

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

*“There is no elevator to success, you’ll have to take the stairs.
The Rock*

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Issue 2

EDUCATION WEEK AT THE CAPITOL

This is education week at the Capitol. All of the education entities will make their budget presentations to the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) this week. That includes all the university and community college presidents as well as the State Board of Education. Superintendent Ybarra will present both her office budget and the K12 budget that she previously submitted in September.

As a reminder, JFAC does not begin setting budgets until all of the agencies have presented their proposals. JFAC is different in that they don’t take any public testimony. They only allow the agency to present and legislators to ask the agencies questions. As such, we don’t expect any fireworks. Should you wish to listen in to Superintendent Ybarra’s presentation, it will begin at 8 am on Thursday, January 23rd. See below for instructions on how to find the link.

CONTENT STANDARDS RULE DEBATE – ROUND 2 **WORLD WRESTLING ENTERTAINMENT (WWE) SLUG FEST**

I apologize for the pun and reference to WWE but it has been an interesting week when it came to the content standard testimony and discussion. We have heard debate on the English Language Arts and Math Standards. Science standards have been rescheduled to Wednesday.

While there has been considerable testimony, most of it has not been about the standards but, rather, about the curriculum or teaching methods. Interestingly enough, some of the worst testimony came from a former school Board member and a current school Board member. While both indicated they were opposed to the standards, both testified on curriculum. As a reminder, the adoption of curriculum lies squarely in the hands of the local Board. That is not a State matter and we don’t want it to be. We want each of your Boards to

make decisions about curriculum based on the values of your district or charter. If there is a certain text or method that your Board does not think is appropriate, then by all means don't adopt it or allow for its use.

Testimony thus far is running 3-1 in favor of keeping the standards. There are legislators who feel the testimony is unfair because their constituents live too far away and are unable to take the time to come to Boise and testify. Those legislators are asking that written testimony be given as much weight as the public testimony given in committee.

To be honest, I don't think it matters. I believe the sides have already been chosen and no amount of testimony – verbal or written - is going to change the minds of those on the committee. They have known how they were going to vote as soon as they realized they would have an opportunity to weigh in on the rules. Thus my reference to the WWE. Lots of questioning, inaccurate information, anger at presenters and other legislators, and posturing. In the end, the outcome has already been determined. With that said, I still think it's important to be there and testify if you're so inclined. They still need to hear from those of us in support of the standards.

As a reminder, when it comes to rules, the votes are different than on legislation. With rules, both chambers need to agree to kill a rule. If one chamber kills the rule and the other approves it, then the rule stays in place. Currently, only the House Education Committee has been reviewing the Content Standards, the Senate has yet to put them on their agenda.

Should you wish to testify or listen in on debate related to Science Standards, here is the likely time:

Content Standards on Science – Wednesday, January 22th likely at 9 a.m. – EW41

OTHER THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

As Quinn indicated last week, we think this could be a big “defense” year for the ISBA. Here is an update on the things we've heard coming that could pose significant issues for school districts and charter schools:

Firearms in Schools: Along with several other stakeholders, we met with the Chair of House State Affairs this week. It was our hope that we would be able to convince him to keep the bill in his drawer and not even hear it. While he would not show his cards to us, he did indicate that the sponsor of the bill had not shown him anything yet and that nothing was on the horizon to be printed. We have read through the bill sponsor's Facebook page that he seems to believe he has a Senate sponsor. We are reaching out to see if that is accurate but we have our doubts. Because we have a resolution related to this issue – and because it's a clear violation of our principle of local governance – ISBA is adamantly opposed to this legislation.

Immunizations: We have heard of efforts to strip requirements around immunization for school children and/or shifting the burden of exemption information disclosure onto the school district or charter school. However, we were pleased to note that both the House and Senate Education committees passed the current immunization rules that are currently in place. It was a close vote in the House – 7 to 6 – but they did pass.

Property Taxes: While public schools (i.e.: school levies, bonds) have not been at the forefront of their discussions, we hear something could be coming about property taxes at many presentations by legislative leadership. There has not been much forecasting about what it would look like, but ISBA would oppose legislation that would create a shift in property taxes that has the potential to cause harm to school district

budgets. By the time you're reading this, you've probably seen a proposal from Senator Jim Rice (**Leg. District 10, R – Caldwell**) [that would remove supplemental levies and add a one cent sales tax](#) – similar to what happened in the “special session” of 2006 when maintenance and operation levies were replaced with an increased sales tax. Needless to say, we'll be reviewing this heavily and will keep our members posted.

Sex Education: Last year, Rep. Ehardt's (**Leg. District 33, R – Idaho Falls**) sex education bill contained an undefined term that would have created serious burden on school districts and charter schools to obtain “permission slips” from parents on a variety of subjects.

WHAT ABOUT THE SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA?

Discussions about the school funding formula have quieted down significantly at the state house. We know of at least two – if not more – separate groups that are working on revisions to the school funding formula. We also know that the State Department of Education will soon be presenting the data collected as a result of HB 293 from last legislative session. ISBA has not been invited to review or weigh-in on drafts of the school funding formula at this time. If, and when we do see a draft, we'll be using the K-12 Guiding Principles as adopted in Resolution No. 12.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DAY ON THE HILL **FEBRUARY 17-18**

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 Monday morning at the Capitol right before we go to lunch.

So, if you have not done so already, please be sure to get registered:

<https://www.idsba.org/dayonthehill/>

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 means 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. We are hoping they bring legislation to address this issue and the Court's objections.***

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.

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 any and 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 met with a potential bill sponsor this week. He is considering whether or not he wants to carry the bill. Stay posted on this one.*

Flexibility of Misassignment in Teaching Assignments (2020)

Status: This resolution needs to be addressed by administrative rule. We’ll be asking the State Board of Education to consider this once the legislature adjourns sine die. *In the meantime, several superintendents in Regions 4 and 5 have sent a letter to the SBOE asking that they make these changes, effective immediately, so that it will be in place for hiring this spring.*

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 principals 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. We anticipate it will be introduced once the committee finishes reviewing its administrative rules.

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
	No Bills Affecting Education		