

NOTES

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE IDAHO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION • IDAHO LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Welcome to the third issue of Capitol Notes, ISBA's weekly newsletter updating school leaders on the Idaho Legislature.

It was another strangely quiet week at the Idaho Legislature. At this time last year, we were tracking and engaging in a good handful of bills. This week, the education committees saw presentations from higher education institutions, charter school groups, and the Idaho College of Medicine.

We've added a few "FYI" bills to the Bill Tracker just so you can follow them. We will most certainly have more to add next week.

ISBA Bill Tracker

ISBA is currently tracking **three** bills impacting Idaho public education. The complete bill tracker includes detailed information and ISBA staff analysis regarding the bills.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE ISBA BILL TRACKER](#)

What's Happening at the Capitol

Parliamentary Snafus in Senate Education:

On Wednesday, Freshman Senator Brian Lenney (R- Nampa) was set to introduce a constitutional amendment that would remove Article IX, Section 5 of the Idaho Constitution – more commonly known as the “Blaine Amendment.” This amendment prevents Idaho’s public institutions from appropriated funds or otherwise making financial payments to sectarian schools. **As the meeting began, Senator Lenney made a motion to place an “RS” on the agenda the subsequent day.** The Chair – and everyone else in the audience – understood it as a motion to give his proposed amendment an RS (the ‘routing slip’ needed before a bill is introduced and given a bill number) the following day. Later, Senator Lenney explained he was trying to put Senator Tammy Nichols’ ESA Voucher bill on the agenda for print. In the many years I’ve been doing legislative advocacy, I’ve never seen someone try to put an RS on the agenda through a procedural motion in a committee – traditionally, a move reserved solely for the committee Chair.

Chairman Dave Lent ultimately adjourned the meeting – and neither RS appeared on the agenda the following day.



Senator Lent is now in the “firing line” from anti-public education groups like the Idaho Freedom Foundation. For what it’s worth, we have every reason to believe the Chairman will give the ESA Voucher bill an introductory hearing and hear the bill in full. That said, Committee Chairs are allowed to request information, amendments, or clarifications on bills before they schedule them for introduction.

Chairman Lent – a longtime school board member – could use a note of encouragement. Will you send him a note and thank him for his thoughtful leadership? DLent@senate.idaho.gov



Superintendent Critchfield Makes First Presentation to JFAC as State Superintendent

State Superintendent Debbie Critchfield pitched her revised K-12 budget this year. Some highlights include:

- Restoring line items for Content & Curriculum, Professional Development, and Classroom Technology
- 10% increase in Transportation, to offset inflation
- Increase money for school board training, signaling the Superintendent supports a requirement for school board training (and would require a policy change)
- More dedicated funds going to boost Career-Technical programs

Read more about it here: <https://www.idahoednews.org/news/statehouse-roundup-1-25-23-critchfield-looks-to-put-her-imprint-on-the-k-12-budget/>

Boots on the Ground

ISBA Legislative Update with Quinn Perry

Join ISBA's Quinn Perry, for the first bi-weekly, **Boots on the Ground Webinar**, as she touches on hot topic issues affecting Idaho public schools and informs you on how you can stay involved in this year's legislative session.

Registration Information:

When: Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm MT

Where: Zoom - Register by clicking the link below.



[Register Now](#)

Advocacy Opportunity - Register Now!



[Register Here!](#)

***ISBA's room block closes on
January 30. Book your hotel today.***
**The Grove Hotel
Hotel 43**

ISBA Day on the Hill

This year's Day on the Hill will include:

- School board hot topics workshop
- Message training on current legislative issues
- Networking with fellow school board members
- A panel featuring Idaho's education stakeholders
- Senate and House Education Committee presentations
- Breakfast speakers on bipartisan approaches to policy making
- Legislative proceedings and a chance to meet with legislators
- The opportunity to have lunch with your legislator

How to Keep Up

You can find committee agendas, reading calendars, legislator information, and more by visiting the [Idaho State Legislature Website](#).

You can find live video coverage and footage of the 2023 Legislative Session by visiting the [Idaho Public Television - Idaho in Session site](#).

To view previous editions of ISBA's 2023 Capitol Notes, [click here](#).

Who is representing ISBA at the Capitol?



Misty Swanson
Executive Director



Quinn Perry
Deputy Director &
Government Affairs



Katie Drum
Communications & Program
Associate

You may have new legislators! Learn who they are and how to contact them by visiting the [Idaho Legislature website](#).



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