



CAPITOL

NOTES

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

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

A whirlwind week at the Idaho Legislature. Monday is the last day for non-privileged committees to introduce bills – so we expect to see a flurry of activity!

Be sure to check out the bill tracker for all bills introduced that impact public schools in Idaho.

Senate Bill 1038 – the ESA Voucher Bill – will likely be heard in Senate Education on Tuesday, February 14th at 3:00 p.m. MT. Watch for the agenda and tune in to watch the hearing. In the meantime, please be contacting your Senators and asking for a NO vote on SB1038. We included talking points in the previous issue, and there are excellent points on this tool: **Save Our Schools Idaho**

CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

ISBA Bill Tracker

ISBA is currently tracking **17 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**

Other Bills to Watch Out For:

HB111 – School Closures on Election Day - This bill comes from Rep. Greg Lanting – a retired school administrator – and Secretary of State Phil McGrane and would close school to in-person instruction or activities on the May and November election. It would still allow the board to determine other activities on those days – including professional development or personnel training for staff, and teacher in-service. As a reminder, Idaho Code 34-203 already requires that schools be polling places, but this is a “school safety” bill to avoid issues when your buildings are used as polling places. It has a 1-year delay of implementation – of July 1, 2024 – so that school boards can adjust their calendars. We know that many will view this as an anti-local control bill, while others agree that safety should be the biggest priority when elections are in their buildings. Similarly, we have always messaged that public schools are community buildings. As such, ***the ISBA Government Affairs Committee voted to stay neutral.*** We do believe that if this passes, schools would be the preferred polling place in nearly every community. Who to Contact: **House Education Committee.**

HB92 – Financial Literacy - Rep. James Petzke and Superintendent Critchfield brought this bill after they heard from parents and community members asking to ensure Idaho students graduate high school with a basic understanding of how to navigate real-world personal financial decisions in their everyday lives. HB92 will require each school district and charter school in Idaho to provide one or more courses on financial literacy – including the influence of money, how to evaluate investment options, credit, and credit ratings, understanding insurance with independent living, building a budget and more. The bill was drafted to avoid unnecessary burden to Idaho schools by utilizing existing standards and forgoing additional certification requirements for those teaching the course. Readily available curriculum for teaching financial literacy will be vetted and cataloged by the SDE (including offerings from IDLA), minimizing (and in many cases eliminating) a potential financial impact for our schools and taxpayers. In merging financial literacy requirements with the existing economics course(s), schools will integrate the financial literacy requirements of HB92 into their existing high school economics credit - therefore preventing any need to teach a separate financial literacy course. There is a pending rule that requires financial literacy as a new graduation requirement. **ISBA GAC voted to support the bill.** Who to Contact: **All Members of the House of Representatives.**

HB105 – In God We Trust – this bill would require that if public education institutions were donated a poster or framed copy of the representation of “In God We Trust” – the national motto – that it shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the school. This bill is a national trend. Who to Contact: **House Education Committee.**

SB1055 – 21-Month Bond – This legislation would remove a critical tool from school districts who have a voter-approved bond from using a 21-month payment

option. The 21-month payment is often used to maintain a consistent levy, and it's most often used to pay down bonds faster, saving taxpayer money overtime. We're working with the sponsor to provide additional information on this bill. **ISBA GAC voted to oppose the bill as written and hopes to work with the sponsor.** Who to Contact: **Senate Local Government & Taxation**

SB 1060 – Impact Fees for Schools – This legislation is supported by an ISBA Resolution on Impact Fees for School Districts. Simply, this bill adds school districts as eligible entities to collect development impact fees and school buildings as eligible infrastructure. This merely adds a tool to growing school districts, who currently have no tools to help growth pay for itself. Who to Contact: **Senate Local Government & Taxation**

Update on Election Dates for School Districts

HB58 (Rep. Joe Alfieri – R, Coeur d’Alene) – which removes the March and August Date – passed House State Affairs in a party line vote. It passed the House – after a very interesting debate from both parties – on a 43-26 vote.

Voting on - H 58			<u>AYE</u> 43	<u>NAY</u> 26	<u>ABS</u> 1
Alfieri	Crane(12)	Handy	Miller	Roberts	
Allgood	Crane(13)	Hawkins	Mitchell	Rubel	
Andrus	Dixon(1)	Healey	Monks	Sauter	
Barbieri	Dixon(24)	Hill	Moyle	Scott	
Berch	Durrant	Holtzclaw	Nash	Shepherd	
Blanksma	Ehardt	Horman	Necochea	Skaug	
Boyle	Ehlers	Kingsley	Nelsen	Tanner	
Bundy	Erickson	Lambert	Palmer	Vander Woude	
Burns	Furniss	Lanting	Petzke	Weber	
Cannon	Galaviz	Manwaring	Pickett	Wheeler	
Cheatum	Gallagher	Mathias	Price	Wisniewski	
Chew	Gannon	McCann	Raybould	Wroten	
Clow	Garner	Mendive	Raymond	Yamamoto	
Cornilles	Green	Mickelsen	Redman	Young	

***Point of clarification:** Representative Rubel contacted ISBA to let us know she inadvertently voted yes on HB58. Her vote does not accurately reflect her opinion on the matter.*

Boots on the Ground Webinar

**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: Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm MT

Where: Zoom - Register by clicking the link below.



BOOTS ON THE GROUND
ISBA's Legislative Update
with Quinn Perry

FEBRUARY 15, 2023
12:00 pm MT

 Hosted on Zoom

[Register Here](#)

In The News

- Geoff Thomas, Wil Overgaard and Don Coberly discuss school vouchers and the accountability requirements that should be required if passed. [To view the article, click here.](#)
- Legislative leadership have come to an agreement on how the state budget-writing committee will do its votes. [To view the article, click here.](#)

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 &



Katie Drum
Communications & Program

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



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