

**April 18, 2003**

### **Idaho State Board of Education Votes To Maintain Current Executive Team**

In an effort to consolidate its leadership experience, the Idaho State Board of Education voted April 17th to maintain its current executive team for another year. Meeting in Gooding, the Board voted to have Blake Hall of Idaho Falls continue in the position of president. Jim Hammond of Post Falls will remain as vice president, and Rod Lewis, Boise, will continue in the secretary slot.

Under their leadership the Board has made significant progress over the past year in several key initiatives. These initiatives have included development and implementation of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test, continuing development of the Idaho State Accountability Plan, and recommendations to enhance teaching quality in the state's public schools. "These initiatives put the state in excellent position to meet the requirements of the federal 'No Child Left Behind' Act", said Board member Karen McGee. "These accomplishments are exceptions when you consider the uncertainties of today's economic picture", she continued.

"There is much more work to be done and there are other arenas needing attention as well", said Board Vice-President Jim Hammond. The Board is presently faced with the vacancies left by three higher education institution presidents. "Given the uncertainties we face this coming year it would be good to maintain the continuity as we go forward," said Rod Lewis in his nomination of Mr. Hall for president. "I've learned in my business through out the years that if it is working well - go with it, said newest Board member Milford Terrell."

The State Board of Education consists of seven members who are appointed by the Governor for five-year terms and the Superintendent of Public Instruction who is elected every four years. Board leadership is elected in April to fill one-year terms.