

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

“The ultimate goal of the educational system is to shift to the individual the burden of pursuing his own education.”

-John W. Gardner

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Issue 1

WELCOME BACK

To all of you who have been regular readers of the weekly Capitol Notes, welcome back! To those of you who are new to this publication, welcome! Each week I will write about what happened at the Capitol this past week and what to expect next week. Each publication will contain the following:

- Discussion of the most important things that occurred during the week
- List of all of ISBA’s current resolutions with discussion about what occurred the past week on each of them
- A link on how to contact your legislator
- A link on how to locate specific pieces of legislation
- A list of all the bills and the status they are currently in

Our goal is to post each weekly publication to our website every Monday morning and send an email to all of our members as soon as it is posted.

If you ever have any questions about anything in Capitol Notes, please feel free to call the office and ask for Karen, Quinn, or Misty.

INTRODUCTIONS

Speaking of Quinn and Misty, it thought I would give a brief introduction about both of them. Quinn is ISBA’s Policy and Governmental Affairs Director. Misty is ISBA’s Chief Deputy. All three of us will be working at the Capitol this year. Quinn and I will be the main contacts with

Misty as our backup. We will keep each other informed about all the issues so all three of us will be up to speed and able to answer your questions.

WE ARE TRYING TO GET AN EARLY START

After the Annual Convention, we worked with our legal staff to get legislation written for any resolution that passed so we would be ready for an early start with the Legislature. We want to get as many pieces of our legislation in the hands of legislators, then delivered to the Legislative Services Office so they can put them into legislative format. Our hope is to get them through the system early.

With that in mind, we met with Representative Caroline Nilsson Troy (Legislative District 5), and she has agreed to carry two pieces of legislation for us. Both are related to executive session. One relates to allowing Boards to enter into executive session with a simple majority if there is a vacancy on the Board. The other would allow Boards to discuss the sale of public property in executive session. We also sent both pieces of legislation to the media lobbyists and representatives. We have asked for their feedback because we suspect they may oppose these bills.

We also met with Representative Lance Clow (Legislative District 24), and he has agreed to carry the legislation related to receiving the education allowance for out-of-state teachers. Finally, we met with Senator Lori Den Hartog (Legislative District 22) who will be carrying legislation that will keep alternate route teachers on a Category 1 contract until they finish their route. We know there will be some opposition to this legislation from the Idaho Education Association.

In addition, we met with Representative Jason Monks (Legislative District 22) to see if we could come to terms on legislation regarding educate vs. advocate on bonds and levies. He was already working on his legislation from last year (HB270) that was very restrictive and had a negative tone. We asked that he take a look at our legislation and see if we could come to agreement on the final legislation. He said he would do that and has been sharing the legislation with others. We will follow up with him later this week.

Finally, we are working with the Idaho Education Association to see if we can come to terms on the card count legislation. We have one outstanding issue that I am hopeful we can come to an agreement on. They believe, and we agree, that the local education organization (LEO) should have a certain amount of time to collect the signatures, should the local district ask for them. They are currently asking for 45 days. We are not opposed to providing them time. However, if they want that much time, they must ask for negotiations by a certain date as well. Our fear is a local LEO will ask to begin negotiations on May 15, the Board will ask for proof of 50% + 1, and the 45 days will bump up to July 1. Most districts prefer to have negotiations done by July 1. I remain hopeful that we can come to terms.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS SURVEY

The Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) has asked that we send a survey regarding the resolution related to the experience factor for CTE teachers. That resolution would allow CTE teachers to receive credit for their years of experience in the field. For instance, currently if a nurse has ten years of experience but wants to move to a school district setting, that nurse would begin on the career ladder as a new teacher with no acknowledgement for the ten years of experience. If our legislation were to pass, the CTE nurse teacher would be placed on the career ladder with their ten years of experience.

However, and this is a big however, school districts and charter schools currently receive \$3000 for every CTE employee. If our legislation were to pass, we have been told that we would likely need to give up the \$3000 per CTE teacher. Unfortunately, neither the SDE nor the Division of CTE have any data that would tell us what kind of impact that might have on your district or charter. The loss of the \$3000 had not been anticipated when the resolution was written or passed. As such, we will be sending a survey to ask your opinion and for some data.

We would appreciate your prompt response to the survey.

RULES, RULES, RULES, AND ONE PRESENTATION

As always, the first couple weeks of the session will be the review of rules from state agencies. We have worked closely with the State Department of Education and the State Board of Education, and we don't have any concerns about any of the rules that will be presented this year.

I will be presenting in Senate Education on Monday afternoon with all of the other education stakeholders. We have been asked to answer two specific questions:

1. What are we now doing differently from last year that enhances student growth & achievement?
2. Name 2 things that you would like to do, that you are not currently doing, and that will enhance student growth and achievement?

Should you be interested in listening in to any of the meetings, we have provided a link below.

ISBA LEGISLATION BASED ON RESOLUTIONS

Below is our progress on each of the ISBA Resolutions.

Retention of Retired Teachers (2017) – HB113

Status: Became law last year.

Funding School Construction (2017) – Legislation Needed

Status: The sponsoring district is working with their local legislators in hopes of drafting some legislation to address this issue.

Reducing the Supermajority for School District Bonds (2017) – Constitutional Amendment Needed

Status: We have been unable to find a sponsor for this legislation.

Reduce the 2/3 Majority Vote Requirement to go into Executive Session – Legislation Needed (2017)

Status: Representative Troy has agreed to carry this legislation. It is drafted and has been forwarded to the Legislative Services office. We have provided copies to the Attorney General's Office asking for their comment. We have also provided copies to those entities that will likely oppose the legislation – the media. We hope to see an RS on this legislation next week.

Opposition to Amending Article IX Section V of the Idaho Constitution (Blaine Amendment) (2017)

Status: This resolution requires ISBA to oppose any legislation that would ask for an amendment to the constitution. This amendment would allow public funds to flow to private and parochial schools. We know of one piece of legislation that is similar to what we have seen in the past that would allow for tax credits. We are also hearing that there will be a piece of legislation that will allow for general fund dollars to flow directly to private and parochial schools.

Rural School Centers (2017)

Status: We have seen a draft copy of this legislation that the State Department of Education intends to move forward. Currently, there is money in the Superintendent of Public Education's budget to fund this work. This will be legislation that we will support should it move forward.

Salary Based Apportionment for Classified Employees (2017) – Legislation Needed

Status: There are many ways to address an increase in funding for classified staff. That could include changing the factor or simply increasing the total dollars in this line item. Because of the significant amount that will likely be placed in teacher's salaries this year, this legislation will likely not be heard. Should any district wish to pursue this, we would encourage them to bring another resolution.

Revision of Idaho Code on Excision (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation, and the sponsoring district is working with their local legislator in hopes of finding a sponsor.

Education Allocation for Out of State Teachers (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: Representative Clow has agreed to carry this legislation. The legislation is drafted and has been given to Legislative Services. We hope to see an RS next week.

Card Check for Negotiations (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: Karen is currently negotiating the language of this bill with the Idaho Education Association. We are hopeful that we can come to an agreement on the language.

CTE Teachers Experience Factor (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We are currently working on the language of this bill with the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education. We have already heard that if we want to proceed with this legislation we will likely lose the \$3000 that is provided for every CTE teacher. We plan to poll districts to see if they still wish to pursue this legislation knowing that they will lose the \$3000. See the notes above about a survey.

Contracts for Teachers Holding an Interim Certification Under an Alternate Route (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: Senator Den Hartog has agreed to carry this legislation. It has been drafted and forwarded to the Legislative Services Office. We hope to see an RS next week.

Move School Board Trustee Elections to November of Odd Years (2018)

Status: While our membership approved this resolution, it was with the understanding that we would only run this legislation if other legislation came forward that would move elections to November of even years. It is still very early in the session but we have not seen any legislation.

Transportation Reimbursement (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: As part of our work on this legislation, we needed to get a fiscal note from the State Department of Education. Karen asked for that fiscal impact on November 1 prior to the Convention. She did not receive the fiscal impact from the SDE until Wednesday of last week. That fiscal note indicated that there would be a \$2.7 million dollar negative impact to school districts and charter schools. 89 school districts and charter schools would be negatively impacted by this legislation. While this legislation would alleviate some of the headache associated with filing for reimbursement, we have a question as to whether the headaches are worth \$2.7 million. We would appreciate your input, should you have any.

K-12 Funding Principles (2018)

Status: This resolution addresses the work of the Funding Formula Committee. We will work closely with that committee to address these issues.

Discussion of the Sale of Public Property in Executive Session (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: Representative Nilsson Troy has agreed to carry this legislation. It is drafted and has been forwarded to the Legislative Services office. We have provided copies to the Attorney General’s Office asking for their comment. We have also provided copies to those entities that will likely oppose the legislation – the media. We hope to see an RS next week.

Permissible Education Activities in School Bond and Levy Elections (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We drafted legislation and provided a copy of it to Representative Monks, who was trying to draft very restrictive legislation on this issue last year. He agreed to review the legislation and is sharing it with other legislators. We are hopeful that we can come to agreement on this issue.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

In case you don’t know how to contact your legislators, here is a link to the Idaho State Legislature page. It can help you find out who your legislators are and then lets you contact them from this link: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/>

REMOTE TESTIMONY

This year, the House Education Committee is conducting a Remote Legislative Testimony Pilot Project. This project allows Idaho citizens to participate in the legislative process from locations a minimum of 100 miles outside of Boise.

Under the pilot project, utilizing video teleconferencing technology, registrants will be able to testify remotely on proposed legislation scheduled for a remote testimony meeting by the House Education chair.

For more information and a list of locations that you can use this service, visit this link: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/remote-testimony/>

STAY TUNED

You can view any bills that are moving through the Legislature at the following link:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/>

