



**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**

**APPROVED MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 3, 2014
Special Board Meeting
Boise, ID**

A special meeting of the State Board of Education was held February 3, 2014 via teleconference. It originated from the Board office's large conference room in Boise Idaho. Board President Don Soltman presided and called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. MST. A roll call of members was taken. Superintendent Luna arrived moments after the roll was called.

Present:

Don Soltman, President
Emma Atchley, Vice President
Milford Terrell

Richard Westerberg
Bill Goesling
Tom Luna

Absent:

Rod Lewis, Secretary

PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (PPGA)

1. Legislative – SB 1254

M/S (Terrell/Westerberg): To move the State Board of Education oppose Senate Bill 1254. The motion carried six to zero. Mr. Lewis was absent from voting.

Ms. Marilyn Whitney provided some background and details of the bill. She pointed out that this legislation would mandate that the public higher education institutions would allow concealed carry license holders with an "enhanced" license to carry concealed weapons within most of the educational venues on campuses, allowing prevention only within institution dormitories or residence halls or in public entertainment facilities with a seating capacity of 1,000 or more. The bill would allow enhanced license holders as well as retired law enforcement officers to carry concealed weapons in most of the educational venues on campus.

Mr. Terrell expressed why he felt it was important to make the motion today. He commented that many people feel that in different scenarios, good people carrying guns can help deter bad people carrying guns. He pointed out, however, that many of those well intending people who carry concealed weapons are not necessarily as competent with a firearm as those who have been professionally trained in the area. Mr. Goesling echoed those remarks, adding that there

are often K-12 students on campus. He also expressed that if others besides law enforcement are carrying weapons, in the event of a situation, the law enforcement officers may not be able to distinguish who is who.

Mr. Luna commented that some of the arguments in favor of this bill refer to the Utah bill, and asked how this law differs from the law in Utah. Ms. Marcus responded that guns are allowed on campuses in Utah. Mr. Burnett also responded that Utah and Colorado have statutes that permit guns on campus. Mr. Burnett pointed out that Utah's higher education system is a legislatively directed system while Idaho's is a regent system.

Mr. Luna asked about the objection on the bill from the institution presidents and whether the objection was based on its constitutional bearing, or a safety issue and the management of safety on campus. Mr. Burnett responded on behalf of institution presidents that their concern is that control of firearms on campus should be addressed by those responsible on their respective campuses. Mr. Burnett commented that each of the institutions have addressed this issue in ways that are appropriate to their respective campuses, and believe that the distributive decision making is in the best interest of higher education, rather than a one size fits all policy. Mr. Burnett cited a number of concerns shared by institution leaders regarding safety on campus.

Mr. Luna thanked Mr. Burnett for the remarks he provided, and indicated K-12 has had similar struggles. He also added that first responders have shed additional clarification to the possible outcomes of situations involving guns on campus, and in their case they don't know who the perpetrator is if two people are pointing guns. He felt it important for higher education leaders to take the lead on this area to better define a plan or clarify the plan in place. Mr. Luna concluded his comments by saying there needs to be an organized discussion and effort in policy making going forward that gives people more comfort that our campuses are secure.

Mr. Westerberg felt there are two issues at hand; one is whether it makes sense to have guns on campus, and the other is who decides. He felt it important for the State Board of Education to protect the right of the local individuals to opine on the issue to decide what is best for them, and not give away that right.

Mr. Burnett indicated that there would be a news conference at 2:00 p.m. today where institution presidents would be expressing their concerns over Senate Bill 1254.

Other Business:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was entertained.

M/S (Terrell/Atchley): To adjourn the meeting at 10:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.