

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 20, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Sauter

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, spoke about K-12 budget requests submitted in September 2024. She explained where money comes from, how it is distributed, and modernizing school funding. She explained consolidating the K-12 budget into three budgets aligned with the state's constitutional obligations and supporting local flexibility. The three budgets include staffing and operations, student achievement and accountability, and weighted per student funding. She spoke about implementing weighted per student funding, providing outcomes-based funding and reducing transportation funding complexity and addressing rising costs.

Starr Olsen, Dietrich School District Trustee, spoke about Dietrich literacy goals and the changes implemented to accomplish these goals. He explained how proper training helps students improve in literacy.

Jason Sevy, Marsing School District Trustee, discussed school safety. He spoke about intervention, collaboration and ways to ensure school safety.

Leslie Baker, Moscow Charter School, said her school opened in 1998 and is the oldest charter school in Idaho. She spoke about technology updates, social development, wellness benefits, and communication with parents.

Teresa Rae, Boundary County School District, spoke about school facilities in small districts. She explained the poor conditions of older buildings, state funds and school bonds.

Eric Smallwood, Twin Falls School District, spoke about school facilities in large districts. He expressed the need to upgrade HVAC systems in several older buildings.

Karen Pyron, Butte County School District, spoke about advantages of a 4-day school week. She said Friday is available to provide extra instruction for struggling students or for teacher preparation.

Delainee Ellsworth, State President, Future Farmers of America (FFA), spoke about individual needs and personal growth. She said FFA gives students a purpose and provides service opportunities.

Carson Suchan, State Vice President, FFA, explained career and leadership events which prepare students for life after high school.

Hallye Duckett, State Secretary, FFA, spoke about leadership conferences, competitions, and advocating for Idaho agriculture.

Clayton Moore, State Treasurer, FFA, explained the impact and overall experience of FFA. He spoke about a three circle education model to provide a well rounded experience.

Josiah Knapp, State Reporter, FFA spoke about experience opportunities and how to share with peers.

Kamille Mirkin, State Sentinel, FFA, spoke about different career opportunities and leadership skills in the agriculture industry.

Chair Yamamoto put the committee at ease for one minute.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary