probation and parole, and the juvenile courts' resources are scarce and fully stretched to cover the essential needs of these entities;

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement, probation and parole, and the juvenile court system do not have the resources to dedicate a staff member to serve as a truancy officer;

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement, probation and parole, the juvenile court system and school districts are interested in forming partnerships to address the issue of student truancy but are without the funding to provide the manpower; and

**WHEREAS**, if truancy officers were a component of the education of children, parents and students would become more attentive to their responsibility to see that children attend school every day and on time.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association forge a relationship at the state level with law enforcement, probation and parole, and the juvenile court system to develop a plan to approach the legislature to categorically fund truancy officers to be hired by one of the partner entities. Truancy officers can affect the regular attendance of students. Regular attendance of students can effect student achievement.

**FAILED**

<b>AYES</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>NAYS</b>	<b>3634</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4034</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

School districts need assistance in addressing truancy. Increasing student attendance on a regular basis will impact higher levels of student achievement. Law enforcement, probation and parole and the juvenile court system are likely partners to work with school districts to address truancy. However, funding is necessary to support increasing student attendance.

**Submitted by Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25.**

**2009 RESOLUTION NO. 4**

**ELECTION DATE CONSOLIDATION**

**WHEREAS**, election date consolidation is a statewide issue that will affect every school district;

**WHEREAS**, school district levy and bond elections deal with complex issues involving needs, consequences of the outcome of elections, tax impacts to the taxpayers and mood of the taxpayers;

**WHEREAS**, allowing school districts to have stand alone elections is critical to districts' abilities to educate their taxpayers of the reasons for the election;

**WHEREAS**, allowing school districts to have a choice of their own election dates provides the latitude for districts to take their needs to the taxpayers in a timely manner and in accordance with districts' needs;

**WHEREAS**, if school districts are unable to pass absolutely essential supplemental levies on the first try, school districts need to have the flexibility to set additional supplemental levy elections timely to the loss of the first election, pursuing the goal to sustain essential local revenues;

**WHEREAS**, school districts need to have the flexibility to set elections timely to obtaining a favorable interest rate for its taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, placing school district levy and bond elections on the ballot with other political and financial issues diminishes the taxpayers ability to focus solely on the needs of districts and forces schools to compete with other funding requests.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) notes the difficulties and complexity of election date consolidation and the large impact it would have on school districts and the necessity of a well drafted plan that allows for multiple election dates (without restrictions) for school districts, the ISBA will actively enter into discussions with the legislature and advocate for the interests of school districts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this proposed resolution replace the previously approved ISBA resolution.

<b>PASSED</b>	<b>AYES</b>	<b>3760</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>266</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4026</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

As Election Date Consolidation is a statewide issue that will affect every school district, either through trustee elections or funding elections, the Idaho School Boards Association needs to work with the

legislature to make any Election Date Consolidation plan a well-crafted plan that provides for meaningful elections and provides School Districts with flexibility in election dates.

**Submitted by Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25.**

## **2009 RESOLUTION NO. 5**

### **ALTERNATIVE COMPENSATION SYSTEMS**

**WHEREAS**, a committee is studying teacher evaluation systems and is scheduled to present a report to the legislature in 2009;

**WHEREAS**, the legislature considered an alternative compensation system in the 2008 legislative session;

**WHEREAS**, the school districts across the state of Idaho are having a difficulty filling teaching and administrative positions for numerous reasons inclusive of a shortage of teachers and administrators, an inability to staff hard-to-staff schools, an inability to retain teachers and administrators, and an inability to provide competitive salaries and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho School Boards Association has currently resolved to participate with the legislature to ensure that any alternative compensation system is carefully crafted and complements the changing education system and should include the following:

- A vehicle to reasonably measure student learning gains against state education standards, including but not limited to:
  - Accurate data that emphasizes performance of students
  - Student identifier system
  - Performance data
- All teachers are eligible to participate in the program
- Collaboration of teachers on an individual student's performance
- Recognition that administrators play a role and need training to conduct fair, equitable and accurate teacher evaluations
- Acknowledgment of the duty and authority of the board of trustees to govern Idaho school districts, including but not limited to:
  - Teacher assignments
  - Mentoring
  - Due process

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association support legislation that adequately funds an alternative compensation system for teachers and administrators which meets the following criteria:

- Compensation systems cannot be designed as punitive management tools, and cannot be a sorting process. They must be inclusive and part of systemic effort to build the capacity of the district to help teachers help students.
- Compensation systems must be structured to meet a clear purpose, whether it is to improve student achievement, improve recruitment and/or retention, attract teachers to

shortage teaching fields, attract teachers to hard-to-staff schools, or some combination of goals.

- Teacher buy-in is a must. The system cannot be imposed on teachers; it must be developed with them. Teachers need to be involved in all aspects of the design, implementation, and evaluation.
- Legislators must recognize that any system will eventually become a component of local districts' collective bargaining agreements.
- Compensation system redesign is not an event. It is a work in progress that must be adjusted and refined based on the experience of implementation.
- Compensation system redesign must be based on research and best practices taking into consideration the following:
  - Multiple objective measures of student learning
  - Capacity of districts/state to effectively analyze student learning data
  - Multiple measures of teacher performance
  - Improved teacher evaluation systems based on professional standards
  - Professional development for administrators involved in the process of supervision and evaluation of teachers
  - Computer systems that link student and teacher data
  - Computer systems that link that data with payroll and human resource systems
  - Ongoing, job embedded professional development tied to district instructional needs
  - Incentives available to all teachers at a school
  - Teacher mentorship
  - Teacher leadership
  - Career advancement options
  - Money to design, implement and sustain the program
- Compensation system redesign must incorporate a component of the administrative contribution to student learning, to teacher supervision and evaluation, to teacher professional development and to teacher leadership

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** that, any alternative compensation system must be administratively feasible, professionally acceptable, credible, legally defensible and affordable.

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this proposed resolution replace the previously approved ISBA resolution.

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>275</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>3763</b>
<b>FAILED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4038</b>

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

School districts in Idaho must have the ability to adequately and competitively compensate teachers and administrators so as to recruit and retain teachers and administrators, to fill hard-to-staff schools, and most importantly to improve student achievement for all children in Idaho schools.

**Submitted by the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25.**

**2009 RESOLUTION NO. 6**

**TEACHER EVALUATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature funded and assembled the Teacher Evaluation Task Force that will present recommendations for minimum standards to the Legislature, Governor and State Board of Education in January 2009;

**WHEREAS**, the Teacher Evaluation Task Force is comprised of Educational Stakeholders throughout the state of Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Teacher Evaluation Task Force is to develop minimum statewide standards for a fair, thorough, consistent and efficient system for evaluating teacher performance in Idaho.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) work with the Governor, the State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and the Legislature to create statewide standards, and valid and reliable methods, for evaluating teacher performance in Idaho.

<b>PASSED</b>	<b>AYES</b>	<b>3517</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>509</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4026</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The issue of teacher evaluation arose during the last legislative session and the legislature created a task force to develop statewide standards. To ensure the methods are valid and reliable, the ISBA needs to participate in the discussions and the crafting of any system to evaluate teachers.

**Submitted by the ISBA Governmental Affairs Committee**

**2009 RESOLUTION NO. 7**

**ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOURCES**

**WHEREAS**, school districts have experienced rising costs in their day to day operations and costs associated with transportation/fuel have increased dramatically;

**WHEREAS**, school districts are looking for new ways to save on transportation/fuel costs and the costs associated with switching to a new fuel source are unknown; and

**WHEREAS**, the state pays for many school district's transportation costs and would benefit from lower cost transportation.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association research and study the feasibility and costs of switching school buses to an alternative fuel source with the goal of bringing legislation in the future.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, the ISBA will include consideration of establishing refueling stops at schools for travel buses as part of any feasibility study on alternative fuel sources for school buses.

	<b>AYES</b>	<b>1887</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>2164</b>
<b>FAILED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4051</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

As fuel prices have risen, the costs associated with transportation have increased dramatically. In order to combat these costs school districts are forced to look at alternative fuel sources but the costs and feasibility of switching fuel sources is unknown. School districts and the State alike would benefit from a study to determine the feasibility and costs of switching school buses to an alternative fuel source.

**Submitted by Soda Springs Joint School District #150**

**2009 RESOLUTION NO. 8**

**BEST AND BRIGHTEST**

**WHEREAS**, every year many of the best and brightest of Idaho’s graduating seniors leave the State to attend higher education due to competitive out of state scholarships;

**WHEREAS**, Idaho can only benefit by the best and brightest of Idaho’s students remaining in State for higher education and potentially joining the workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Otter is taking the initiative to create a scholarship program to keep Idaho’s top students in state for higher education.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association supports and encourages Governor Otter’s initiative and the creation of a scholarship program, funded by the State, to encourage Idaho’s top students to remain in state for higher education.

<b>PASSED</b>	<b>AYES</b>	<b>2556</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>1470</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4026</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Many of Idaho’s top students leave the State for higher education because they are offered very good scholarships at out of state institutions. The purpose of creating a scholarship for Idaho’s top students to attend in state higher education is to keep them in Idaho for their education and to provide an early incentive for them to remain in Idaho and join the workforce.

**Submitted by ISBA Governmental Affairs Committee**

**2009 RESOLUTION NO. 9**

**PUBLIC ENDOWMENT LANDS**

**WHEREAS**, when Idaho became a state, the Congress of the United States endowed certain lands to be used to generate income for educational purposes;

**WHEREAS**, the income from these lands—mainly timber sales—is invested to provide a perpetual income for educational purposes within the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho Department of Land Endowment Fund, in FY07, only distributed 31.3% of the Annual Revenue;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association encourages the Land Board to release a larger percentage of the annual revenue for distribution. The ISBA urges the Legislature to initiate discussions regarding distribution of the Idaho Department of Land Endowment Fund.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any additional funds received from the Public Endowment Lands not supplant, but instead supplement, any dollars appropriated from the general fund.

<b>PASSED</b>	<b>AYES</b>	<b>3216.5</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>809.5</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4026</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

As funds are scarce and school districts are under budget constraints, school districts would benefit from an increase in distribution from the Idaho Department Land Endowment Fund. The value in the Public Schools Fund in FY07 was \$41,473,156 and total funds are at record highs. The first Nine Months Fiscal Year-to-Date 2008 Report indicated the total funds balance is at a record high of \$1.125 billion and the reserve balance is at a record high of \$188.6 million.

**Submitted by ISBA Governmental Affairs Committee**

**2009 RESOLUTION NO. 10**

**FILLING VACANT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE POSITIONS WHEN ZONE PATRONS DO NOT WISH TO SERVE**

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code 33-504 identifies conditions which create vacancies on boards of trustees, and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code 33-504 requires the board of trustees to make a declaration of vacancy when any of these conditions exist, and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code 33-504 requires the board of trustees to appoint to such a vacancy a person qualified to serve as trustee of school district and this appointment shall be made within (90) days to the declaration of vacancy, and

**WHEREAS**, if no qualified person in this vacant trustee zone comes forward and is willing to serve, after (90) days, appointments shall be made by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the district is situate, and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code 33-313 does not make provision for appointment of a trustee at-large;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Idaho School Boards Association supports a request to the Idaho Legislature to make a statutory change to allow Boards of Trustees to appoint a person At-Large from the school district, to fill the unexpired term for any vacant trustee position which has been vacant for more than (90) days.

<b>PASSED</b>	<b>AYES</b>	<b>3118</b>
	<b>NAYS</b>	<b>929</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4047</b>

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

To allow the Boards of Trustees to appoint a person at-large from the District to fill the vacancy. This gives the Boards of Trustees a larger pool to select a qualified candidate.

**Submitted by Culdesac Joint School District #342**