

## **2023 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 13**

### **UTILIZE CURRENT IDAHO SURPLUS FUNDS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION**

**WHEREAS**, many school districts in Idaho are in need of improved or new school facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code currently provides voter-approved property tax measures as the only mechanism to construct schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho requires at least a 66.67% super majority approval vote for school facilities bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, many Idaho school districts have found it very difficult or nearly impossible to pass a school facilities bond; and

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho Legislature has considered legislation in the past that would limit the number of facility bond elections for school districts per year and create an additional obstacle; and

**WHEREAS**, many school districts struggle to maintain existing buildings so that they are appropriate and safe educational settings; and

**WHEREAS**, the quality of school facilities has an impact on school safety and student achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, using the current surplus of state funds could reduce the tax burden placed upon residents of Idaho by reducing the need for building bonds.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that, considering the historic surplus, the Idaho School Boards Association advocate for the Governor of Idaho and the State Legislature to provide school facility replacement and renovations by making K-12 school districts eligible for Permanent Building Fund dollars and by allocating \$300 million surplus funds to the Permanent Building Fund dedicated solely for K-12 school district facility replacement and renovation.

#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

School districts facing rapidly increasing enrollment or in need of repair or replacement due to aging school facilities, only have one option for the construction of new facilities: passage of a bond that places a burden on property owners. Meanwhile, the State of Idaho is holding a large surplus of funds that could help the state meet their constitutional requirement of maintaining an equitable educational program and reduce the burden of possible increases in property taxes to the citizens of Idaho.

**Submitted by Moscow School District No. 281**

**ISBA Executive Board Recommendation: Do Pass**

*Karen Pyron, ISBA Region 7 Chair, will present the ISBA recommendation during the annual business session.*