

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 25, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Beth Oppenheimer, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC); Alex LaBeau, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI) President; Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBOE); Marilyn Whitney Deputy Superintendent, Communications & Policy, State Department of Education (SDE)

MOTION: **Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Rep. Galloway made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20 and 21.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Beth Oppenheimer, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) made a presentation of the Federal Preschool Development Grant accomplishments. **Alex LaBeau**, president of Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI) discussed the relationship of preschool availability and positive workforce developments for childbearing age women in Idaho. He also discussed the relationship between preschool availability and the ability for women to seek higher education. He stated forty-eight percent of employees with young children lose an average of 16 days of work annually, which can translate to \$470 million lost due to childcare issues. He stated IACI has conducted their own workforce studies which support the need to expand childcare and early childhood educational opportunities and IAEYC's program.

Ms. Oppenheimer clarified that the term "early childhood education" includes a broad range of types of education, from at home childcare to educational facilities. She stated the grant is based on five activities; statewide needs, statewide strategic plan, maximizing parent knowledge and choice, shared best practices among providers and improved overall quality of early childhood educational programs, providers, and services.

In answer to committee questions regarding the strategic plans developed last year, **Ms. Oppenheimer** clarified that the grant has only been active last year and this year but some have been able to offer programs with IAEYC and community support.

In answer to committee questions regarding what Idaho will have to show after the grant has concluded and if there will be a network that will help future parents, **Ms. Oppenheimer** stated that she expects more parents will have opportunities to send children to preschool, teachers and parents will be better teachers and better connected. She stated communities and companies will be stronger and more connected to benefit children.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary