

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.”
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Issue 4

CONTENT STANDARDS AND THE RULES QUAGMIRE

After four weeks of testimony, questioning, and debate, the House Education Committee still has not taken any action on rules. The Committee discussed several ways that they might address motions on the rules. Those ideas included having the subcommittees meet again, approving the Omnibus rules that had no debate and then making motions to reject the rules that contained the content standards, and/or approving all the rules and then having an Interim Committee review and rewrite all of the standards.

In the meantime, the Senate Education Committee has been waiting for the House to complete their work. There is no requirement that they do so, but I think Vice Chair Thayn (who runs the rules portion of the meetings) was hoping that both committees could come to consensus on the rules. However, Chair Mortimer stated in the meeting on Thursday that the Committee had been admonished about their lack of action on rules and had been told to get them done.

That means that both the House and Senate Education Committees will be working on rules next week and will likely be at cross-purposes with each other.

We are still advocating that the content standards be passed in their original form. We hope that we will have some decisions by the end of next week.

PLAYING DEFENSE

As we do each year, we continue to play defense. While we have heard about many bills that might get printed, we have only actually seen one.

The House fast-tracked HB347 related to bonds. Representative Heather Scott (**R – LD1, Blanchard**) and co-sponsor Senator Lori Den Hartog (**R – LD22, Meridian**) brought legislation to limit school districts’ ability to run a bond to only once per year if a bond election fails. Representative Scott brought similar legislation two years ago. That bill addressed both bonds and levies and it languished in the Senate.

HB347 passed out of House State Affairs on a party-line vote. It has also passed the House floor. That vote was 48 in favor and 21 against. Below is a screen shot of the final vote. You can see whether you should thank your representative or not.



We are already working on the Senate and would ask that you contact your Senators and ask them to vote no on this bill. We are especially interested in the members of the Senate State Affairs Committee. If your legislator is on this committee, please contact them directly and immediately. They are as follows:

Patti Anne Lodge: palodge@senate.idaho.gov

Mark Harris: mharris@senate.idaho.gov

Brent Hill: bhill@senate.idaho.gov

Chuck Winder: cwinder@senate.idaho.gov

Steve Vick: sjvick@senate.idaho.gov

Kelly Anthon: kanthon@senate.idaho.gov

Mary Souza: msouza@senate.idaho.gov

Michelle Stennett: mstennett@senate.idaho.gov

Cherie Buckner-Webb: cbucknerwebb@senate.idaho.gov

OTHER BILLS WE ARE WATCHING

Superintendent Evaluations

Senator Lent printed legislation related to superintendent evaluations. All Boards are currently required to complete an evaluation of the superintendent every year and to do so by June 1. This legislation adds some criteria that describes what needs to be included in the evaluation. All of those required items are information that school districts and charter schools already collect. The bill also allows for additional local measures that you may want to include.

School Board Training: On a side note, Senator Lent will be printing legislation that will require school board member training. He plans to do that today. We have not seen the final version of the language but have worked as closely as we can with Senator Lent on the language in the bill.

Mandatory School Start Time

This bill states that no district or charter can start school any earlier than the first Tuesday after Labor Day. The testimony on the print hearing indicated that kids were involved in county and state fairs and needed to be out of school. This is obviously a local governance issue and we will oppose it.

LEARN HOW IT REALLY WORKS AT THE IDLEG **ISBA DAY ON THE HILL: FEBRUARY 17-18**

This is just a quick reminder that Day on the Hill will be held February 17-18, 2020. This is your opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss those issues that are most relevant to your district or charter. We have added some additional workshops this year, so please be sure to check the agenda. We are also currently working with Governor Little's Office, and we believe that he will be speaking to the group on Tuesday morning at the Capitol right before we go to lunch.

In addition, Quinn and I will be conducting our Advocacy 101 which will give you a true insight of how things work at the legislature and how you can be an advocate for your schools.

So, if you have not done so already, please be sure to get registered: <https://www.idsba.org/dayonthehill/>

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

The Senate [has already passed a bill to allow for a game tag for swans](#). That may not be interesting to many of you but Quinn and I are city girls. The only swans we see are in Ann Morrison Park in Boise and on the pond in front of the Sun Valley Resort. We would prefer if you didn't spray shotgun fire at birds in those areas.

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 on 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. We have heard that a Representative will be bringing legislation to create a full-blown tax credit program. We are hopeful that we can keep it from moving forward again this year. We will be reaching out to you to contact your legislators on this issue when it comes forward.

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) – Nearly Complete

Status: The SBOE promulgated a rule over the interim and it will go before the legislature for review. This rule passed the Senate Education Committee. As such, it will not need House approval. This rule will go into effect at the end of the legislative session.

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 get 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. Please watch for updates on this resolution.

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

Status: This legislation has been drafted. *We are struggling to find a sponsor for this bill. All legislation needed to be presented to Legislative Services Office (LSO) by last Friday so we don’t think this will move this year.*

Flexibility of in Teaching Assignments (2020)

Status: In a positive turn of events, we have been given the blessing of the State Board of Education President to run this as a piece of legislation instead of administrative rule. *We have drafted a bill and are currently working on some amendments. We hope this will be printed sometime early next week.*

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

Status: We have drafted this legislation but have been unable to secure a legislative sponsor at this point in time.

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.

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 printed in Senate Ed on Thursday afternoon.***

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 Levies	Awaiting Hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
HB 364	School Year Start Date	Awaiting Hearing	OPPOSE
HB 388	Advance Enrollment for Military Students	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1236	Educational Interpreters	Passed out of Committee on the Senate Floor	Neutral
SB 1238	AP Government, Civics Test Requirement	Passed out of Committee on the Senate Floor	Neutral
SB 1239	Flexible Schedule, Elementary Students	Held in Committee at the call of the Chair	Neutral
SB1278	Driver Education	Awaiting Hearing	Support
SB1279	Superintendent Evaluations	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SCR 120	ISAT Alternatives	Awaiting Hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
SCR122	High School Graduation Pathways	Awaiting Hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
SJR 103	Warrantless Misdemeanor Arrests Upon Probable Cause	Awaiting Hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>