

**January 22, 2004**

**BOARD STATEMENT ON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S UNIVERSITY PLACE ANNOUNCEMENT**

BOISE - The State Board of Education issued the following statement concerning the Attorney General's announcement that he would conduct a criminal review of the University Place project.

"The State Board of Education was committed to having an independent group look at the University Place project and report on it. It was important to commission an independent report so all the facts could be presented. As far as criminal proceedings, that is not within the Board's jurisdiction and the Board will fully cooperate with the Attorney General's office," said Gary Stivers, Executive Director of the State Board of Education.

In the December Board Meeting, the State Board of Education formed a committee chaired by Rod Lewis with members Blake Hall and Laird Stone to evaluate the University Place report. The committee will review the University Place findings in detail and report back to the Board with policies and procedures that will ensure this situation does not happen again.