



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

April 16-17, 2025

The University of Idaho
Pitman Center, 2nd Floor
709 Deakin Avenue
Moscow, ID 83843

A regular meeting of the Idaho State Board of Education was held at the University of Idaho on April 16 and 17, 2025. Board President, Dr. Linda Clark, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. (PDT).

Present

Dr. Linda Clark, President
William G. Gilbert, Jr., Vice President
Superintendent Debbie Critchfield, Secretary
Cindy Siddoway

Kurt Liebich
Shawn Keough
Cally Roach
David Turnbull

BOARDWORK

1. Agenda Review and Approval

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Keough) I move to approve the agenda as posted. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

2. Minutes Review and Approval

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Siddoway) I move to approve the minutes for the February 19-20, 2025, Regular Board Meeting. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

3. Rolling Calendar

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Critchfield) I move to set April 15-16, 2026, as the date, and the University of Idaho as the location, for the April 2026 Regular Board Meeting. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

CONSENT

BAHR

1. FY 2026 Appropriations
2. FY 2026 Opportunity Scholarship Educational Costs – Action Item
3. Idaho State University – Men's Head Football Coach Contract – Action Item

4. Idaho State University – Alvin Ricken Property Sale and Easement – Action Item
IDE

- 5. Appointments to the Professional Standards Commission – Action Item
- 6. Emergency Provisional Certificate Recommendations – Action Item
- 7. Transportation Funding – 103% Cap Waiver: Request for waiver of student transportation funding cap – Action Item
- 8. Safety busing: Requests for approval to transport students less than one and one-half miles for the 2024-2025 school year – Action Item

IRSA

- 9. Graduate Medical Education (GME) Committee Appointment – Action Item
- 10. University of Idaho – Undergraduate Certificate in Managing Facilities for Efficiency and Health – Self Support Program Fee – Action Item
- 11. University of Idaho – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Historic Preservation – Self Support Program Fee – Action Item
- 12. Boise State University – Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences and Bachelor of Science in Advanced Medical Imaging – Professional Program Fee – Action Item
- 13. Boise State University – Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care Entry-to-Practice Program – Professional Program Fee – Action Item
- 14. Boise State University – Online Bachelor of Business Administration in Accountancy – Online Program Fee – Action Item
- 15. Boise State University – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Applied Teamwork – Online Program Fee – Action Item
- 16. Boise State University – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Beer and Wine Studies – Online Program Fee – Action Item
- 17. Boise State University – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Echocardiography – Online Program Fee – Action Item
- 18. Boise State University – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Making Big Ideas Happen – Online Program Fee – Action Item
- 19. Boise State University – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Mammography – Online Program Fee – Action Item
- 20. Boise State University – Online Undergraduate Certificate in Vascular Ultrasound – Online Program Fee – Action Item

PPGA

- 21. Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Appointment Recommendations – Action Item
- 22. STEM School Designation Recommendations – Action Item

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Siddoway) I move to approve the consent agenda. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

OPEN FORUM

Kristin Haltinner, Rebecca Scofield, Kathy Dawes, Nick Koenig, and Kendal Shaber, addressed the Board regarding their concerns of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Senate Bill 1198.

BOARD OF REGENTS – UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

1. University of Idaho students (*Brian Stitts, Martha Smith, Claire Shelton, Hannah Brown, Chadwick Goodall, Anna Bliss, and Max Pieper*) addressed the Board. The students chose to attend the University of Idaho (UI) mainly for financial reasons and the scholarship opportunities offered. A few of the students cited the degree options and undergraduate research opportunities as reasons for choosing UI.

The students discussed some difficulties they had transferring credits to UI and suggested that high school students would experience better success if counselors were able to assist in career planning and if there was streamlined process to transfer credits and providing transcripts.

Addressing how to encourage high school students to attend higher education, the students cited the need of counselors to dispel myths surrounding higher education, to inform students how scholarships work, and to assist students with career planning.

2. University of Idaho employees (*Dr. Todd Schwartz, Special Assistant to The Provost for Community College Engagement, Annette Folwell, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, Tim Boester, Director of Introductory Mathematics, Tara Hudiburg, Assistant Professor, Amanda Bauer, Controller, and Brad Martin, Director of Development*) addressed the Board. The panel discussed how prepared students are in math when they enter college and how students could be better educated. The K-12 math standards are helpful, but students could benefit by providing middle school teachers with additional resources.

The panel shared their thoughts regarding student support. The faculty are working diligently to assist students and provide them with the resources they need to be successful. The university is focused on students and their welfare. The employees applauded the work the Board has done regarding general education and how the credits are transferred. The panel cited that the low transfer rate of students from the community colleges was the larger issue.

President Clark placed the Board at recess at 10:12 a.m.

President Clark reconvened the Board at 10:25 a.m.

3. President Scott Green presented the University of Idaho's Annual Report. President Green addressed how they are continuing to grow enrollment, enhancing student success, increasing research and achieving fundraising milestones. Freshman enrollment was at an all-time high, the university was named the best value among public universities in the west and on average, students are provided \$7,300 in scholarship funding per year. The Vandal Finish program has assisted over 4,300 students finish their degrees. A new record for research expenditures topped \$140 million.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Superintendent Update (and Post Session Discussion)

Superintendent Critchfield reviewed the status of federal funding and how they are advising districts to best prepare them for potential changes. She expressed her desire to discuss federal regulations and assessments during a work session at the June Board meeting. The Superintendent reviewed some of the legislation that was passed during the 2025 session and the impact it will have on education. She also updated the Board on several projects her department is working on.

2. Milken Educator Awards Update

President Clark postponed this update to later in the day until the award recipient can be in attendance.

3. Adoption of Praxis Bridge Alternate – Assessment

Superintendent Critchfield presented a recommendation by the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) to approve the Praxis Bridge alternate content area assessment pathway. This assessment will allow teacher candidates a less costly alternative to retaking the full Praxis test. The alternative test is available to teachers who fail the Praxis within one standard error of measurement.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Critchfield / Turnbull) I move to approve the Praxis Bridge alternate content area assessment pathway, with three-year retroactive eligibility. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

4. Proposed Removal of Extended Content Standards: Core Content Connectors

Due to federal mandates, the Idaho Department of Education (IDE) is asking to remove the reference to the extended content standards. Greg Wilson, Chief of Staff, IDE, clarified what the extended standards are and that this action does not impact the assessment and only the reference to the alternative assessment.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Critchfield / Gilbert) I move to approve the request by the Idaho Department of Education to remove the Idaho Extended Content Standards: Core Content Connectors in English language arts, mathematics, and science from State Board of Education policy under documents incorporated by reference and the Idaho Department of Education Idaho Content Standards webpage as of July 1, 2025. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

*President Clark placed the Board at recess at 11:50 a.m.
President Clark reconvened the Board at 1:00 p.m.*

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert/Critchfield) I move to convene into Executive Session to consider personnel matters pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(a) & (b), and to communicate with legal counsel regarding pending/imminently-likely litigation pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(f) – Action Item (No action taken in Executive Session). *Motion carried by roll call vote of 8 AYE, 0 NAY.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Closed to the Public

*The Board entered Executive Session at 1:01 p.m.
President Clark reconvened the Board at 2:07 p.m.*

Upon return from Executive Session, Board President Dr. Linda Clark stated that the Board concluded its discussion and took no action on the matter discussed

BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Idaho State University – Learfield Contract Amendment

Pauline Thiros, Director of Athletics, Idaho State University, (ISU), presented ISU's proposal to enter into a Second Amendment to the Letter of Agreement between Bengal Sports Properties, LLC (BSP) and Idaho State University. Director Thiros stated the amendment would align with industry trends and ensure a more favorable revenue structure for the university.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Turnbull) I move to authorize Idaho State University to enter the Second Amendment to the Letter of Agreement between Idaho State University and Bengal Sports Properties, LLC as presented in Attachment 4. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

2. Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Request for Re-appointment of Interim Administrator, Judy Taylor

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Critchfield) I move to approve the continued appointment of Judy Taylor as Interim Administrator for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation until such time as a permanent administrator is appointed. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

Dr. Clark announced that due to scheduling issues, the Milken Educator Award agenda item was moved to the afternoon, and the Board will now address it.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

3. Milken Educator Awards Update

Superintendent Critchfield introduced Marcus Ross, an eighth-grade teacher at Lakes Middle School in Coeur d'Alene as the recipient of the 2025 Milken Educator Award.

Dr. Mike Nelson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Coeur D'Alene School District, provided additional details regarding Mr. Ross's qualifications for the award and how valuable he has been to education. Marcus Ross, Milken Educator Award recipient, expressed his appreciation for the award and his excitement regarding the direction of education in Idaho.

PLANNING, POLICY, AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Proposed Amendments to Board Policy I.M. – Annual Planning and Reporting – First Reading

Kurt Liebich stated the proposed amendments will provide more timeline flexibility to the institutions to prepare their required reporting.

Matt Reiber, External Affairs and Strategy Officer, Office of the State Board of Education, (OSBE), stated Board Policy I.M. is revised to separate the systemwide measures from the larger strategic planning process. This will allow for systemwide measures to be addressed more nimbly by separate vote of the Board. It will also ensure that the Board's K-20 strategic plan, which is reviewed for potential revisions each February, is the only document governing the specific measures two and four-year institutions are required to include in their annual Performance Reports to the Department of Financial Management (DFM).

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Liebich / Siddoway) I move to approve the first reading of the proposed amendment to Board Policy I.M. as presented in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

2. Mentoring/Professional Platform Update

President Clark provided the background to how and why this policy was developed. Heidi Estrem, Associate Academic Office, OSBE, stated this has been a good example of deep collaboration between the Board and the Idaho Department of Education.

Megan Wonderlich, Director, Academics, IDE, explained the purpose and the framework of the Idaho Mentoring Program and Platform. Ms. Wonderlich also provided the outcomes from this proposed amendment.

Heather Mueller, Instructional Coach, Caldwell school district, shared her experience as a mentor and the impact on her mentees. Ms. Mueller cited the ability to meet in person was invaluable and shared feedback she received from her mentees.

President Clark thanked the committee for their work and congratulated them on the success. Board Member, David Turnbull, expressed how a mentorship changed his life early in his career. He commented that this is an impressive program, and the board should be commended in their foresight and work on this program.

3. Accountability Oversight Committee – Information Item

Kurt Liebich introduced the committee and explained that the committee analyzes a considerable amount of data and then makes recommendations to the Board based on their findings. Cindy Siddoway explained how the committee functions under the Board's direction and introduced Alison Henken, K-12 Accountability and Projects Program Manager, OSBE, and Dr. Roger Stewart, Chair of the Accountability and Oversight Committee.

Ms. Henken reviewed the history of the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), what changes were made, why they were made and what that means in the AOC's Recommendations Report. She also presented the Executive Summary of the committee's report.

4. Lewis-Clark State College – Name Change Designation Request – Action Item

Kurt Liebich introduced Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, President, Lewis and Clark State College, (LCSC). Dr. Fred Chilson, Provost and Vice President Academic Affairs, LCSC, Royal Toy, Interim Chair of Teacher Education and Mathematics, and Logan Fowler, Director of Communication and Marketing presented the proposal to change the name of Lewis-Clark State College to Lewis-Clark State University. The request is a result of two years of collaboration between the college, community, and industry. LCSC cited several reasons why the name change would allow the school to be more competitive and alleviate confusion between them and community colleges. LCSC will remain committed that the name change will not alter LC State's scope or mission.

President Pemberton emphasized that there will not be a change in scope or mission and outlined the multiple steps that would need to happen prior to a

change in scope. LC State remains committed to providing a low-cost education with small class sizes.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Liebich / Siddoway) I move to approve the request by Lewis-Clark State College to change the name from 'College' to Lewis-Clark State University.

Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Boise State University President Search Update – Information Item

David Turnbull stated the search is in the early process and reviewed the structure of the search committee and subcommittees. A search firm has been vetted to assist in the process. It is important to the process that everyone is heard, and the committee is small.

6. Announcement of Board Officers – Information Item

Dr. Clark stated that due to legislation changes, the Governor appoints the Board President and Governor Little has appointed Kurt Liebich to fill the role of Board President. Mr. Liebich will announce the remaining officers on May 2, 2025.

Kurt Liebich acknowledged Dr. Clark's contributions and leadership and thanked her for her service.

Dr. Clark placed the Board at recess at 4:28 p.m. until Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 9:00 a.m. (Pacific Time)

Dr. Clark reconvened the Board at 9:00 a.m.

INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

1. Board Policy III.O. General Education English Writing and Mathematics Placement – Second Reading – Action Item

Dr. Heidi Estrem, Associate Academic Officer, OSBE, presented the proposed changes to Board Policy III.O. There are two proposed minor changes to Board Policy III.O between first and second readings. Based on input from registrars, a sentence in 3.e. has been removed to prevent confusion with degree requirements. Due to feedback from mathematics faculty leaders, a course has been added to 3.h.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Roach / Turnbull) I move to approve the second reading of proposed amendments to Board Policy III.O., General Education English Writing and

Mathematics Course Placement, as submitted in Attachment 1, effective August 2026. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

2. Repeal of Board Policy III.S. Remedial Education – Second Reading – Action Item

Dr. Heidi Estrem, Associate Academic Officer, OSBE, presented the proposed changes to Board Policy III.S. Dr. Estrem stated the proposed repeal is necessary because of the changes to Policy III.O and will reduce confusion.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Roach / Critchfield) I move to approve the second reading of the repeal of Board Policy III.S., Remedial Education, as submitted in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

3. Board Policy III.N. Statewide General Education – First Reading – Action Item

Dr. Heidi Estrem, Associate Academic Officer, OSBE, presented the proposed changes to Board Policy III.N. Approval of the proposed amendments will update Idaho's general education framework and provide additional support for the curricular development work that is in process at the institutions.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Roach / Keough) I move to approve the first reading of proposed amendments to Board Policy III.N., Statewide General Education, as submitted in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

4. University of Idaho – Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering-Global Hiroshima – Action Item

Dr. TJ Bliss, Chief Academic Officer, OSBE, presented the University of Idaho's, (UI), proposal to add a Bachelor of Science program in Electrical Engineering (BSEE-Global) in partnership with Hiroshima University. According to policy, the proposal has been through the review procedure and no concerns have been raised. Both Parties wish to collaborate to further the shared national security interests of the two countries.

Dr. Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President, UI, and Gwen Gorzelsky, Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives, UI, provided additional details regarding the proposed program. The program has been developed to meet high demand for engineers in the United States and Asia, to create safe semi-conductor supply lines important to national security and to develop engineers to work effectively in groups or teams that include individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Patty Sanchez, Academic Affairs Program Manager, OSBE, reviewed the approval process with the Board and what necessitates the proposal to come before the Board. Dr. Bliss informed the Board that there is an agreement with Hiroshima University and that the Board is not being asked to approve that agreement. As is standard procedure with this type of program, the motion before the Board is to approve the program and the agreement is attached to the program.

David Turnbull applauded the university for bringing this type of proposal forward and recognized the importance of meeting local industry needs.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Roach / Turnbull) I move to approve the request by the University of Idaho to add a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (Global) in partnership with Hiroshima University as presented by the full proposal in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

5. University of Idaho – Online Doctor of Education in Learning, Leadership, and Innovation – Online Program Fee – Action Item

Patty Sanchez presented an overview of the proposed program and the approval process. Dr. TJ Bliss noted that the \$850 per credit hour is standard for a graduate program.

Gwen Gorzelsky stated that the revisions to the program are designed to make the program more relevant to leaders across different fields and to meet industry demand. The program will adopt a cohort model, allowing students to matriculate more quickly, and will be offered fully online, with the aim of completing the degree in three years.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Roach / Siddoway) I move to approve the request by the University of Idaho to modify the existing Ed.D. in Education program to a Doctor of Education in Learning, Leadership, and Innovation as presented in Attachment 1.

AND

I move to approve the request by the University of Idaho to charge an online program fee of \$850 per credit hour for the Doctor of Education in Learning, Leadership, and Innovation, in conformance with the program budget submitted to the Board in Attachment 1. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

6. Recognition of Accreditation Organizations for Purposes of Registration of Postsecondary Educational Institutions – Action Item

Dr. TJ Bliss reviewed the accreditation process with the Board and the changes in statute that necessitate this approval.

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Roach / Keough) I move to approve Board recognition of the same accreditors that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for purposes of registration of postsecondary educational institutions and proprietary schools. In the event that USDE ceases publication of a list of nationally recognized accrediting organizations, the Board will continue to recognize accreditors on the list for a period of one year. *Motion carried by voice vote.*

7. Dual Credit Report and Recommendations – Information Item

Cally Roach noted that Idaho is known nationally for dual credit work and commended the staff for their work on this project. Dr. Bliss also acknowledged the committee's work on the report and this is the first comprehensive report on dual credit in the state.

Dr. Estrem presented the report and recommendations to the Board. The review assessed the dual credit program's effectiveness in supporting student learning and identified opportunities for improvement, ensuring the program's long-term sustainability and relevance in Idaho's educational landscape. The report included several recommendations which, if adopted by the Board, would provide clear direction for Board staff and the institutions over the next several years to ensure a fine-tuned and robust dual credit program in the state.

Dr. Estrem reviewed some of the challenges such as uneven access, varying standards, misalignment with degree requirements and excess credit accumulation. The recommendations place students at the center and promote collaboration and systemness.

The Board discussed the purpose of the Advanced Opportunities funding, how students are using the funding, and how to assist students to use the funding effectively and maximize the opportunities offered to them through dual credits.

WORK SESSION

IRSA

1. Artificial Intelligence in Teacher Preparation – Information Item

Dr. Heidi Estrem provided a brief overview of the preservice Artificial Intelligence (AI) in educator preparation programs. Michelle Satterfield, Clinical Instructor, Boise State University, (BSU), stated BSU is working with the Workforce Development Council to educate preservice teachers regarding generative AI tools. Leslie Younger, Idaho Department of Education, (IDE) informed the Board how IDE is assisting districts and educating them how to best use AI and answer

questions they have. AI is the most popular request from districts for professional development. Sabrina Gary, Instructional Coach, Boise School District, provided an overview of her favorite platform, Magic School, how it can be used in classrooms and how it benefits teachers and students.

The Board discussed how AI-generated information is created and validated, emphasizing the critical role of teachers in reviewing and confirming the accuracy of the content. There was also discussion regarding what is currently being done to address AI in K-12 and higher education. Dr. Bliss indicated the AI arena is incredibly broad and OSBE is having discussions with stakeholders to discover the needs and how to best address those. Superintendent Critchfield emphasized the importance of equipping K-12 teachers with the necessary tools to support the appropriate use of AI in Idaho schools. She proposed that a statewide professional development program could effectively educate teachers on integrating AI into their classrooms.

Dr. Estrem stated that teachers will need more expertise in their content and discipline and not less in order to work through the challenging moments. There is also concern regarding funding and equity because the paid versions of AI platforms offer improved privacy protection and data control.

Dr. Clark thanked Dr. TJ Bliss and Joshua Whitworth for their service to the Board and wished them success in their future endeavors.

INFORMATIONAL

BAHR

1. Intercollegiate Athletics – FY 2024 Revenue and Expense Reports
2. Intercollegiate Athletics – FY 2024-2025 Compensation Reports
3. Intercollegiate Athletics – FY 2025 Gender Equity Reports

PPGA

4. University of Idaho Annual Report
5. Accountability Oversight Committee Annual Report

BOARD ACTION

M/S (Gilbert / Keough) I move to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 am (PT).