Wednesday Workshops

Session 2

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Beyond the Status Quo: How the Jerome School Board Is Rebuilding Trust and Moving the Needle



Presenter:
Liz Bingham, Board Chair, Jerome JSD #261
Brent Johnson, Superintendent, Jerome JSD #261

Location: Boise Centre West 100C

This session offers a real-world case study of how the Jerome School Board is actively confronting systemic challenges, rebuilding relationships with instructional staff, and aligning governance decisions with student achievement. Changing the status quo is tough and ongoing work, and this session is meant to be a real exploration of our struggles and successes. When a school board and superintendent break away from tradition and address institutional friction directly, meaningful transformation starts. Attendees will examine the practical policies, intentional communication strategies, and cultural shifts currently driving collaboration—and laying the foundation for measurable academic growth.

Grievance Policy: Handling Complaints & Appeals to the Board



Presenter:
Anne Ritter, Board Chair, Meridian Medical Arts Charter; and Consultant, Idaho School Boards Association
Jayson Lloyd, Board Development Manager, Idaho School Boards Association

Location: Boise Centre West 100D

Patrons, students, and staff may sometimes seek board review of decisions made by a superintendent or other administrator. This workshop provides practical guidance on when an administrative decision may be appealed to the board and what a fair, orderly appeal process should look like. Participants will examine the role of board policy, requirements for following the chain of command and exhausting administrative remedies, timelines and documentation, notice to affected parties, and opportunities for each party to be heard. The workshop will also address how trustees can protect due process, confidentiality, impartiality, and compliance with Idaho's Open Meeting Law. Participants will learn how to avoid prejudging an appeal or conducting independent investigations while ensuring the board receives an appropriate record and follows a consistent process before reaching a decision.

School Security – A Risk Management Perspective



Presenter:
Chad Ranstrom, Sr. Vice President – Property & Casualty, Moreton & Company

Location: Boise Centre West 100E

Keeping Idaho students and teachers safe is a primary concern for all who are involved in public education. In this workshop, we will look at historical data around school security and violent events on school campuses. We will review the pros and cons of various school security methods (SRO, private security, etc.) from a risk management perspective. Finally, we will discuss proactive prevention tools and considerations.

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Not One-Size-Fits-All: Governance in Small Schools

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Presenter:
Natalya Peet, Board Member, Peace Valley Charter School
Michael Pinkerton, Board Chair, Peace Valley Charter School
Drew Borresen, Board Member, Peace Valley Charter School
Brandy Gosch, Board Member, Peace Valley Charter School
Sita Chiang, Charter Administrator, Peace Valley Charter School
Craig Gerard, Charter Administrator, Blackfoot Charter
Janelle Hill, Board Chair, Blackfoot Charter
Phil Gore, Board Member, Blackfoot Charter

Location: Boise Centre West 110A

Category: Charter

Small schools have unique governance needs that can be overlooked when governance guidance is developed primarily around larger districts and school systems. In a small school, board members and administrators often work more closely and collaboratively, with a greater level of day-to-day communication and shared responsibility.

This interactive roundtable brings together administrators and board members from small schools to explore what makes these relationships successful. Participants will share experiences, discuss the balance between governance and administration, and explore how boards can make informed decisions while valuing the professional expertise and experience of their administrators. The goal is not to provide a one-size-fits-all model, but to create a collaborative conversation about what effective governance looks like in a small-school environment.

Same Students, Same Teachers, Better Results: Using Data and Relationships to Improve Outcomes in Idaho Schools

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Presenter:
Josh Omang, Associate Director of Engagement, BARR Center
Dave Webster, Principal, Taylorview Middle School

Location: Boise Centre West 110B

As Idaho school boards and administrators work together to ensure that students and educators feel known, supported, and on a path for success, streamlined and effective systems help to accomplish these goals. One such system, the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) model, has seen successes around the United States. This model enables schools to identify student needs early, improve engagement, and create more connected and student-centered systems of support.

Join Taylorview Middle School Principal Dave Webster and BARR Center Associate Director of Engagement Josh Omang as they discuss their experiences implementing the BARR model. In this session, they will share how their district's decision to implement this model has improved collaboration, increased the efficient utilization of student data, and strengthened relationship-centered practices. Around the country, these changes have led to improved academic outcomes, reduced chronic absenteeism and failure rates, and increased teacher retention, ultimately providing students and teachers with the resources they need to thrive.

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Building Idaho's Healthcare Workforce: Leveraging CTE Pathways and Grant Funding for Impact

Presenter:
Jackie Yarbrough, Senior Program Officer, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health
Brian Smith, Principal / Paradise Creek Regional High School, District Coordinator / Career Technical Education & Community Schools Moscow School District

Location: Boise Centre West 110C

Idaho faces a critical shortage of healthcare workers—and Career Technical Education (CTE) is a key part of the solution. The session will showcase effective program models, funding strategies, and approaches for building sustainable, high-quality pathways aligned with workforce demands, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Attendees will leave with practical insights on accessing funding, strengthening community and industry partnerships, and developing impactful Health Professions programs that improve student outcomes while addressing Idaho's healthcare workforce needs.

Participants in this session will learn about grant opportunities from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation for Health that support the launch or expansion of Health Professions CTE programs (Dental Assisting, EMT, Nursing Assistant, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technician, and Rehabilitation Services.)

Talking Dollars Without Losing Cents



Presenter:
Eva Craner, Director of Public Relations, Twin Falls SD #411

Location: Boise Centre West 110D

School finance doesn't have to be confusing. In this session, school leaders will learn how to communicate financial information in ways that are clear, consistent, and connected to district priorities. We'll explore how to tie funding messages to your district's brand, simplify complex topics for broader understanding, and build community trust by making financial transparency part of your regular communication, not just when you're asking for support.

Executive Session Governance Mastery: Navigating Idaho Code § 74-206 with Confidence and Compliance



Presenter:
Monica Pauley, Consultant, Idaho School Boards Association
Sharon Snider, Clerk, Boise SD #001

Location: Boise Centre West 120A

Category: Clerk

This advanced session examines the complexities of Idaho Code § 74-206 and provides practical guidance on the most common executive session challenges facing school boards. Participants will review statutory requirements, allowable purposes, motion procedures, minutes, confidentiality expectations, and the clerk's responsibilities before, during, and after executive session. Gain the knowledge and tools needed to confidently support your board and help safeguard the district
from costly compliance mistakes.

Wednesday Workshops

Session 2

3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Beyond Compliance: What Every School Board Needs to Know About Suicide Prevention Planning



Presenter:
Hannah Crumrine, Lead Coordinator, Student Well-being and Safety, Idaho Department of Education

Location: Boise Centre West 120B

Idaho Code §33-136(3)(a) requires every school district and public charter school to adopt a suicide prevention policy addressing prevention, intervention, and postvention. But what does meaningful board oversight actually look like? This session examines the statutory requirements, Idaho's Suicide-Safer Model Policy, and the board's role in ensuring policy translates into practice. Participants will learn where governance ends and implementation begins, identify common policy gaps, and discover the free training, resources, and technical assistance available to support their district. Attendees will leave with a practical self-assessment checklist to evaluate and strengthen their district's suicide prevention policy.

Bridging the Disconnect: Overcoming Economic Hurdles and Public Disengagement to Fund Public Projects



Presenter:
Michael Keith, Vice President, Zions Public Finance, Inc
Amy Holly, Director, Strategic Communications, Portman Square Group

Location: Boise Centre West 120C

Category: Bonds & Levies

Why are bonds failing? We diagnose the "New Taxpayer"—a resident who is financially strained by inflation, skeptical of value, and treats property taxes like a Netflix subscription they're ready to cancel. We'll use data to show how the "K-Shaped Recovery" has left many families with flat or falling real wages, making them resistant to new taxes. Then, with Portman Square, we will provide a playbook for modern engagement strategies that can rebuild trust, transparently communicate needs, and successfully fund critical school projects in this challenging new environment.

From 46% to 66%: Reclaiming Community Trust and Passing a Supplemental Levy



Presenter:
Alexa Griffin, Board Chair, Kellogg JSD #391
Lance Pearson, Superintendent, Kellogg JSD #391
Megan Bumgardner, Administrative Assistant/Board Clerk, Kellogg JSD #391

Location: Boise Centre West 130

Category: Bonds & Levies

When Kellogg School District's supplemental levy failed in November 2025, leadership realized that facts alone don't motivate voters. To secure a 66% landslide victory in May 2026, the district pivoted to a public relations campaign that balanced hard data with emotional connection. This session breaks down how we debunked tax misinformation while simultaneously tapping into community pride and voter "feelings" to drive turnout. Learn a scalable, dual-approach toolkit that connects fiscal realities directly to the hearts of your community, turning public skepticism into passionate district support.