



650 W. State Street • Room 307 • Boise, ID • 83702
P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID • 83720-0037

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Contact: Matt Freeman
208-332-1570 (office)
Matt.Freeman@osbe.idaho.gov

**STATEMENT FROM STATE BOARD PRESIDENT ON TASK
FORCE MEETING**

Idaho State Board of Education President Kurt Liebich today released a statement on why he chose to submit written answers to questions posed by Lt. Governor Janice McGeachin’s task force, rather than appear in person at its meeting today in Boise.

“On June 8, the Board’s Executive Director, Matt Freeman and I, participated in a phone call with the Lt. Governor and Representative Priscilla Giddings, during which we were asked to make a presentation and answer questions at the June 24th task force meeting. I was noncommittal, expressing my concern about statements made by some task force members during the first meeting and its overall tone. Last week, on June 16th, we informed Rep. Giddings and the Lt. Governor that we would instead provide written responses to their questions, rather than appear in person.

“The State Board is focused on helping our schools and students rebound from the global pandemic. Literacy, unfinished learning, student achievement and student mental health are key areas the Board is actively working to address. As a state and a society, we cannot allow the impact of the pandemic to create a lost generation of students. We remain focused on understanding the achievement gaps and working

on developing accelerated learning strategies to ensure all students are receiving a uniform and thorough education.

“We will continue to follow the work of the task force. To date, I have not seen any evidence of indoctrination in our public education system. As a State Board, we have confidence in our local school boards and communities to address any issues should they arise,” President Liebich said.

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