



**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
June 1, 2020
Office of the State Board of Education**

A special meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held via Zoom teleconference on Monday, June 1, 2020. 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
Dave Hill, Vice President
Andy Scoggin*, Secretary
Linda Clark

Emma Atchley
Shawn Keough
Kurt Liebich
Sherri Ybarra, State Superintendent

*Except where noted

Monday, June 1, 2020, 3:00 p.m. (MST)

PLANNING, POLICY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. GEER Funding Recommendations

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Scoggin/Hill): I move to recommend investment of GEER Funds in the following three areas:

- 1) technology infrastructure and faculty professional development for remote instruction at the public colleges and universities;**
- 2) IPTV and IDLA partnership to expand access to and delivery of remote K-6 curriculum, instruction and technical support; and**
- 3) development or acquisition of curriculum and instructional support for virtual/online career technical education; faculty professional development focused on CTE virtual/online instructional practices; technology to capture student performance in labs; technology for adult education; and development of online workforce training modules.**

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 8-0.

Board President Critchfield began the meeting by calling attention to the documents included in the agenda materials, including the proposals from each public higher education institution, the Division of Career Technical Education, Idaho Public Television, and the Idaho Digital Learning Academy for the Governor's Emergency

Education Relief (GEER) funding. The Agenda Materials also included K-12 proposals for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

Board President Critchfield stated that the priorities listed in the agenda materials and the Board Action summarize items to be included in a recommendation to Governor Little that have been discussed during Special Board Meetings held over the past few weeks. The Board has discussed several ideas for uses of GEER funding, but the main priorities that have been prominent during previous meetings are:

- The development of a statewide technology infrastructure and professional development for faculty members to support remote instruction at Idaho's public institutions of higher education;
- An expanded partnership with Idaho Public Television and the Idaho Digital Learning Academy to provide educational resources, instruction, and technical support for K-6 students;
- The development or acquisition of curriculum and instructional support for virtual career technical education, technology for adult education, and the development of online workforce training modules.

Board President Critchfield added that the items listed in the agenda materials are not all-inclusive of past discussions, but rather they are the items that have stemmed from Board discussion that best fit the intended uses for GEER funding. She also mentioned that representatives from each institution and agency were on the call to answer questions if necessary.

Board Member Scoggin joined the meeting at 3:12pm (MST).

Board President Critchfield inquired if there were any questions or there were any items that the Board Members would prefer not to include in the recommendations to Governor Little. Board Member Liebich inquired about a summary of the cost for the recommendations. Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, stated that the summary of costs listed on page 2 of the item cover page within the agenda materials is only for the items listed in the Board Action, which are the items that will be included in the recommendation for GEER funding uses. Ms. Bent added that the comprehensive list that the Board has discussed in terms of *all* funding sources is listed in attachment 5 within the agenda materials.

Board Vice President Hill inquired if the GEER funding is the last portion of the federal relief funds to be distributed. Matt Freeman, Executive Director, reminded the Board of the two sections of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund that were distributed directly to the institutions and students. He also discussed the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund monies, 90% of which have been distributed to the Local Education Agencies (LEAs), and added that the remaining 10% of these funds is still awaiting allocation by the Board. Mr. Freeman added that there are a number of discretionary grants that the Board may apply for as well.

Board Member Keough, who is a member of the Governor’s Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC), shared that the discussions regarding education during recent CFAC meetings have centered on the “first and last miles” of the buildout for broadband access and internet connectivity across the state. Board Member Liebich shared that it will be crucial to approach issue of broadband and internet connectivity if bridging the “digital divide” is a priority.

Board Member Clark discussed that the three items listed in the Board Action are important to the whole picture, and shared that the items should not be prioritized numerically as they are all equally important. Mr. Freeman discussed that any type of grants that could be distributed to LEAs, which were included in the application for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency relief funds. He went on to say that mini grants could be included in the recommendations for the GEER funds as well.

Board Member Clark inquired if all funds will be delivered to the LEAs via grants, and Mr. Freeman discussed that the remaining 10% of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency funds could be dispersed through grants. Board Member Clark inquired if there is any risk to adding grants to the list of recommendations or if it would be not be beneficial to proceed without much flexibility.

Board President Critchfield asked if the Board would like to add “micro grants” to the list of recommendations for Governor Little. Board Member Liebich stated that if the Board were to require districts to provide blended (in person and virtual) learning, it will necessitate one-to-one devices, widely available internet connectivity, and a learning management system in some form. He discussed that these items will likely a larger portion of funds, and suggested that the Board submit the list of recommendations to the Governor as is. Several other Board Members echoed Board Member Liebich’s comments, and the Board agreed not to revise the list or the Board Action.

There were no additional questions or comments from the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed to the Public)

M/S (Scoggin/Atchley): I move to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 74-206(1)(b), Idaho Code, to consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of...a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried 8-0.

Board Members entered into Executive Session at 3:36pm (MST).

The Board convened in Executive Session to consider an exempt matter, which is permissible under Open Meeting Law, Idaho Code, Title 74, Section 206(1)(b). The Board concluded its discussion and took no action on the matters discussed. If action is necessary in this matter it will occur at a future meeting properly noticed under the Open Meeting Law.

M/S (Scoggin/Hill): **I move to go out of Executive Session.** The motion carried 8-0.

Board Members exited Executive Session at 4:37pm (MST), effectively adjourning the meeting. Prior to entering Executive Session, Board President Critchfield stated that the Board would not return to Open Session for the remainder of the meeting.

The 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.