

First of all, I appreciate your efforts to get feedback about education in Idaho. I attended the forum in Pocatello. I have been teaching in public and private schools for over 20 years and my husband has as well. He is a professor at ISU. Educational issues are complex. A starting place, as you heard repeatedly in the meeting, is to trust teachers. I believe that some teachers are not invested and it is principal's job to deal with that issue rather than making blanket policies to reach a few. I hear people say, "We need to hold teachers accountable". Yes, we do. We need to hold students and parents accountable as well. Most teachers I know hold the weight of the world on their shoulders.

Secondly, you asked for suggestions of how to make the state board more effective. There needs to be some educators on the board. Perhaps, people who have been superintendents or principals. Also, your job is too big. There should be a board of regents for higher education. Many states have this model. The issues in k-12 are different than the university concerns. ISU is struggling so badly. I am not a mean-spirited person out to attack the administration. That "blog battleground" is not helping. But the faculty at ISU has been stripped of any place to voice concern. I am a person who has watched excellent educators leave with their families from our community because of the environment of distrust and disrespect. The very people you want to improve ISU are getting jobs elsewhere. The state is losing talented people and money hiring new people. The search committees struggle to be competitive in salary and benefits. By the way, thank you, for including tuition breaks for children of faculty. Our oldest son attends ISU and it is helpful. I have people tell me that it is the intention of the board to reduce ISU to a junior college. I don't believe that could be true. I look at the assets. For example, the performing arts center, it is world-class. It could put ISU on the map. It should be the place the surrounding area should go to study the arts. The building is there.-capitalize on it! Please make every effort to get ISU's reputation cleared in the chronicle of higher learning. There are dedicated people at ISU. Most have their resumes ready. That is not a threat- that is a reality.

Lastly, I am not afraid of Common Core. You have your work cut out for you to correct the misinformation out there about it. Press on!