

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

“We have mental health issues in the State of Idaho that need to be addressed. Period. End of discussion. Parents and teachers are asking for support.”

-Supt. Sherri Ybarra, during a contentious hearing on her request for social-emotional support for students.

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Issue 6**

WELCOME TO DAY ON THE HILL

Welcome to those of you who are in Boise for Day on the Hill! We are glad to see you here and hope that you have a productive time while you are here. For those of you that were unable to make it, we would encourage you to watch the Senate Education Committee Hearing at 3 pm on Monday afternoon and the House Education Committee hearing on Tuesday morning at 9 am. Both hearings will be held in the Lincoln Auditorium. Here is the link:

<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ww02/>

To those of you who are here, please review the materials and attend the Legislation 101 workshop to find out which bills are currently most important to us. For those of you at home, here is a list with links:

HB 347 is awaiting a hearing in Senate State Affairs – this bill would limit our ability run a bond to once per year

HB 364 is awaiting a hearing in House Education – this bill would prevent you from starting your school year until the first Tuesday after Labor Day

HB 393 is awaiting a hearing in House State Affairs – this bill would remove our March and August election dates so that you can only run a bond or levy in May and November

It is time to start contacting ALL lawmakers on this issue ASAP. You can view their contact information here:

Senate Membership: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/senate/membership/>

House Membership: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/house/membership/>

RULES – FINALLY! WE HAVE STANDARDS

In less than 30 minutes, including testimony, the Senate Education Committee unceremoniously passed all the rules containing content standards. As a reminder, it only takes one committee to approve a rule for it to go into effect. That means that nothing will change regarding standards this year. The Committee debate centered around the fact that we need standards to operate. Standards are linked to assessment, professional development, and curriculum.

However, the day before the committee approved the standards, Chair Mortimer printed SCR 132, a concurrent resolution that would create a legislative interim committee to recommend new standards for Idaho schools. It would use a process for adopting new standards that would take into account the time necessary for standards review and implementation. The Resolution goes on to say that the Committee may appoint a non-legislative advisory committee. This advisory committee would give input, advice, and assistance, but would not have voting privileges. This committee would then report their findings during the next legislative session.

This Resolution is a double-edged sword. It gave the Committee enough comfort that they could support the current standards. However, we are not crazy about have legislators write the standards. This is Chair Mortimer's last year as he is not running again, but he will be around for the year the Interim Committee meets, so that will be good.

However, there is a possibility that the Committee will never come to fruition. First, the House Education Committee will need to agree with the Resolution. At this time, I'm not sure they will. They spent an inordinate amount of time on the standards and ultimately axed them all. They may not be open to this olive branch that Chair Mortimer has extended.

In addition, there are always more requests for Interim Committees than the Legislature can fund. They estimate a cost of about \$10,000 per committee. Ultimately, it will be up to leadership to decide which Interim Committees move forward and which do not.

Stay tuned to see what happens in the future.

IT WAS THE WEEK OF PRINT HEARINGS: BILLS WE ARE WATCHING

Monday was the last day to print bills for most committees. As such, we saw a ton of bills printed on Monday. Please note that bills can still be printed in privileged committees, but that will also start to drop off. For a full list, please see the bottom of this document. Here are a few that we are watching closely.

HB 364 School Year Start Date (Representative Vander Woude; R Nampa, District 22)

See my notes above.

HB 439 – Electronic Public Notice (Representative Moon; R Stanley; District 8)

This bill would have allowed taxing districts to post their notices online rather than in the local newspaper, thus saving district or charter funds. While we supported this bill, it died in the House State Affairs Committee on a tie vote. I wanted to bring it to your attention because there is another bill in the works. The new bill would create a central repository for posting of notices for all governmental entities. However, it will still require posting in the newspaper. So, if that bill comes forward, it will add yet another requirement.

SB 1279 Superintendent Evaluations (Senator Lent; R Idaho Falls; District 33)

Senator Lent’s Superintendent Evaluation legislation was sent to the floor of the Senate unanimously. The Idaho Association of School Administrators testified on the bill, although they have remained neutral.

SB 1285 School Board Training (Senator Lent; R Idaho Falls; District 33)

Senator Lent’s school board training bill passed Senate Education unanimously on Thursday. ISBA did testify on the legislation, though the GAC voted to remain neutral. We truly believe that the route to being the most effective board member is through training. We also know our small, rural districts are concerned that it is already difficult enough to recruit board members to run, and that required training could create an additional hurdle. To that point, ISBA is working on an online platform for training to make it as accessible to board members as possible.

SB 1327 School Funding Formula (Senator Den Hartog; R Meridian; District 22)

This is the latest version of a new funding formula that would move the basis of funding from average daily attendance to enrollment. We aren’t ready to sound the alarm on this just yet. We don’t believe that it will be heard for a few weeks. The SDE has indicated that they are making it a priority to run the numbers under this proposed formula to see how it will impact districts and charters. Because it is revenue neutral, meaning no additional dollars will be added to the formula, we know that we will have winners and losers. ISBA will never be able to support legislation that has winners and losers. Again, we are keeping our powder dry on this one for now.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Senator Jim Guthrie (R McCammon, District 28) introduced SB1335, which would create a permanent adjournment (sine die) date for the legislature. That date would have been the last Friday in March. While this legislation has about as much chance of passing as our long hoped for reduction of the super majority, we say, “we are proud of you for trying, and we support your efforts!”

DON’T FORGET TO WATCH FOR FACEBOOK LIVE

In addition to our weekly Capitol Notes, we will be doing a weekly Facebook Live broadcast. It will be a quick, abbreviated version of Capitol Notes. So, if you don’t have time to read all of this, please tune in live (or watch

a recording later) of our quick recap of our Stand Up 4 Idaho Schools Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/idahosba/>

ISBA LEGISLATION BASED ON RESOLUTIONS

Below is our progress on each of the ISBA Resolutions. Note that *italicized and bold language is an update from last week.*

Salary Based Apportionment for Classified Salaries (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. The sponsoring districts are working to find a legislative sponsor. Because this legislation carries a very large fiscal note and because some legislators are working on the funding formula legislation, we are not sure if the Legislature will be willing to address this issue this year.

Reduce Super Majority on Facility Bonds (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. As usual, we don't expect to see any movement on this legislation this year. We are hoping to convince some legislators to put a group of people together to discuss this issue. We are hopeful that we can make some headway with a formation of a task force to study this issue.

Executive Session on Simple Majority (2019) – Completed

Status: This became law on July 1, 2019.

Funding for Full Day Kindergarten (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation about this and it was a recommendation by Governor Little's Education Task Force. The good news is that he has asked for his literacy funding from last year, (which could be used for full-day kindergarten), to be ongoing. The bad news is that at this time, there has been little appetite to introduce legislation because of its high fiscal note.

Opposition to Public Funds Diverted to Private Schools (2019)

Status: This resolution does not require any legislation. *There was legislation printed this week by Senator Thayne that would allow for the use of Advance Opportunity Dollars by non-public school students.*

Amending School Age Statute for Flexibility (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation and secured sponsors for this legislation. However, after Quinn and Karen spoke with both of the Education Chairs, we are doubtful that this will move forward this year. We are hoping that we can get some support from the Governor's Office in years to come.

Recourse for Charter School Renewals (2019) – Complete

Status: The House and Senate Education Committees have adopted this rule and it will go into effect upon adjournment of the legislature.

Strategic Plans and Reporting Requirements (2019) – Complete

Status: The changes to this statute went into effect on July 1, 2019.

Threats on School Grounds (2019) – Complete

Status: This legislation passed last year. However, the Idaho Supreme Court struck down the entire statute to which we added our language as unconstitutional before the bill even went into effect. The Supreme Court's decision had an even larger impact on police officers in cases of domestic abuse of adults and children. They have introduced a joint resolution that would allow law enforcement to make a warrantless misdemeanor arrest based upon probable cause.

Local Control of Decision Making Regarding School Security (2020)

Status: This resolution does not require legislation. We do anticipate a bill to usurp local control of decision making regarding school security will surface at some point this session.

Updating § 33-802(5), Idaho Code to Extend School Levies (2020) - Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has a bill sponsor and should be introduced once the committee completes their review of the administrative rules. The bill sponsor is leery of introducing anything related to taxes this year, so we may need to wait until next year to attempt to get this done.

40-50-60 Salary Allocation for Instructional & Pupil Service Staff (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: Because this is legislation being brought forth by the Governor's staff, ISBA will support the legislation moving through and will send alerts for support.

Task Force on Property Tax Reform (2020)

Status: This resolution does not require legislation. ISBA will monitor all changes to property tax reform.

Revision of Idaho Code on Excision (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has been drafted, and we have secured a bill sponsor. *HB501 on Excision was printed in House Education last week. We are hoping to have a hearing on it this week.*

Discussion of Sale of Public Property Within Executive Session (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has been drafted. *After thinking we did not have a sponsor for this bill, Representation Bill Goesling (R District 5) has agreed to run the bill. He has an RS and will take it to House State Affairs as soon as possible.*

Flexibility of Teaching Assignments (2020)

Status: After working to get this printed, we found that we needed to add some additional requirements to it in order to not conflict with IDEA or Title 1 funds. Instead, the Senate Education committee will review a "Teacher to New Endorsement" rule that could do nearly the same thing, but the teacher would be required to take a Praxis exam at some point during the year.

Aligning Idaho's School Age & Accountability Requirements (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted this legislation and secured a legislative sponsor. Please watch for updates on this resolution.

Support for Idaho Science Content Standards (2020)

Status: There is no legislation needed for this resolution. ISBA will testify in support of Idaho's Content Standards, including science. *The Senate Education Committee passed the rules containing all Standards this week. They will remain in place.*

K-12 Funding Formula Principles (2020)

Status: There is no legislation needed for this resolution. ISBA will use these principles as guidance if the Legislature continues to rewrite the school funding formula.

Increased Reimbursements for Driver Training Programs (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has been drafted, and a bill sponsor has been secured. *This bill is on the Senate Floor 3rd reading calendar today! Please send emails of support to your senators.*

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Here is a link to the Idaho State Legislature page. It can help you find out who your legislators are and how to contact them: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/>

STAY TUNED

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

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

If you want to listen to committee meetings or watch debate in JFAC or on the floor of either chamber, the links to do so can be found at:

<http://idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm>

ISBA Bill Tracker 2020

Bills highlighted in purple are based on ISBA Resolutions

Bills highlighted in red are dead

Bills highlighted in green have become law

Bill #	TITLE	STATUS	POSITION
HB 347	Limitations on Bond Elections	Passed House; Headed to Senate State Affairs	OPPOSE
HB 355	Freeze on Property Tax	Became HB 409	Reviewing
HB 364	School Year Start Date	Awaiting Hearing	OPPOSE
HB 388	Advance Enrollment for Military Students	Passed the House; Awaiting a Hearing in Senate Education	Neutral
HB 391	Update to Concussion and Head Injury Guidelines	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 393	School Levy and Bond Election Date Removal	Awaiting Hearing	OPPOSE
HB 409	Freeze on Property Taxes	House Floor	Neutral
HB 430	Public Employee Damages	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 439	Public Notices, Electronic	Killed in House State Affairs	Support
HB 440	Discrimination in Hiring – Public Agencies	House Floor	Neutral
HB 445	Public Works, Contracts	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 446	Professional Service Contracts	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 447	Public Works, Cost Estimates	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 448	PERSI Cost of Living	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 470	Student Literacy Online	House Floor	Neutral
HB 480	Bi-literacy Diplomas	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 481	Digital Literacy Block Grants	Awaiting Hearing	Reviewing
HB 500	Ban on Transgender Girls from Playing Athletics	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 501	Excision	Awaiting Hearing	Support
HB 511	Charter Schools, Cash on hand, Revocation	Awaiting Hearing	Reviewing
HB 512	Charter School Lottery, Weighting	Awaiting Hearing	Reviewing
HCR 30	PERSI Cost of Living Adjustments	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1236	Educational Interpreters	Passed both Chambers; Awaiting Governor's Signature	Neutral
SB 1238	AP Government, Civics Test Requirement	LAW	Neutral
SB 1239	Flexible Schedule, Elementary Students	Reprinted, Now SB 1293	Neutral
SB1278	Driver Education	Passed the Senate; Headed to House Education	Support
SB1279	Superintendent Evaluations	Passed out of committee; on the Senate Floor	Neutral

SB 1285	School Boards, Training	Passed out of committee; on the Senate Floor	Neutral
SB 1293	Flexible Schedule, Elementary Students	Passed out of committee; on the Senate Floor	Neutral
SB 1323	Teaching Certificate Revoked, Certain Crimes	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1324	Promise Mentor Program	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1325	Non-certificated Employees – Grow Your Own	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1326	Quality Educator Loan Assistance	Awaiting Hearing	Support
SB 1327	School Funding Formula	Awaiting Hearing	Reviewing
SB 1328	Advance Opportunities; Non-Public Schools	Awaiting Hearing	OPPOSE
SB 1329	Career Ladder; Career Technical Ed	Awaiting Hearing	Support
SB 1330	Extended Employment Services Program	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SCR 120	ISAT Alternatives	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SCR 122	Graduation Alternatives	Passed Senate; Headed to House Education	Neutral
SCR 128	Personal Finance Class	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SCR 132	Content Standards Study Committee	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SJR 103	Warrantless Misdemeanor Arrests Upon Probable Cause	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral