

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 28, 2019
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:** None
GUESTS: Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Sherri Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced her staff and gave an overview of her FY20 Superintendent's Budget Request. Her request is a 6.8% increase, assuming FY19 levels include her \$19 million supplemental request for the Keep Idaho Students Safe (KISS) initiative. She stated her proposed budget reflects an investment in the future and human capital, with the largest increases going to teachers and other employees who serve Idaho children. She noted the top request she received from districts was continued focus on increasing teacher pay, which she incorporated by recommending full funding for the Career Ladder and beginning the payment of Master Educator Premiums to eligible teachers who submit a portfolio.

Superintendent Ybarra is requesting a \$3 million increase for Advanced Opportunities, \$1.4 million to expand Mastery Based Education, and an additional \$1.1 million for her Math Initiative. These funds would add six full-time regional math specialists, particularly for support at the secondary level; support educators learning best practices to integrate math into other content areas; and increase the number of students with access to a K-2 diagnostic for early math intervention.

Superintendent Ybarra is requesting \$3 million more for classroom technology to move closer to the \$60 million goal set by the 2013 Task Force for Improving Education. She is also requesting \$3 million more for Professional Development, primarily to train teachers to implement the new Idaho Science Standards approved last year by the Legislature. These standards will be key in helping prepare Idaho students to fill high-paying STEM jobs. These funds also include \$980,000 for a Teacher Pipeline Initiative to support district-level programs to increase teacher recruitment, particularly in rural and remote districts.

In response to Committee questions, **Superintendent Ybarra** noted she could not comment on the proposed new funding formula and its impact on the Career Ladder without first seeing draft legislation, but would have concerns about removing it. Regarding Master Educator Premiums, she noted a group of educators formulated the requirements for portfolio submissions and 25% of Idaho educators are estimated to be eligible, but may not all submit a portfolio. She highlighted Idaho student achievement, but stated unless the state invests in teacher recruitment and retention, high growth rates will begin to impact achievement.

Matt McCarter, Director of Student Engagement, Career and Technical Readiness Department, State Department of Education, gave an overview of the KISS initiative. Current school safety efforts include anti-bullying and suicide prevention programs, and the Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which are funded by the \$4 million appropriation for Safe and Drug Free Schools. KISS aims to provide a multi-pronged, comprehensive approach through school safety grants, a school safety course and a statewide Crisis Prevention Counselor. The school safety course would bring together many individual safety topics in a single place and be open to all school staff; forty percent of the lesson planning is done. For school safety grants, \$18.5 million is requested one-time from FY19. The majority of the funds would be distributed by formula to all schools, while \$1 million would be competitive and focused on securing instructional areas and building-wide communication. The Crisis Prevention Counselor would be housed in the State Department of Education and be the point of contact for school counselors for support in addressing social/emotional issues.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. McCarter** clarified school safety grants could be used to pay for School Resource Officers. He also explained the Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey questions are chosen by state stakeholders and participation is optional.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary