

**July 16, 2004**

**CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION SET TO MEET JULY 21 IN BOISE**

BOISE -- The Idaho Charter School Commission will hold its first meeting Wednesday, July 21, starting at 8 a.m. at the Lookout Room at Boise State University.

The meeting will begin with an introduction of commissioners and election of officers. The commission will hear petitions from six charter schools: Rolling Hills Public Charter School, Idaho Virtual Academy, Idaho Virtual High School/Richard McKenna Charter High School, Idaho Leadership Academy in Idaho Falls, Idaho Leadership Academy in Pinegree and Compass Charter School.

The commission, appointed by Governor Dirk Kempthorne, was created by the Legislature to consider charter schools petitions. Under Senate Bill 1444, charter schools must first apply to their local school district. The commission can hear charter school petitions that are redirected by the State Board of Education, are referred by local school districts or petitions that are not heard by the school district within 30 days. Virtual charter schools may apply directly to the commission.

Charter School Commission members are: Marianne Donnelly, Bill Goesling, Jim Hammond, Kirk Miller, Paul Powell, Ann Souza, and Esther Van Wart.