



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 18, 2018
Office of the State Board of Education
Len B. Jordan Building
650 W State Street, 3rd Floor
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the State Board of Education was held January 18, 2018 in the large conference room of the Office of the State Board of Education, Len B. Jordan Building, in Boise Idaho. Board President Dr. Linda Clark presided and called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm MST. A roll call of members was taken.

Present:

Dr. Linda Clark, President	Andrew Scoggin
Debbie Critchfield, Vice President	Don Soltman
Dr. David Hill, Secretary	Richard Westerberg
Emma Atchley	Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent

PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Legislative Update – Governor’s Recommendation

M/S (Critchfield/Soltman): To support the Governor’s budget recommendation for an executive staff position, and the proposed legislation in substantial conformance to the form provided in Attachments 1 through 3. The motion carried 8-0.

Planning, Policy and Governmental Affairs Committee (PPGA) Chair, Ms. Debbie Critchfield introduced the item, reminding members of the January 4, 2018 Special Board Meeting with the Governor to discuss his plan for a Chief Education Officer (CEO). She continues the item before the Board today is to consider the Governor’s budget recommendations for the 2018 Legislative Session, which includes the budget request for the CEO position as well as proposed legislation relative to the Opportunity Scholarship and Advanced Opportunities.

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At this time, Board member Scoggin requests clarification on the allocation of the funds sought for the CEO position asking if the \$254,500 allocated is for both the position salary and operating expenses to include a laptop, travel, etc. to which the Board's Executive Director, Mr. Matt Freeman responds in the affirmative. Board member Scoggin then asks for clarification on the Capital Outlay line item to which Mr. Freeman responds this would be the funds allocated to purchase a computer for this position. Board member Scoggin then asks if the line item request is the limitation for what the CEO position could be paid or are there other monies that could be drawn against to which Mr. Freeman responds the number recommended by the Governor in the budget line for personnel costs would cover a salary of \$200,000 plus benefits. Mr. Scoggin then asks if the Board were to reduce or eliminate a position could the funds from that position then be directed to another position to which Mr. Freeman answers in the affirmative through ongoing salary savings, attrition or other savings.

Board member Soltman then asks how the proposed salary amount was determined to which Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Assistant for Education and Government Services for Governor's Office, Ms. Marilyn Whitney responds through considerable discussions with different individuals from different arenas. She continues the Governor's Office also considered similar positions from across the country and the salary ranges for these positions and then put them into context of what could be feasible in the State of Idaho. Finally, Ms. Whitney states the proposed CEO salary would be highest paid position for any agency staff position outside of the higher education institutions.

Dr. Clark then shares with Board members there has been a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes with the Governor's office and leadership to develop the proposed legislation and to draft the legislation to be less directive than earlier versions of the proposal to fulfill what Governor Otter shared with the Board in terms of flexibility.

At this time Board member Atchley asks how the Board or Governor's office can justify paying considerably more for the proposed CEO position than the current Executive Director who has many more years of experience. To this, Dr. Clark responds it was the recommendation of the Governor's Higher Education Task Force (Task Force) for the Board to undertake significant action in terms of the consolidation of back office functions at the State's colleges and universities. She continues it was recognized by the Task Force the individual needed to direct this type of work would have a very specific skill set and the amount of work needed to undertake this level of change cannot and should not be added to the workload of existing Board staff. Dr. Clark then states the work the Board is currently engaged in must go forward and it is up to the Board to discuss and determine what the structure of Board staff should look like moving forward. Board member Scoggin then comments the proposed CEO position requires a different skill set, which requires additional compensation. He continues the recommendation from the Task Force is a big job and the Board must lure someone who has the experience with this type of work and these individuals are in high demand.

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Board member Critchfield then asks, pending a decision from the Board today, what are the next steps moving forward to which Dr. Clark responds the legislation must follow the regular legislative process for approval and funding.

Board member Scoggin then comments in the Governor's State of the State Address the Governor had recommended the Board work with a consultant versed in this type of work and if the Board has requested funds for this consultant. Dr. Clark responds a line item request of \$500,000 has been submitted to support the work of this type of consultant and that the Board will be working with the Division of Human Resources on the job description for the CEO position.

Board member Westerberg then states his appreciate for the flexibility in the proposal for the Board to write the job description and sequence of how to move forward. He continues the work to fulfill the CEO position has been allocated to the Board and this is the right place for these decisions to be made, however, there is a lot of work on the part of the Board in order to achieve this ultimate recommendation of the Task Force. Dr. Clark then comments there are very high expectations of the Board with regard to "systemness" and how to identify places of duplication and reallocate those funds to support Idaho students. She continues this is what the work of the Board is about and the Board dare not lose sight of this. Finally, Dr. Clark states this is a very heavy lift and will require serious, hard work on the part of the Board and very quickly.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

M/S (Westerberg/Critchfield): To adjourn the meeting at 1:46 pm MST. The motion carried 8-0.