A special meeting of the State Board of Education was held October 3, 2014 via teleconference. It originated from the Board office’s large conference room in Boise Idaho. Board President Emma Atchley presided and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. MST. A roll call of members was taken.

Present:
Emma Atchley, President
Richard Westerberg
Rod Lewis, Vice President
Debbie Critchfield
Don Soltman, Secretary
Tom Luna
David Hill
Bill Goesling (joined the meeting at 9:17 a.m.)

PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (PPGA)

1. Recommendations from 2014 Education Improvement Committees

M/S (Westerberg/Soltman): To adopt the recommendations related to Structure and Governance as outlined in Attachment 1 and to direct Board and Department staff to develop implementation plans for each recommendation and bring them back for Board approval. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Mr. Westerberg introduced the item and indicating this item is essentially the final report from the Structure and Governance Committee who is seeking the Board’s approval of their recommendations. Mr. Westerberg reminded the Board that they established two committees to address the 20 recommendations from the Governor’s Task Force on Education; of which Structure and Governance is one. He pointed out that the committee split into three subcommittees in order to get the work done in a timelier manner. Mr. Westerberg introduced Mr. Bob Lokken for further comment.

Mr. Bob Lokken, President of Idaho Business for Education and Chair of the Structure and Governance Committee, summarized the committee recommendations which were also included as attachments to the agenda materials. Mr. Lokken indicated the Task Force and committee discussions and recommendations focus particularly on human assets and on how to facilitate allowing our schools to become a high performance work environment. The last
portion of the recommendations focus on putting technology in place and enhancing collaboration. Of the 28 specific recommendations (which were consolidated to 23), each focus on continuous improvement planning that include specific goals and targets. Mr. Westerberg pointed out that when the three subcommittees voted on the recommendations, all of the recommendations passed unanimously. Mr. Lokken verified that comment.

Mr. Luna asked if there were any significant or material changes to the agenda attachments. Ms. Whitney responded that there were some suggestions, and one dealt with the fiscal impact of consolidating and streamlining the advanced opportunities program. The subcommittee chair and committee chairs agreed the changes captured the intent of the committee. Mr. Lokken echoed those remarks commenting the spirit of the intent is that the schools move in the direction indicated, pointing out they realize there are limitations and minor edits may be necessary during the process. Ms. Bent pointed out that what the Board is being asked to adopt today is the summary of recommendations and for Board staff to develop the recommendations as reported in attachment 1, specifically on pages 5-7. Mr. Luna asked about the status of what he referred to as sub-recommendations. Ms. Bent responded that the information will be used to bring back to the Board very detailed information and analysis on each item. Mr. Luna expressed concern over the implementation of high level recommendations and that the detail should be adopted so as to not lose anything in translation between now and execution. Ms. Whitney pointed out some specifics that are moving forward in legislation and the plan is for the recommendations to be sequenced and worked on by the Board and Department staff; and then be presented back to the Board.

Ms. Critchfield asked about advanced opportunity consolidation and if anything is being eliminated. Mr. Lokken responded that the intent was not to eliminate anything, but rather to simplify the process. The recommendation is to bring advanced opportunities into a single section in Idaho Code because it exists in various places currently. Ms. Whitney confirmed those remarks. She also pointed out that a few of the changes are intended to assist districts in administering the programs. Ms. Critchfield asked if there was discussion on combining advanced opportunities programs into one program. Mr. Luna responded the programs in place for dual credit and advanced opportunities are intended to help students by providing better access, not to remove any opportunities that are currently there. Additionally, he added the demand has increased tremendously.

Mr. Hill commented that related to #11 in the agenda attachment, he strongly endorses the focus on continuous annual improvement. Ms. Bent pointed out that the item, along with the advanced opportunities item, will be presented at the October Board meeting because they require legislative change.

Board members expressed sincere appreciation for the amount of time and resources put forth by Mr. Lokken and the committee for their work on the recommendations. Mr. Goesling asked about a timeline for the implementations. Mr. Westerberg responded the timeline would vary based on the recommendations.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (SDE)

2. PSAT and Student Data Privacy

M/S (Luna/Hill): To approve to authorize school districts and charter schools to share confidential student data contained on the PSAT exam with the College Board, as a
vendor of the Department, to allow the College Board to administer the PSAT. The motion carried unanimously 8-0.

Mr. Luna summarized the item pointing out that the State Department of Education (Department) contracts with the College Board to provide all high school juniors the opportunity to take the SAT test. The Department has extended their contract with the College Board and now allows 10th graders the option to take the PSAT which is the pre-test. The next PSAT test is scheduled for October 15, 2014. Some school districts have expressed concern about the new Data Security Bill that was passed and what their obligations are related to the transfer of data since they are not contracted directly with the College Board. Mr. Luna pointed out that the law allows for the Board to approve data transfers and the Department is requesting that the Board approve the school districts’ transfer of student level data to the College Board for the purposes of administering the PSAT. Mr. Luna pointed out that they anticipate more than 17,500 students are prepared to take the PSAT this year.

Other Business:

There being no further business, unanimous consent was requested to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. There were no objections.