



**Special Board of Education Meeting  
January 9, 2024  
Idaho State Board of Education  
OSBE Conference Room  
650 West State Street, Suite 307  
Boise, ID 83720**

A special meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held at the offices of the Idaho State Board of Education on January 9, 2024. Board President Dr. Linda Clark called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. (Mountain Time).

**Present**

Dr. Linda Clark, President	Kurt Liebich
Superintendent Critchfield, Secretary	Cally Roach
Shawn Keough	Cindy Siddoway

**Absent**

William G. Gilbert, Jr., Vice-President	Dr. David Hill
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**Tuesday, January 9, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)**

**PLANNING, POLICY, AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

1. Idaho State University (ISU) SU Holt Arena Renaming – Action Item – Acting President Brian Sagendorf

Mr. Liebich introduced ISU acting President Brian Sagendorf who shared the following with the Board. He said that Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU) has been a valued partner to Idaho State University and has provided philanthropic support to the University in many ways over the years. ICCU has committed a capital gift of \$6 million in support of Idaho State University Athletics over the next 12 years.

Pauline Thiros, Director of Athletics, Idaho State University, shared how the renaming of the Arena would not replace Dubby Holt's legacy at ISU. In fact, ISU developed an initial and immediate plan to honor Dubby Holts legacy in Bengal Athletics and at the university in time for the fall season. Plans are underway to chronicle Dubby's contributions with a large mural in the north side concourse, as a permanent display in what will be a very dramatic hall of champions currently being designed in the Alumni Center.

As work continues on the grounds and the exterior of the arena, development of additional ways to recognize Dubby and ensure that patrons well into the future understand the role he played in making the facility possible are under way.



The annual gift totaling \$6 million dollars over 12 years represents timely and critical support for student athletes. This gift will help ISU meet the significant obligations facing them to comply with the requirements of the new Big Sky Conference strategic plan such as reaching maximum scholarship equivalencies, employing the NCAA maximum number of coaches, prioritizing the scheduling of home games to keep student athlete's home and in the classroom and not on the road for 5 or 6 weeks. It includes providing the cost of attendance assistance to our student athlete at a minimum threshold. And constructing fueling stations with increased nutritional resources. There will also be a nutritionist on staff as well as mental health counseling.

In addition, this gift will allow ISU to play two contractually arranged FBS games to generate approximately a million dollars that will go towards the athletics budget every year.

#### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Liebich / Roach) I move to approve the renaming of Holt Arena to the ICCU Dome in recognition of ICCU's charitable capital gifts to renovate the arena.** A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 6-0. William G. Gilbert, Jr. and Dr. David Hill were absent from voting.

Mrs. Roach asked if any consideration was given when negotiating with ICCU in retaining or incorporating the whole name for the arena which included the mini dome from the original honor. Ms. Thiros said yes, many combinations of names were discussed with ICCU which would have combined all of the names but ultimately the decision was made to call it the ICCU dome.

Mrs. Roach said 12 years seems like a long time to be committed, and while this was a lot of money, was the time commitment also part of the negotiations. Ms. Thiros said it was. Many of these agreements can be anywhere from 10 to 20 years so the length of this commitment is pretty common.

Dr. Clark said she knew a lot of time and energy had gone into bringing this forward, and asked Ms. Thiros to elaborate a little bit on the process used to gain input from the various segments of the ISU community concerning this name change. Ms. Thiros said that the conversations took place largely inside the University community, with ICCU executives and a lot of phone calls with various University stakeholders. Everyone was asked to share their feelings in moving forward with the name change.

Superintendent Critchfield asked if anyone had reached out to Dubby Holt's family to get their input on this issue. Ms. Thiros said she did speak with Dubby's great niece and his great nephew when they attended the Big Sky Conference Sports Hall of Fame that



honored Dubby, and they were supportive. Even though they love seeing his name on the Arena he was first and foremost about doing what was best for the students and this deal would have tickled him as he was a big wheeler dealer.

There were no further comments or questions from the Board.

## **STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **1. Assessment Item Review Committee Recommendations – Action Item**

Superintendent Critchfield gave a short recap of why this agenda item has been brought forward. She said that around the state, parents to teachers, administrators, charters, and traditional public schools review test questions, which takes place every year. However, there's one particular passage that rose to a level of scrutiny and the committee asked that this be brought to the Board's attention.

Ryan Cantrell, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, continued the discussion. In accordance with Section 33-134, Idaho Code, a review committee of thirty (30) individuals from each of the six (6) educational regions in the state met in the fall to review computer adaptive test questions.

The committee is authorized to make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to revise or eliminate summative computer adaptive test questions from the assessment forms.

After reviewing the questions, the Assessment Review Committee recommended the removal of one (1) Grade 11 ISAT ELA/Literacy stimulus set (reading passage and related questions) which was determined to not pass the Idaho Bias and Sensitivity guidelines. This stimulus set affected 14 total items.

Superintendent Critchfield stressed that the State Department of Education believes that we can still assess the information and the skill set of a student within the English Language Arts test with a different question.

## **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Liebich / Critchfield) I move to adopt the recommendation of the Assessment Review Committee for the removal of one (1) Grade 11 ISAT ELA/Literacy stimulus set as submitted.** A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 6-0. William G. Gilbert, Jr. and Dr. David Hill were absent from voting.

Mr. Liebich asked a clarifying question. He said in his pre-read he noticed that the cost of making this change would be in the realm of \$57,000 and wondered at the high cost of making a change to just one question. Mr. Cantrell said the cost is to reconfigure the item



bank. This includes psychometric services to ensure the testing form without the removed items continues to produce valid and reliable scores. The details of these psychometric services are outlined in the 200-page technical report produced by Cambium Assessment, Inc. annually. The actual cost will depend on the acceptance of the items by the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (“Consortium”). If the Consortium also decides to remove the item for all participating states, Idaho does not have to pay to reconfigure the item bank specific to Idaho.

There were no further comments or questions from the Board.

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

#### **BOARD ACTION**

**M/S (Critchfield / Keough) I move to adjourn the meeting at 1:32 p.m. (MT).** A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 6-0. William G. Gilbert, Jr. and Dr. David Hill were absent from voting.