



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

March 30, 2020
Office of the State Board of Education
Len B. Jordan Building
650 W State Street, 3rd Floor
Boise, Idaho

A special meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held via Zoom teleconference on Monday, March 30, 2020. At this time, the Office of the State Board of Education is closed to the public in accordance with Governor Little's State at Home Order issued March 25, 2020 in response to the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Board President Debbie Critchfield presided and called the meeting to order at 3:00pm (MST). A roll call of members was taken.

Present

Debbie Critchfield, President
Dr. David Hill, Vice President
Andrew Scoggin
Emma Atchley

Dr. Linda Clark
Shawn Keough
Kurt Liebich
Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent

Monday, March 30, 2020, 3:00 p.m. (MST)

BOARDWORK

1. Public Education – Issues related to the COVID-19 Epidemic

K-12 Education Update

Greg Wilson, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Little, stated that it has been two weeks since all districts and charters elected to an extended spring break, and that last week the Board recommended that all districts statewide participate in the "soft closure" through April 20, 2020. Mr. Wilson reminded the group that the K-12 Emergency Council is comprised of four Board Members (Board President Critchfield, Superintendent Ybarra, Board Member Liebich, and Board Member Clark) as well as representatives from each region's superintending group and various stakeholder groups. The K-12 Council has been meeting daily in order to provide council to the Governor, the Board, the Superintendent, and district leadership statewide. Regional groups and charter groups have been meeting frequently and the Council, in

conjunction with Supt. Ybarra's twice-weekly webinars, aims to provide council for their effort and provide an opportunity for open communication.

Mr. Wilson shared that Governor Little announced an additional 1% financial holdback on March 27, 2020, extending to K-12, which amounts to approximately \$19 million. This holdback was discussed in during the K-12 Emergency Council to gauge what districts and charters would need from the State. Additionally in light of President Trump's announcement that social distancing should continue until April 30, 2020, the Council discussed whether the "soft closure" of schools should be extended. Mr. Wilson also shared that the stimulus bill signed last week by President Trump could provide up to \$48 million for K-12 schools statewide; the stimulus will impact schools and charters different depending on how many Title I students are enrolled.

Superintendent Ybarra echoed Mr. Wilson's comments, and elaborated that Idaho's estimated allocation of the surplus bill would be \$47.8 million. She shared that this would be in addition to the \$50 million allocated for 2019-2020 and that the 90% of the allocation would be distributed based to the districts based on the Title I formula. The State must apply for a waiver to receive these funds, and the funds must be used for certain things.

Board President Critchfield recommended that the Board have an in-depth conversation next week regarding Idaho's "soft closure" date in light of President Trump's announcement extending social distancing guidelines through April 30. Board Member Liebich stated that he believes there should be certain criteria developed in conjunction with Public Health officials to aid in local districts' decisions regarding timelines for reopening. Board Member Atchley shared that it is important that the Board works to ensure that students continue to receive as much instruction as possible during this time, elaborating that students should still be receiving content that reflects the standards regardless of the delivery method. Board Member Liebich also voiced his concerns about how the "soft closure" will impact students moving to the next grade and how it will impact graduating seniors who are expecting to begin college in during the fall semester.

Board President Critchfield invited Board Members to e-mail Matt Freeman, Executive Director, if there is anything they would like to discuss regarding the possible extension of the "soft closure" during next week's Special Board Meeting.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

Postsecondary Education Update

Dani Dunstan, President Kevin Satterlee's Chief of Staff at Idaho State University, has been leading a daily conference call with representatives from each of Idaho's eight higher education institutions; the group has been meeting each morning since March 12, 2020. The group is comprised of institution representatives in the areas of

communications, human resources, and executive leadership from each campus, as well as Board President Critchfield and representatives from the Office of the State Board of Education and Governor Little's Office. Each call provides an update on the COVID-19 situation at the state and national level and allows for each institution to share what they are doing in the areas of the transition to online delivery of course content, the delivery of remote student services, human resources planning and the transition to telework, and communications strategies.

Collaboration is encouraged so that institutions may gain insight from each other to come up with creative solutions for common problems they may be experiencing. Ms. Dunstan shared that across institutions, the majority of instruction and essential services have been transitioned to online delivery and telework while non-essential services have temporarily been suspended, students remaining in campus housing are being encouraged to move to a more permanent home if the option is available, and each institution is taking a thoughtful approach in communicating with students, staff, and community members. Institutions are also preparing for the financial impact and beginning to plan for summer courses.

Board Member Liebich inquired when institutions may be able to gauge possible enrollment numbers for next year. Ms. Dunstan shared that in a normal year projections are monitored throughout the semester, but current projections may not be reliable because of the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, Lewis-Clark State College President, echoed Ms. Dunstan's statements regarding enrollment, and added that enrollment may vary if students elect to remain closer to home during future semesters. Scott Green, University of Idaho President, shared his concerns that the UI will have decreased enrollment due to the fact that they are a "destination campus". Dr. Marlene Tromp, Boise State University President stated that it is important to be adaptive during this time in order to support faculty and staff, so that they are able to support students.

Matt Freeman, Executive Director, shared that as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act being passed by Congress last week, \$12.5 billion will be allocated for public and private higher education institutions nationwide. The distribution of these funds will be distributed based on the full-time enrollment of Pell Grant recipients (75%) and full-time enrollment of non-Pell Grant recipients (25%). 50% of the funds distributed to institutions must go directly to students in the form of emergency financial aid grants to provide support as a result of the disruption of campus services due to COVID-19; the funds for students will be distributed through the Pell Grant system. The other 50% of the distributed funds will be applied to lost revenue, expenses incurred during the transition to telework and online course delivery, and payroll. Mr. Freeman shared that there is a waiver that states must apply for to receive these funds, and that the Board has not yet received any estimates for the amount of funds Idaho will receive.

Mr. Freeman also shared that there have been discussions with the four, four-year institution Presidents to determine where the Board can assist in terms of policy

changes during this time. These policy changes, which will provide greater flexibility for employment and course fees for institutions, will likely be discussed during next week's Special Board Meeting.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Career Technical Education – Partial Waiver – Board Policy IV.E.7, Career Technical Assessment Requirements

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Hill/Clark): I move to waive the requirement in Board Policy IV.E.7 for students in career technical education cluster and pathway programs to take a technical skills assessment or workplace readiness assessment for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 8-0.

Clay Long, State Administrator for the Division of Career Technical Education, shared that this item is a request for a waiver of workplace readiness assessments and technical skills assessments for the current school year. He added that if this motion passes, districts would still be able to offer these assessments for their purposes, but it would no longer be a Board requirement.

There were no questions or comments from the Board.

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

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Hill/Atchley): I move to adjourn the meeting at 3:55pm (MST). The motion carried 8-0.

The Idaho State Board of Education will be conducting a virtual Special Board Meeting on Mondays at 3:00pm during the COVID-19 Pandemic to receive updates on the status of public education in Idaho and to take action as necessary.