



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TRUSTEES OF BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY  
TRUSTEES OF IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY  
TRUSTEES OF LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE  
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO  
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
TRUSTEES FOR THE IDAHO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

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**APPROVED MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
January 15, 2010  
650 W. State Street  
Office of the State Board of Education  
Boise, Idaho**

A special teleconference meeting of the State Board of Education was held January 15, 2010. It originated from the Office of the State Board of Education in Boise, Idaho. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with a roll-call of members. Board President Paul Agidius presided.

**Present:**

Paul Agidius, President  
Richard Westerberg, Vice President  
Ken Edmunds, Secretary  
Milford Terrell

Don Soltman  
Emma Atchley  
Tom Luna, State Superintendent

**Absent:**

Rod Lewis

**BOARDWORK**

**Federal Race to the Top Grant**

**M/S (Terrell/Westerberg) To support the submission of Idaho's Race to the Top Grant and to authorize the Board president to sign the application on behalf of the State Board of Education. Roll call vote taken; *motion carried unanimously.***

Mr. Luna reviewed the information he provided in a previous regular Board meeting regarding the Race to the Top Grant. He reviewed where the grant money comes from, how it can be spent, and what areas need to be focused on in order to make our application competitive. SDE received additional information 1/14/2010 from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the signature requirements for the grant.

The application due date is Tuesday, January 19, 2010. There are 60 school districts and 20 charter schools that have signed MOUs to participate. One district's MOU is in question regarding signatures. SDE is pleased with the level of participation.

Idaho's application request is for approximately \$120 million over four years. The state currently receives over \$400 million annually from U.S. Department of Education for K-12 schools in Idaho. The grant request is approximately a 10% increase over a four year period of time. The focus of this application is standards, assessments, data systems, pay for performance for teachers, and higher level of accountability.

Mr. Edmunds asked what percentage of the student population in Idaho the grant includes. Mr. Luna indicated about 40%. The grant attracted more rural districts than larger, urban districts.

Mr. Edmunds asked about the timing of the approval for the grant application, and whether it is better to wait until June to provide an improved application or to continue and apply now? Mr. Luna answered that he is confident that the grant is of the quality to move forward today. He said it is important to participate in this first round so that, if Idaho is not awarded the grant in the first round, it has the opportunity to apply reviewer feedback and then reapply in June. Mr. Luna indicated there is about a 50-50 chance of receiving the grant.

Mr. Terrell commented that Secretary Duncan and this administration are taking a large stance on education and the opportunity of choice for kids. Mr. Terrell asked if applying for and accepting the grant, would there be strings attached that would overpower their authority? Mr. Luna stated that there is nothing in the requirements of the grant that are in conflict with the SBOE goals for education in Idaho, short term or long term.

Mr. Terrell followed up by stating that this federal administration is interested in pay for performance. Throughout the nation, it has been a political football. It supports where this Board has been headed over the last few years. He asked if Mr. Luna thinks this is going to make it easier to press the issue of pay for performance. Mr. Luna answered that it already has. Pay for performance has become a bipartisan issue. The Idaho Teachers Association helped put the application together, and they support this plan. Those in the past who have opposed pay for performance are now deciding that it is inevitable and that they should be involved. Over \$50 million of the grant will end up going to Idaho teachers.

Mr. Agidius stated that districts have the option to opt out in the first 30-day period, and asked if the application required all the signer's signatures to opt out? Mr. Luna indicated that it does not. He explained the 90-day process involved in response to Mr. Agidius's question. Mr. Agidius followed up by asking what the major reason was that other districts did not participate. Mr. Luna answered that the one district not participating was not able to get all three signatories to sign. That district's biggest concern was pay for performance. Another concern was sustainability. Under this

grant, funding for ongoing programs will not be sustainable, including pay for performance.

Mr. Edmunds asked if Idaho would be implementing policy changes, including revisions in high school and college requirements. Mr. Luna stated that there is nothing that requires us to change high school graduation requirements. Over time, we do need to raise our standards for graduation, but it is not a requirement of the grant. Mr. Luna indicated that we are continually looking to raise high school graduation expectations, that could mean a number of things, but it does not require us to change our high school graduation requirements. Before the Race to the Top Grant was being discussed, Idaho agreed to discuss common core standards with 46 other states. Those would be state-developed, and states would choose to participate or not, and they would be internationally benchmarked. Idaho would do this with or without the grant. Mr. Edmunds indicated he was in favor of that.

Dr. Rush stated that we pulled up the minutes on this topic and it was presented as an information item because Mr. Luna stated that the collaborative group of states got together and formulated the standards, but the Board would have to then approve those. Mr. Luna stated that it does not obligate the Board to adopt them.

Mr. Edmunds commented on summative assessments. If Idaho cannot use grant money to do that, how would we go about getting that funding. Mr. Luna confirmed that SDE cannot use Race to the Top funds for summative assessments and is not planning to use state funds for this. There is a separate federal grant that will be used for summative assessments. Carissa Miller was invited to the table to explain those grants.

Mr. Edmunds asked if the SLDS grant and the Race to the Top Grant conflicted in any way. Mr. Luna answered that in order to hit every point necessary in the Race to the Top Grant, SDE had to explain how to deliver on the SLDS currently under construction in Idaho. SDE discussed this with the U.S. Department of Education who assured SDE that including that in the application would not be duplicative.

Mr. Edmunds asked what policy revisions are being implied by approval of the grant. Mr. Luna indicated he did not know of any policy implications, and that discussions had taken place regarding the possibility of some Board action in moving toward common core standards. Mr. Luna further indicated that pay for performance and SLDS would not require policy changes and there is nothing in state law or Board policy requiring approval to implement these changes. Some districts are already doing pay for performance.

Mr. Agidius asked if the Board needs to sign off on any of the districts' plans. Mr. Luna answered that, no, the local boards will need to do that.

Mr. Edmunds asked if it would be detrimental for pilot programs starting and then ending at the end of the grant. Mr. Luna answered that the only one that is detrimental is pay for performance. This will answer the question whether pay for performance is

successful or not. This will provide data to answer the question of whether pay for performance makes a difference in student achievement.

Ms. Atchley asked what activities or incentives will come out of the grant that will be available to the districts who did not sign MOUs to participate in the Race to the Top Grant, would there be positive outcomes from the grant that can be adopted statewide? Mr. Luna answered in the affirmative, and that there are a lot of things SDE desires to implement whether the grant is awarded or not. He further indicated that formative assessment, Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), funding for 11<sup>th</sup> grade ACT, SLDS, all these will be statewide and will benefit all districts whether participating in Race to the Top Grant or not. These things will be one-time expenditures and we will benefit from those for many years. ACT funding will not be funded beyond the grant, nor will pay for performance, professional development, etc.

Ms. Atchley indicated that the grant appears as a positive activity. Mr. Luna also added that all participating districts will allow juniors and seniors to take six college credits each year through dual credit.

Mr. Luna thanked the Board for reviewing the application and asking very informed questions. Dr. Rush introduced Roger Brown, Policy Advisor for education in the Governor's office. Dr. Rush also stated that several MOUs have been signed by himself on behalf of the Board. Those will need to be approved by the Board at the February Board meeting.

Mr. Edmunds stated that IBCEE recommendations have not been approved by the Board.

**M/S (Terrell/Atchley): To adjourn this special meeting of the Board at 11:51 a.m.**  
Motion carried unanimously.