



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

650 W. State Street • P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID 83720-0037
208/334-2270 • FAX: 208/334-2632
e-mail: board@osbe.state.id.us

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:

Randi McDermott, 332-1567 or
rmcdermo@osbe.state.id.us or

Allison McClintick, 332-1591 or
amcclintick@osbe.state.id.us

State Board of Education Confronted Full Agenda At Its March Meeting

During its regular monthly meeting the Idaho State Board of Education voted to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 106, which addresses the Board's responsibility as the agency designated in statute to negotiate, contract with, and to accept financial or other assistance from the federal government.

"It is the Board's intent to exercise its constitutional authority for supervision of the Idaho public school system, and its statutory authority as the agency designated to negotiate and accept federal funds, by ensuring that any education-related federal dollars, applied for or received, are brought to the attention of the Board, and that the Board, as a policymaking body, have the opportunity to approve or reject proposed applications for and uses of federal funds, especially those that allow for state discretion. It is not the Board's intent to take over the administrative or implementation responsibilities, or any employees designated for such a purpose, currently residing in the State Department of Education," stated Blake Hall, President of the Board.

Note: At the time of this release the Senate passed SCR-106 on a vote of 23 to 12.

Several additional items were considered on a full agenda. Of great interest was the Board's proposal to develop policy to address the coordination in the delivery of post-secondary instruction.

As postsecondary "satellite centers" continue to develop throughout the state the Board has realized the need for a clear, systematic and coordinated approach to the development of programs by the various institutions. The Board accepted the first reading of a policy draft on delivery of postsecondary instruction developed by staff and the provosts at each public institution. President Hall will assign specific Board members to join CAAP and Board staff as they meet to perfect the policy.

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The Board heard a report from the University of Idaho Foundation regarding its efforts to repay the loans made to it by the institution for the plan development stage of University Place – Boise. Foundation President J. Patrick McMurray reported that the Foundation needs to take more time and is having greater difficulty than initially reported in paying the loan balances. He stressed however, that they will be taking decisive action to reduce or eliminate the loan balances as quickly as possible. The Board accepted the report and reiterated its commitment to undertake a full financial and management review that will be thorough in all aspects.

The Accountability Steering Commission presented its recommendations for proficiency definitions and the proficiency scores for Idaho's K-12 students. Consistent with the federal education policy, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) guidelines, the Board approved the proficiency scores, which are based on the nationally recognized RIT scale. The scores measure student knowledge and mastery relative to Idaho's Achievement Standards.

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