A special meeting of the State Board of Education was held October 10, 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 promptly at 8:30 a.m. MST. A roll call of members was taken.

Present:
Emma Atchley, President
Rod Lewis, Vice President
Don Soltman, Secretary
David Hill (joined at 8:32)

Tom Luna (joined at 8:32)
Debbie Critchfield
Bill Goesling

Absent:
Richard Westerberg

INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS (IRSA)

1. Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) – Consortium Agreement

M/S (Soltman/Hill): I move to approve the request by Boise State University, Idaho State University and University of Idaho for approval of the amendments to the CAES Tenant Use Agreement and to the CAES Consortium Agreement, so as to add University of Wyoming as a full member of the CAES collaboration, and make other revisions, as per the materials presented to the Board. The motion carried unanimously seven to zero.

AND

M/S (Soltman/Hill): I move to direct Boise State University, Idaho State University and University of Idaho to report annually to the Board on institution related CAES activities through the Higher Education Research Council. The motion carried unanimously seven to zero.

Board President Atchley remarked that a fairly historic change in the CAES operation in Idaho Falls is being considered by the Board today. She turned time item over to IRSA chairman Don
Soltman for a summary of the item. Board member Soltman complemented the staff on the quality and thoroughness of background and discussion materials provided to the Board. He summarized by pointing out that in 2013 the Leadership in Nuclear Energy (LINE) Commission recommended that “the Governor enter into discussions with neighboring states to expand the role of CAES into a regional research facility and establish joint funding and research collaboration with those states.” At the urging of the governors of the states of Idaho and Wyoming, as well as leadership at the Idaho National Lab (Lab), the CAES collaborators have considered the addition of the University of Wyoming to the CAES collaboration. Mr. Soltman pointed out that Boise State University, Idaho State University, and University of Idaho each support addition of the University of Wyoming to CAES.

Board member Dr. David Hill, who is also on the CAES Steering Advisory Committee, provided remarks on the success of the program. He remarked that the program is successful because of the commitment of the three Idaho universities and the Lab. He reported that CAES felt adding the University of Wyoming creates enormous opportunity to expand further opportunities for the Wyoming University, the Idaho universities, and the Lab. CAES felt that Wyoming is a natural fit in terms of size and ambition, and commented on the evidence in the area of federal and state cooperation for the greater benefit of the region. Mr. Hill summarized reasons why Wyoming is a good fit and also commented that the Governor of Wyoming is strongly supportive of the consortium.

Other Business:

M/S (Critchfield/Goesling): I move to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 a.m. The motion carried unanimously seven to zero.