

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 03, 2020
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Abernathy

GUESTS: Tim Hill and Marilyn Whitney, SDE; Tracie Bent, Todd Kilburn and Mike Keckler, OSBE; Gideon Tolman, DFM; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

RS 27445: **Rep. Amador** presented **RS 27445**. Currently Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) is limited by code to only offer up to a four year degree. This proposed legislation would provide the State Board of Education the opportunity to allow LCSC to offer graduate-level courses and degrees. There is no fiscal impact because this only makes the option available, it does not require the addition of courses or degrees.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 27445**.

Committee members expressed concern about the proposed legislation's impact on facilities needs and if it would place LCSC in competition with offerings at the University of Idaho.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Robyn Lockett, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Office (LSO), gave an overview of the K-12 budget. She noted **Superintendent Ybarra** is requesting a 5.3% increase for FY 2021. She provided the FY 2019 Federal Grant Fund Expenditures, as requested by the Committee at their ad hoc meeting last fall. She discussed the line items requested in FY 2021 for each of the six divisions included in the Public Schools appropriation.

The Teachers Division request is for additional career ladder funds and this was included in the Superintendent's request (\$40 million) and the Governor's recommendation (\$30 million). **Ms. Lockett** noted this would require authorizing legislation, which would specify how the funds would be allocated. In response to Committee questions about the \$10 million difference in amounts, **Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent of Communications and Policy, stated the Department of Education is working with the Governor's office to determine how best to distribute additional funds. She stated **Superintendent Ybarra** is focused on giving increases to veteran teachers.

The Operations Division request is for additional discretionary funds, including for health insurance costs, and an additional 2% base salary increase for classified staff. These were not included in the Governor's recommendation. **Ms. Lockett**, **Chairman Clow** and **Vice Chairman Kerby** clarified that if these additional discretionary funds were not provided teachers may see their health insurance costs increase, or districts may choose to absorb the costs rather than passing them on to teachers. Since the funds are discretionary, districts have local control of how to spend them; they are not required to use them to defray health insurance costs.

The Children's Programs Division request is to maintain Literacy Proficiency dollars by replacing onetime moneys appropriated in FY 2020 with ongoing General Fund dollars. It also includes a request for additional, ongoing General Fund dollars to expand Mastery-Based Education. **Ms. Whitney** stated the Superintendent will give the Committee an update on this program, including data gathered.

The Central Services Division request is for \$1 million, ongoing, for social/emotional learning. This was recommended by the Superintendent and Governor. **Tim Hill**, Associate Deputy Superintendent of Public School Finance, clarified that although the Superintendent and Governor categorized this funding in different ways, it will come from the Central Services Division, so the Department will spend it on behalf of districts and charters; it will not be distributed directly to them.

Committee members expressed concern about appropriating additional funds, in light of preexisting funding for counseling. They also commented on the difficulty of tracing which division an appropriation goes to and precisely what the money is spent on. **Ms. Lockett** responded that the information presented to germane committees is high-level and while JFAC receives more detail, the granular data is available for those who want to take a deeper look, including the individual components of each division's base budget. The State Department of Education tracks exactly how much is spent on each line item and **Mr. Hill** stated he notifies the chairman and stakeholder groups each time a distribution is made.

Committee members requested poverty, at-risk and special education student population data by district.

Janet Jessup, Senior Budget and Policy Analyst, LSO, gave an overview of the higher education budget. She noted programs may be part of one appropriation, but housed in a different place. She highlighted the 1% General Fund reduction, which affects all programs except for scholarships, and the Governor's recommendations for cyber security programs (\$1 million), residency expansion (\$1.25 million) and the Opportunity Scholarship (\$7 million, ongoing, to replace last year's one-time appropriation).

Committee members discussed the retention of medical and veterinary residents to practice in Idaho.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary