

CAPITOL

NOTES

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Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

-George Washington Carver

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Issue 6

WELCOME TO DAY ON THE HILL!

We are thrilled to have all of you here participating in our advocacy day. Today, President's Day, is when we start to see the light at the end of the tunnel. How? Because the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee has begun setting the budget, starting with public schools! We'll have more to report by the next issue on what the proposed final budget will look like. In the meantime, we're thrilled to have you here talking to your legislators about the issues and successes you face in each of your school districts and charter schools.

UPDATE ON PSFF

Stakeholders have been convening in the early mornings to start making technical changes to the bill based on the listening session from the first week of February. So far, we have made progress in figuring out the payments schedule to avoid any problems of cash flow for school districts and charter schools. Additionally, we are working through the problems with the wealth adjustment, technical terms, and definitions. On that note, [I'd like to share the Idaho Center for Fiscal Policy's analysis on the wealth adjustment.](#) One assurance I can give is that all stakeholders are at the table and will work diligently to ensure that this is done properly.

BILLS TO PUT ON YOUR RADAR

Firearms in Schools (not yet printed)

We have heard rumblings of an egregious piece of legislation to essentially allow for anyone over the age of 18 to carry a firearm in school grounds. It was on the agenda for print in House State Affairs on Wednesday, but was pulled at the last minute. ISBA's GAC voted unanimously to oppose this bill, as it usurps all local control of school districts' and charter schools' decisions on whether to allow firearms in their school buildings.

Teacher Pay (HB153)

Governor's Little's office introduced a piece of legislation that would bring the minimum teacher salary up to \$40,000 over the next two years. If it passes, it will have to run as trailer appropriation to the public schools budget. In addition, it will be interesting to see how it plays out once the funding formula passes. Nonetheless, one of the Governor's goals has been to help increase teacher salaries.

Executive Session on Simple Majority (HB150)

This is our legislation which would allow school district and charter school boards to enter into executive session with a simple majority vote if they have two or more vacancies on the board. This will be a hard bill to pass, but we're grateful to Rep. Bill Goesling for his work on having it introduced in committee. If you've ever experienced multiple resignations or recall elections for trustees, we'd ask that you discuss what that was like with your legislators.

UPDATE ON SOME BILLS FROM LAST WEEK

Immunization Exemption Disclosure (HB133)

This legislation did print in House Health and Welfare committee this past Monday. As Karen noted last week, it will require all of you to notify parents and guardians of the immunization exemption in the same manner you notify them of the requirement to immunize. While we understand the parental choice of immunization exemptions, we are also cognizant of the need to provide a safe and healthy environment for all students. Parents who object to immunizations are already aware of the exemptions. If they are not aware, information is readily available to them. In addition to the administrative burden this would put on school districts and charter schools, we fear it could cause an increase in parents choosing not to immunize simply out of convenience. **This bill will be heard in House Health & Welfare on Wednesday, February 20th.**

Sex Education (HB120)

We have been working with Rep. Ehardt to combat the plethora of misinformation, as well as help educate legislators on the existing rights of parents to inspect all curricular materials, including that of sex education lessons. When you are talking with legislators at Day on the Hill, you may visit about your district or charter school's experience with reviewing/adopting curricular materials.

Redistricting (HJR2)

After a foreseeable outcry from the minority party, HJR2 was pulled back to committee.

Charter School Administrator (SB1058)

This had a hearing this past week and passed the committee on a party-line vote. As a reminder, this would create a new certification process for charter school administrators. The IASA and the IEA stood up to oppose the legislation, and the State Board of Education voted to oppose it as well. It almost exactly mirrors the bill from the 2018 legislative session that was vetoed by Governor Otter.

Threats Upon School Grounds (HB115)

This legislation allows for a police officer to arrest an individual who has made a threat upon school grounds. While you're here at Day on the Hill, this bill will be having a hearing in the House Judiciary, Rules & Administration committee at 1:30 p.m. (right after the legislative luncheon). If you'd like to attend the hearing and testify, we welcome you to do so. Please reach out to me if you have any questions!

FACEBOOK LIVE

A quick shout out to everyone who has been watching Karen and I live on Facebook every Friday at 2:15 p.m. MT. Again, these videos provide a brief summary of the week where you can join the video and ask us questions on the spot. You can watch us live on Fridays or watch previous videos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/StandUp4IdahoPublicSchools/>

ISBA LEGISLATION BASED ON RESOLUTIONS

Below is our progress on each of the ISBA Resolutions.

Revision of Idaho Code on Excision (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation, and the sponsoring district is working with their local legislator in hopes of finding a sponsor.

Education Allocation for Out of State Teachers (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We are hoping to include language amendments in the Funding Formula bill when we begin negotiations.

Card Check for Negotiations (2018) – HB647

Status: This legislation passed last year and is now law.

CTE Teachers Experience Factor (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We are hoping to include language amendments in the Funding Formula bill if and when that surfaces.

Contracts for Teachers Holding an Interim Certification under an Alternate Route (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: Although it passed the Senate unanimously, this legislation failed to pass the House Education committee last year. *After speaking with the school district that brought this legislation, we don't think we are going to be able to come to consensus on this bill.*

Move School Board Trustee Elections to November of Odd Years – (2018), SB1280

Status: This legislation passed and is now law.

Transportation Reimbursement (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation needs a sponsor. However, there would be winners and losers under this legislation. We are asking to see if there would be any chance to refund the \$7.5 million that was removed during the

recession. This is the only recession era cut that has not been restored. We are not hopeful that the funding will be available.

K-12 Funding Principles (2018)

Status: This resolution addresses the work of the Funding Formula Committee. Now that the Committee has finished their work, we will work closely with the House and Senate Education Chairs.

Discussion of the Sale of Public Property in Executive Session (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We were unable to come to terms with the Press Club on this language last year. We will try again this year but are not hopeful.

Permissible Education Activities in School Bond and Levy Elections (2018) – HB620

Status: This legislation passed and is now law.

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 make some headway with a task force discussion.

Executive Session on Simple Majority (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation and secured a sponsor for this legislation. *The sponsor has drafted the legislation and we hope to have it printed this week.*

Funding for Full Day Kindergarten (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. Rep. Paul Amador has agreed to sponsor the bill. We met with Chair Clow this week. We believe we will get a print hearing on this bill and hope that the Committee will agree to move it forward for a full hearing. It will NOT make it out of committee but we believe it is a good sign that the Chair is willing to have a hearing on the bill.

Opposition to Public Funds Diverted to Private Schools (2019)

Status: This resolution does not require any legislation. We are hearing that a Representative will be bringing full blown tax credit legislation. 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: *After speaking with the Committee Chair this week, we were unsuccessful in convincing him to hear this bill. We will attempt to work on it next year.*

Recourse for Charter School Renewals (2019)

Status: After speaking with a representative from the State Board of Education, we believe that we can accomplish the tenets of this resolution through Administrative Rule. The SBOE will work on a rule after the legislation session and, if passed, it will go into effect in 2020.

Strategic Plans and Reporting Requirements (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: This bill has been printed and will likely be heard in Senate Education this week.

Threats on School Grounds (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: This bill has been printed, and is scheduled for a hearing on February 19th at 1:30 p.m.

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 2019

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
HB41	Public Employees, Severance Pay	Awaiting hearing	Oppose
HB65	Administrative Rulemaking Overhaul	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
HB69	PERSI Employee Definition	Awaiting hearing	Oppose
HB91	Impact Fees for Charter Schools	House floor	Support
HB93	Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
HB103	Levy Elections Disclosure	Senate committee	Neutral

HB115	Threats on School Grounds	Awaiting hearing	Support
HB120	Sex Education	Awaiting hearing	Oppose
HB133	Immunization Exemptions	Awaiting hearing	Oppose
HB150	Executive Session, Simple Majority	Awaiting hearing	Support
HB153	Career Ladder, Teacher Pay	Awaiting hearing	Support
HJR2	Redistricting Commission	Pulled back to committee	Neutral
SB1029	School Turnaround Act	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1030	School Boards, Organizational Meeting	House floor	Support
SB1057	School Improvement Plans	Awaiting hearing	Support
SB1058	Charter School Administrators	Senate floor	Neutral
SB1059	Mastery Based Education	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1060	Flexible Schedule and Early Graduation	Amending order, Senate	Neutral
SB1061	School Levies	Awaiting hearing	Support
SB1101	Literacy Intervention	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1102	Charter School Financial Support	Awaiting hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
SB1103	Charter School Facility Fund	Awaiting hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
SB1104	Certificate Renewal/Professional Development	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1105	Advanced Opportunities for CTE	Senate floor	Neutral
SB1106	Career Technical Opportunities for Virtual Charters	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1107	Sunset Provision for 33-1004	Senate floor	Neutral
SB1108	Drivers Ed Training, Needs Based Scholarships	Awaiting hearing	Neutral