

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

“Smooth seas do not make skillful sailors.”

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Issue 10

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Before I fill you in on what is happening at the legislature, I wanted to give you a quick update on the Coronavirus.

Impact on the Legislature

The Legislature is keenly aware that about 500 of the same people are packed into a small building and small meeting rooms every day creating a veritable petri dish for all of us. Their initial going-home date was 3/20 and we all usually laugh at that because they will be here at least a week longer.

However, with the first five cases of Coronavirus being confirmed, they are pushing to get home earlier than that. I would guess that they will finish their work by Wednesday. Although, the Senate has much more work to do than the House. They will work long hours, and committees are shutting down – that’s a good sign.

Impact on Districts and Charters

We know that most of you are aware that the Governor’s Office attempted to have a teleconference call yesterday related to school closures. They asked us to send their apologies for all of the issues they had with the calls. While the Governor has not formally closed all schools, we know that many of you have already done so. We are doing our best to keep you informed on the latest information we have.

We will be sending out some information later today related to how to deal with salary for employees. We are working on other information related on how to deal with those students who rely on the district/charter for breakfast, lunch, and oftentimes sack dinners and weekend packages. We will get that out to you as soon as we can.

At ISBA, things are currently business as usual. If we do need to close, all staff have the ability to work from home. We will send you all an email with cell phone numbers and email addresses. Whether we are working from the office or home, you will still receive the same great service we always provide.

In the meantime, take good care everyone and be well.

FIREARMS IN SCHOOLS – DEAD!!

Chair Lodge held two days of hearings on this bill. There was a ton of testimony on both sides. While we partnered with other groups like Mom's Demand Action, in the end, I believe our partnership with the Sheriff's Association and the Chiefs of Police was what put the final nail in the coffin of this bill. The testimony they provided on the last day was all related to safety. Several of the Senators asked if they thought the bill could be fixed if some language was added related to safety issues so I expect to see some version back next year. However, for this year, the Senate State Affairs Committee killed the bill on a 5-4 vote. If one of these Senators represents your district, I would really appreciate it if you would send them an email and thank them for their vote. The Senators who voted no on the bill are:

Pro Tem Brent Hill: bhill@senate.idaho.gov

Chair Patti Anne Lodge: palodge@senate.idaho.gov

Senator Mary Souza: msouza@senate.idaho.gov

Senator Michelle Stennett: mstennett@senate.idaho.gov

Troy Rohn: troy.rohn@boiseschools.org

(Note that Troy was a substitute on this day for Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb. Troy is a school board member in Boise and he gave some great testimony from a Board's perspective.)

HB393 – REMOVAL OF ELECTION DATES

HB343 – BONDS ONCE A YEAR

While it is never really over until the gavel goes down in both chambers, we believe that both of these bill are dead for this year. While they both passed the House, the Senate Chairs have both held these bills in their drawers. Once again, we owe a debt of gratitude to both of these Chairs. If you could please send them a note encouraging them to continue to hold onto both of these until the Legislature is done for the year, I would really appreciate it.

Chair Patti Anne Lodge: palodge@senate.idaho.gov

She is holding HB343, Bonds Once a Year. Note that her name appears above on the guns bill as well.

Chair Dean Mortimer: dmortimer@senate.idaho.gov

He is holding HB393, Removal of Election Dates

FAST AND FURIOUS **END OF YEAR BARGAINING**

As Quinn explained to you last week, there was an interesting motion in the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) concerning the State Department of Education Budget that turned into a tug-of-war. Ultimately, the motion that passed decreased the State Department of Education's budget significantly, including a reduction of the IT & Data Management staff of 18 people. Then, JFAC later added that department & the 18 FTE to the State Board of Education's budget.

On Wednesday of this week, House Education Chair Lance Clow printed a bill (HB673) that would essentially override that move made in the JFAC bill. The House Education Committee heard that bill this week and Chair Clow asked that it be held in Committee. His testimony to the Committee was that this decision is a policy decision and not a fiscal one. Therefore, any such decision should be made in the policy committee (Education) and not the fiscal committee (JFAC). I believe he asked to hold the bill to see what would happen with the appropriations bill.

If you've been watching at all, you know the House Floor has rejected several appropriations bills – Higher Education (they eventually came back and approved this one, but it was \$500,000 less!!), Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and the Attorney Generals budgets. So, it wouldn't be unheard of for the House Floor to reject the State Department of Education and State Board of Education budgets. With that said, both of these budgets are starting in the Senate, so it will be another tug-of-war if it passed by the Senate first.

In addition, there have been a spate of last minute tax relief bills printed in the last few days as well as several that have passed the House but were killed in the Senate. There will definitely be some last minute negotiations on those bills between both chambers. They definitely want to say that they did something with property tax relief this year.

We just don't want any of our bills to get caught up in any of this!

RECAP

All in all, I think ISBA had a good year legislatively.

We were successful in passing several bills related to our resolutions:

- Excision
- Increased Reimbursement for Driver Training
- Governor's Career Ladder and Funding
- CTE Placement on the Career Ladder

We were successful in stopping several bills that would have negatively impacted districts and charters. Several of these were also related to our resolutions:

- Guns on School Campuses
- Election Date Repeal

- Bond Elections Only Once a Year
- Sexuality Education
- Public School Funding – Enrollment
- School Year Start Date

We are still waiting to see what happens with:

- Ban on Transgender Girls in Athletics
- Warrantless Arrests – this Resolution supports a bill we passed last year (based on an ISBA Resolution) and then the Supreme Court ruled was invalid.

Bills on which we remained neutral but will have an impact on districts and charters:

- Superintendent Evaluations
- Mandatory School Board Member Training
- Charter School Financial Stability
- Charter School Weighted Lottery
- Content Standards Interim Committee

There were two bills we supported but were unable to get moving:

- Educator loan assistance
- Sale of Public Property in Executive Session
 - We will try again on this one next year

DON'T FORGET TO WATCH FOR FACEBOOK LIVE

We did one last Facebook Live broadcast. So, if you didn't have time to read all of this, please watch the recordings of our quick recap of 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. There was legislation printed last week by Senator Thayne that would allow for the use of Advanced Opportunity Dollars by non-public school students. *ISBA testified on this bill last week and we were successful in preventing this bill from moving forward. The committee vote was 5-3 to hold in committee.*

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) – Complete

Status: The House and Senate Education Committees have adopted this rule and it will go into effect upon adjournment of the legislature.

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. *SB1384 infringes upon this principle, so we are opposed it. See discussion above.*

Updating § 33-802(5), Idaho Code to Extend School Levies (2020) - Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has a bill sponsor and should be 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: *HB 523, the Governor's bill has passed the House and the Senate Education Committee. It should be heard on the Senate Floor early next week.*

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. *HB501 on Excision passed the House Floor with a unanimous vote and passed the Senate Education Committee. It will be heard on the Senate Floor this week.*

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

Status: This legislation has been introduced. Representative Bill Goesling (R District 5) has agreed to run this bill. However, it had a rocky introduction in House State Affairs earlier this session, and we may sit on this one for the year and work on it over the interim.

Flexibility of Teaching Assignments (2020)

Status: After working to get this printed, we found that we needed to add some additional requirements to it in order to not conflict with IDEA or Title 1 requirements. Instead, the Senate Education committee approved a "Teacher to New Endorsement" rule that could do nearly the same thing, but the teacher would be required to take a Praxis exam at some point during the year.

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

Status: We have drafted this legislation and secured a legislative sponsor. Please watch for updates on this resolution.

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. The Senate Education Committee passed the rules containing all Standards this week. They will remain in place.

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 passed the House last week and will be sent to the Governor***

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; Awaiting Hearing in Senate State Affairs | Oppose |
| HB 355 | Freeze on Property Tax Levies | Became HB 409 | Neutral |
| HB 364 | School Year Start Date | Awaiting Hearing | Oppose |
| HB 388 | Advance Enrollment for Military Students | LAW | Neutral |
| HB 391 | Update to Concussion and Head Injury Guidelines | Became HB 577 | Neutral |
| HB 393 | School Levy and Bond Election Date Removal | Passed House; Awaiting Hearing in Senate Education | Oppose |
| HB 409a | Freeze on Property Tax Budgets | Killed on the House Floor | Neutral |
| HB 430 | Public Employee Damages | Awaiting Hearing | Neutral |
| HB 439 | Public Notices, Electronic | Killed in House State Affairs | Support |
| HB 440a | Discrimination in Hiring – Public Agencies | House Floor for Concurrence in Senate Amendments | Neutral |
| HB 445 | Public Works, Contracts | Awaiting Hearing | Neutral |
| HB 446 | Professional Service Contracts | Awaiting Hearing | Neutral |
| HB 447 | Public Works, Cost Estimates | Awaiting Hearing | Neutral |
| HB 448 | PERSI Cost of Living | Awaiting Hearing | Neutral |
| HB 470 | Student Literacy Online | Pulled Back to Committee | Neutral |
| HB 480 | Bi-literacy Diplomas | LAW | Neutral |
| HB 481 | Digital Literacy Block Grants | Became HB 576 | Neutral |
| HB 500 | Ban on Transgender Girls in Sports | Passed the House; Amended and on the Senate Floor | Oppose |
| HB 501 | Excision | Senate Floor | Support |
| HB 511a | Charter Schools, Cash on Hand, Revocation | Senate Floor | Neutral |
| HB 512 | Charter School Lottery, Weighting | Senate Floor | Neutral |
| HB 523 | Teacher Funding – Adding another Rung | Senate Floor | Support |
| HB 530 | Executive Session – Sale of Public Property | House State Affairs | Support |
| HB 554 | School Funding for Classroom Supplies | Killed in House Ed | Neutral |
| HB 555 | Literacy Intervention Tools | Senate Floor | Neutral |
| HB 576 | Digital Curriculum Block Grants | Senate Floor | Neutral |
| HB 577 | Concussion & Head Injury Guidelines | House Floor | Neutral |
| HB 599 | Non-Public Teacher Preparation Programs | Senate Floor | Neutral |

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| HB 624 | Career Ladder Trailer Bill, Remove Master Educator Premiums | Passed House Education; On the House Floor | Support |
| HB 625 | Moving ISEE and Employees from SDE to SBOE | House Education | Neutral |
| HCR 30 | PERSI Cost of Living Adjustments | Awaiting Hearing | Neutral |
| HJR 5 | Public Owned Property that is Leased | Pulled Back to Committee | Neutral |
| SB 1236 | Educational Interpreters | LAW | Neutral |
| SB 1238 | AP Government, Civics Test Requirement | LAW | Neutral |
| SB 1239 | Flexible Schedule, Elementary Students | Reprinted, Now SB 1293 | Neutral |
| SB 1278 | Driver Education | Governor's Desk | Support |
| SB 1279 | Superintendent Evaluations | House Floor | Neutral |
| SB 1285 | School Boards, Training | House Floor | Neutral |
| SB 1293 | Flexible Schedule, Elementary Students | House Floor | Neutral |
| SB 1323a | Teaching Certificate Revoked, Certain Crimes | House Floor | Neutral |
| SB 1324a | Promise Mentor Program | Passed the Senate: Awaiting a House Hearing | Neutral |
| SB 1325 | Non-certificated Employees – Grow Your Own | Passed out of Senate; Awaiting House Hearing | Neutral |
| SB 1326 | Quality Educator Loan Assistance | Awaiting Hearing | Support |
| SB 1327 | School Funding Formula | Awaiting Hearing | <i>Reviewing with stakeholders</i> |
| SB 1328 | Advanced Opportunities; Non-Public Schools | Died in Committee | Oppose |
| SB 1329 | Career Ladder; Career Technical Ed | Awaiting Governor's Signature | Support |
| SB 1330a | Extended Employment Services Program | House Floor | Neutral |
| SB 1362 | Open Meetings/AG Ability to Review | Senate Amending Order | Neutral |
| SB 1384 | Employee Carry in K-12 Schools | Died in Committee | Oppose |
| SCR 120 | ISAT Alternatives | Adopted | Neutral |
| SCR 122 | Graduation Alternatives | House Floor | Neutral |
| SCR 128 | Personal Finance Class | House Floor | Neutral |
| SCR 132 | Content Standards Study Committee | House Floor | Neutral |
| SCR 134 | Property Taxes, Study Committee | Adopted | Neutral |
| SJR 104 | Warrantless Misdemeanor Arrests Upon Probable Cause | Senate Floor | Neutral |