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KEMPTHORNE APPOINTS NEWLY CREATED CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

(BOISE) Governor Dirk Kempthorne today announced his appointees to the newly created Charter School Commission, a seven-member panel responsible for the oversight of public charter schools throughout the state.

"This is a tremendously talented group of Idahoans who have one common purpose - improving education for our students," Kempthorne said. "Their mission will be to help charter schools be successful and to function as labs for innovative ideas that can be incorporated into traditional public schools."

The legislation creating the Charter School Commission calls for three current or former members of Charter School Boards, three current or former trustees of an Idaho school district, and one "public at large" member.

Governor Kempthorne tapped Jim Hammond, who served nearly five years on the State Board of Education, as the at-large member.

"Jim brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Commission from his service on the State Board of Education," Kempthorne said. "He has been involved with charter school issues practically since their inception in Idaho, and his leadership and experience will be a key part of the success of this Commission."

From the public charter school boards, Kempthorne appointed:

- Esther Van Wart, Pocatello Charter School Vice Chair
- Kirk Miller, Boise Anser Charter School Board President
- Paul Powell, Boise Hidden Springs Charter School Board President

The three current or former trustees from Idaho school districts appointed by Kempthorne are:

- Bill Goesling, Current member of the Moscow School Board
- Marianne Donnelly, Current member of the Pocatello School Board
- Ann Souza, Former Chair of the Bonner County School Board