



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TRUSTEES OF BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
TRUSTEES OF IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY
TRUSTEES OF LEWIS-CLARK STATE COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION
TRUSTEES FOR THE IDAHO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND**

**APPROVED MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 4 – 5, 2008
College of Western Idaho
5500 E. University Way, Room 116/119
Nampa, Idaho**

A regular meeting of the State Board of Education was held December 4-5, 2008 at the College of Western Idaho in Nampa, Idaho.

Present:

Milford Terrell, President Paul Agidius, Vice President
Sue Thilo, Secretary Richard Westerberg
Kenneth Edmunds Rod Lewis (absent for Executive Session)
Tom Luna, State Superintendent
Blake Hall (connected by telephone to the Executive Session and a portion of the Regular Meeting)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met for Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 in the Trout Room of the Hampton Inn, located at 5750 E. Franklin Road in Nampa, Idaho. A roll call of members was taken; Board member Hall was present by phone and Board member Rod Lewis was absent.

M/S (Agidius/Edmunds): To move into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. to consider:

- (1) A motion to hold an executive session pursuant to Idaho Code Section 67-2345 (c) for the purpose of conducting deliberations regarding acquisition by Lewis-Clark State College of an interest in real property that is currently owned by private parties.**
- (2) A motion to hold an executive pursuant to Idaho Code Section 67-2345 (c) for the purpose of conducting deliberations regarding acquisition by Lewis-Clark State College of an interest in real property that is currently owned by private parties. A roll-call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously**

During Executive Session, the Board discussed and considered as Trustees for Lewis-Clark State College the acquisition by Lewis-Clark State College of an interest in two separate parcels of real property, each of which is currently owned by private parties.

M/S (Agidius/Luna): To adjourn for the evening. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARDWORK

The Board convened for its regular business meeting at 8:00 a.m. on December 4, 2008. Board President Terrell presided. He noted that Board member Hall would be joining the meeting by telephone later in the morning.

Mr. Terrell thanked President Dennis Griffin of College of Western Idaho for hosting the meeting. He also introduced Dr. Cheryl Schrader from BSU, Dean of the College of Engineering who received the 2008 Hewlett-Packard/Harriett B. Rigas Award by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Education Society. The award honors outstanding women who have significantly and positively impacted electrical and computer engineering education through excellence in teaching, encouraging participation of women in the engineering disciplines, demonstrating scholarship in the field and developing new pedagogical systems that enhance learning and industry.

BOARDWORK

1. Agenda Review and Approval

M/S (Agidius/Westerberg): To approve the agenda as modified. Motion carried unanimously.

By unanimous consent the Board agreed to pull item 10 of Section II (Finance) of the Business Affairs and Human Resources.

State Superintendent Luna asked to have discussion of the consent agenda items related to new positions from each institution. **By unanimous consent the Board agreed to Mr. Luna's request.**

2. Minutes Approval

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the minutes from the October 9-10, 2008 Regular Board meeting and the November 7, 2008 Special Board meeting, as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Rolling Calendar

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve December 10-11, 2009 as the date and the College of Southern Idaho as the location for the December 2009 regularly scheduled Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA –

Items 1-5 were moved to the regular agenda in order to discuss them in further detail.

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve item 6 of the Consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

6. PPGAC – Alcohol Permits Issued by University Presidents

Information item.

PLANNING, POLICY, AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. Presidents' Council Report

President Jerry Beck reported that the Presidents' Council had been working on the common course numbering system used by the institutions. Registrars from the institutions have been made aware that they need to pay attention to Board policy. Dr. Beck noted that a form was created for students wanting to appeal credit transfer decisions. A copy of the form was handed out to Board members. Dr. Beck also reported that discussions regarding what constitutes full-time status at the institutions continue. He indicated that the Presidents' Council had been working with Dr. Rush and the Board office on strategic planning.

President Terrell asked to have the Presidents' Council include the Board's Executive Committee on the agenda of their next scheduled meeting. After discussion about the date of the next meeting, the Presidents' Council agreed to move its January meeting to Education Week.

Board member Thilo asked the Presidents' Council how its discussion on the twelve-credit issue related to the rule that is up for consideration later in the Board agenda. Dr. Kustra reported that the Presidents' Council discussion related to the pricing mechanism. Dr. Vailas asked the Board to be consistent with the federal guidelines related to twelve credits. President Terrell asked to have this topic included on the Presidents' Council January agenda. He also asked Board member Westerberg take part of that meeting.

At this time, Board President Terrell introduced Guy Hurlbutt and Jerry Hess, members of the CWI Board of Trustees. Jerry Hess came forward and thanked the Board for their contribution and support in the founding of the College of Western Idaho.

2. College of Western Idaho Report

Dennis Griffin, President of the College of Western Idaho (CWI) presented the report to the Board. He thanked Boise State University for their help in making it possible to host the meeting. He introduced Dr. Victor Watson and Cheryl Wright, members of his executive team at CWI. Mr. Griffin discussed in detail the establishment of the College. He thanked the CWI Board of Trustees for their hard work. Mr. Griffin summarized a number of the things that have taken place during the past fourteen months noting the College had to start from scratch.

Mr. Griffin thanked Dr. Beck and CSI for stepping up to assist CWI. A consultant has been hired to help throughout the transition period with the cost being equally shared by CWI, CSI, and the Division of Professional-Technical Education. Mr. Griffin noted the significant support it has received from BSU including the use of office space along with use of its computer network and phone system for a year. Mr. Griffin thanked Dr. Bob Kustra of BSU in particular for his tireless effort to get a community college established in the Treasure Valley.

In discussing the demand for programs, Mr. Griffin indicated that to date 1,193 students have applied. He noted that CWI's system of bringing students in is complicated due to the CWI/CSI connection which has to be navigated. It is anticipated that in the fall there should be a total of about 3,000 students. In terms of accreditation, Dr. Watson noted that according to the Northwest accrediting agency, it will take at least five years. However, the College hopes to attain candidate-status in 2010.

Board member Lewis thanked all the people who served diligently and with great effort to get CWI to this point. He noted that the Board of Education played a significant role in this as well. He observed that Board member Blake Hall continued to push the Board in terms of the community college discussion. In addition, Dr. Kustra picked up the ball and pushed it forward. He thanked the CWI Board members for their commitment and ongoing work and involvement.

State Superintendent Luna noted that CWI is an asset to Canyon County. In regards to taking classes into the local high schools, Mr. Griffin noted that those talks are taking place; the local superintendents have been eager to work with CWI. In addition, Mayor Bieter of Boise has also offered the use of public buildings in Boise. Board member Thilo noted that the tremendous jumpstart that CWI has gotten from CSI, agencies, and members of the community will benefit the students.

3. Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind

Mary Dunne, Superintendent of the Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind (ISDB) presented her report to the Board. The School is in compliance with the federal disabilities act, with Idaho's quality standards, and with the national agendas for both blind and deaf students.

Ms. Dunne noted that ISDB's vision is "Education, Communication, and Independence for Life." ISDB's strategic plan aligns with the Board's strategic plan, it serves children from birth through age three, along with their families, in their homes and statewide; it serves 825 school-age children and their schools statewide by outreach consultants; and preschool children are educated in ISDB classes housed in their regions throughout the state.

Ms. Dunne reported that ISDB offers classroom learning, expanded core curriculum activities, the cottages, and transition classes on their campus. Work experience settings provide work experience through cooperative relationships. Technology is used in innovative ways to enlarge the community for students and staff while decreasing costs. There are a number of unique program supports, one of which is the Idaho Braille Production Center which produces Braille and Tactile Graphic materials for blind students throughout the state. In addition, audiology services on campus and around the state include evaluations, consultation, training, and loaner amplification devices in order to identify hard-of-hearing children and students earlier.

Campus enrollments as of the end of December have increased. ISDB is looking at other ways of delivering services including networking, advisory councils, evolution of philosophies, and looking at current practices and technologies. ISDB seeks to constantly raise the bar for their staff, their programs, and their services.

NOTE: For the record, Blake Hall joined the meeting at this time by phone.

Board member Thilo thanked Ms. Dunne and her staff for their help and support to the Board in crafting recommendations to move forward with educating the deaf and the blind. She commended Ms. Dunne for the growth in recent months and also for growth over the last year.

Board member Edmunds asked about ISDB and the holdbacks. State Superintendent Luna noted that he has had discussions about the possibility of moving the funding stream for the ISDB into the State Department of Education (SDE) budget so that it qualifies for monies from the stabilization funds. That change would have to be legislated so it would not be a viable remedy for FY 2009.

Board member Edmunds asked what a 6% holdback would do to ISDB. Jeff Woods, Financial Vice President of the school, indicated they have been going through their budget. They hope to shift some things from the general funds to other funding streams. If they have to decrease staff, it would be in positions where there is the least amount of impact on the students and programs.

4. Idaho State Historical Society – Board Nominations

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve the reappointment of Jess Walters, District 4 to the Idaho State Historical Society Board of Trustees for a term beginning January 1st, 2009 and ending December 31, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Board President Terrell introduced Jess Walters who was in the audience, and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve the appointment of John R Walker, Jr., District 3, to the Idaho State Historical Society Board of Trustees for a term beginning upon appointment and ending December 31, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Eastern Idaho Technical College – Advisory Council Appointments

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve the appointment of Sylvia Medina to the Eastern Idaho Technical College Advisory Council for a term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve the appointment of Maureen Parks to the Eastern Idaho Technical College Advisory Council for a term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve the reappointment of Terry Butikofer, Michael Clark, and Dr. Mary Girling Eastern Idaho Technical College Advisory Council for a term beginning January 1, 2009 and ending December 31, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Board Policy Section I.E. – Executive Officers – First Reading

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve the first reading of the amendment to Board Policy I.E. -- Executive Officers.

Substitute Motion (Lewis/Thilo): To approve the first reading of the amendment to Board Policy I.E. -- Executive Officers with the stated intent of the Board to further modify the

language to provide that the at-will policy of the Board supersede any employment contracts terms, and further that the language reflect the desire of the Board to allow for supplemental compensation from 3rd parties as long as it is provided through, and controlled by the Board. Motion carried 7 -1 (Hall voted Nay).

Board member Lewis noted some language issues. He pointed out that the policy relates to Chief Executive Officers (CEO), but takes away the definition of CEO. He raised several questions about added language under (3)c, wondering how a five-year contract and the CEO being at-will are meant to work with each other. Jeff Schrader, the Board's legal counsel, explained that the CEO being at-will is consistent with the employee serving at the Board's discretion. The policy does make it possible for the Board to set up other terms and conditions of an employment contract and modify those provisions. Mr. Lewis indicated he wanted to be sure that the concept of an agreement doesn't eliminate the at-will power of the Board. Mr. Schrader noted that the employment agreement concept allows the Board some flexibility to modify the at-will concept if the Board so chooses; it doesn't require that the Board do so. He reiterated that the language in this policy would allow the Board to go in whatever direction it might want to take.

Board member Agidius noted that there is nothing that prohibits the Board from entering into a multi-year contract with a clause that allows the Board to terminate the employee at-will, but other terms can be added. Board member Edmunds clarified that the policy retains the at-will approach. Mr. Schrader indicated that when the policy was drafted it was with the intent to give the Board the ability to modify that policy. He emphasized that the Board staff is willing to go in whatever direction the Board members desire.

Board member Lewis supported the idea that the Board retains the at-will relationship. He does want the Board to move forward with the first reading and note the comments related to clarification.

Board member Lewis wondered if the policy, as amended, precludes the Board from providing supplemental or deferred compensation to the contract. Board President Terrell indicated that his intent is for the Board to be able to look at other areas of enticement as a recruiting and retention tool.

Board member Edmunds indicated that the policy restricts what the foundations can do. He wondered if in this time of budget constraints the policy should be eased to allow them to do more. Jeff Schrader noted that this policy was previously amended regarding compensating presidents with state funds. At that time, it was the direction the Board chose to take. He noted that should the Board want to change that, the policy language needs to be adjusted.

Board member Hall indicated that he opposed this modification to policy for two reasons. One, the Board needs to be transparent in the hiring of university presidents so that it is clearly understood that the presidents work for the Board and not for a foundation. In the past, when that was not the case, it caused divided loyalties and accountability issues which resulted in serious consequences for the institutions and the Board. Board member Hall indicated he was also opposed to the Board moving away from the at-will employment policy which this modification purports to allow. He reminded the Board that Board members are appointed and should enter into a contract with individuals that binds future Boards with regard to the employability of university presidents and decreases the accountability of the university presidents to the Board. He encouraged the Board to table this and to send it back to staff for

correction so that the Board doesn't violate issues of trust that the public has placed in the Board.

Board member Lewis indicated he agreed with Mr. Hall's comments related to the compensation of university of presidents. Board member Lewis asked about the addition of language related to annual leave, wondering if it is a new policy. Mr. Schrader said that is the current policy for all non-classified employees. It has been inserted in this policy to clarify that policies for non-classified employees do not pertain to university presidents.

President Bob Kustra asked to speak to this item. He noted he came to BSU without a multi-year contract from an institution where he had a multi-year contract. He indicated that if Idaho is going into the public marketplace to compete for candidates, the good candidates will have two or three offers on the table. He suggested that multi-year contracts, for university presidents, are common practice at the national level. As far as foundation support to augment salaries of presidents, he suggested that it is also a common practice nationwide. Dr. Kustra explained that the AGB governing practices guidelines, used by boards, include that practice. He reiterated that good candidates have many offers and will take the best one. He reiterated that not considering both multi-year contracts and also augmented compensation packages presents a great hindrance to Idaho in terms of the kind of candidates it will attract and be able to hire.

Board member Lewis suggested it is important to allow for the possibility to turn to foundations. But, the Board must avoid the abuses of the past so that the Board is the one that is in control of what that compensation is. He suggested that this draft of the policy would allow for that. It deserves further debate as to what the process would be. He agreed that problems would arise if the Board allowed the foundations to develop direct relationships with the presidents related to compensation. He suggested that the policy doesn't preclude that. Board member Edmunds referred to 2.e. and noted that it does seem to prevent that from happening.

Board President Terrell suggested the discussion be sent to committee to go back to staff and rewrite the draft policy so that the concerns expressed can be incorporated. Board member Thilo thanked Board members for the discussion. She suggested the Board move forward with the first reading and make modifications prior to the second reading. She noted that it is important to have some of these changes in place in order to recruit qualified candidates for the current opening at the University of Idaho. She indicated she recognized strong controls would need to be in place, but that it is time to move forward with this. Board member Agidius clarified with legal counsel that the changes that have been recommended during the Board's discussion can be made within the bounds of a first and second reading. Board President Terrell noted that the Executive Committee endorses the concept.

7. Board Policy Section III.P. – Students – Second Reading

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To approve the second reading of the amendment to Board Policy III.P.7. -- Definition of a Full-Time Student. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Agidius explained that this amendment will align the Board's definition of a full-time student with federal guidelines at twelve hours versus eight. Board member Lewis clarified that this policy has been reviewed a number of times. He noted that there are fiscal consequences of going down this path.

In response to the question about fiscal impact on the institutions, Stacy Pearson from BSU indicated the institutions have looked at this and are in favor of this policy. The fiscal impact to BSU in the coming year, because of the budget reductions as well as the loss of the Selland College, will be there. BSU is supportive nonetheless of this change, with a two-year implementation period. She noted that BSU expects that the part-time rate will go down over time. State Superintendent Luna wondered why the institutions wouldn't wait to adopt this policy until the conditions are better fiscally. Ms. Pearson said that for BSU it would be best if this were delayed until the budget picture of FY 2010 is clearer. She emphasized that she wasn't speaking for the other institutions.

It was noted by legal counsel that it is possible for the Board to add a delayed implementation caveat to the policy before the second reading.

Dr. Jim Fletcher of Idaho State University (ISU) noted that approving this would allow the institutions to move through the system in a more timely fashion. He agreed that there is an implementation time required, but ISU has factored that into their budget planning.

Lloyd Mues of the University of Idaho (UI) echoed that UI sees this as something that needs to go forward. He suggested it is in the collective best interest to do so and noted that BSU is in a unique situation with the transfer of the Selland College and the loss of those students. The other institutions are not in that same predicament.

Chet Herbst of Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) agreed that this is appropriate action and a way to influence the behaviors of future students. He noted that the Financial Vice Presidents have looked at this very closely and agree it is the right step.

Board member Agidius asked if it is possible to pass this with a deadline that has to be met. Board member Edmunds clarified that the purpose of this is to meet federal guidelines. There was a suggestion to modify the motion to include an embedded implementation date.

Ms. Pearson noted that the policy is fine, but BSU needs time to adjust the part-time rate. She suggested moving ahead with the change in the definition, understanding that the institutions are committed to implementing it and bringing the rates down. The other Financial Vice Presidents indicated they concurred. Board member Westerberg clarified that the motion pertains to the change in full-time credit hours in order to align with federal guidelines.

8. Delegation of Authority – Residency Appeal Determination

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To designate the Executive Director as the Board's representative for reviewing residency determinations and authorizing the Executive Director, after such review, to issue the decision of the Board based on such review. Any such appeal requests to the Board will be submitted to the Chief Academic Officer for review and determination of recommended action, and then forwarded to the Executive Director for a final determination. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Lewis asked for clarification and Jeff Schrader explained that Idaho Statute does not set out an appeal right to the Board; rather it sets out the appeal rights of the student to the district court. He noted that the Board's rule provides that the appeal can be made to the Board or its designee. It doesn't provide any additional guidance as to who that designee is. He noted that the purpose of this amendment is to clarify who that designee should be.

Dr. Rush indicated that there have been appeals in the past, but they have been dealt with by the Board office in the past. Dana Kelly of the Board staff explained that in previous years, the Chief Academic Officer was the designee of record. In addition the Executive Director heard appeals. She reminded the Board that these appeals have very sensitive information and while it is the Board's prerogative to hear the appeals, the more privately they are considered, the better.

9. Delegation of Authority – Rural Physicians Incentive Fund Advisory Committee

M/S (Agidius/Westerberg): To delegate the authority of the Board for the appointment of the Rural Physicians Incentive Fund Oversight Committee to the Board's Executive Director. Any such appointments by the Executive Director shall be reported to the Board at its next regular scheduled meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Pending Rule – Docket 08-0203-0805 – Graduation Requirements

M/S (Agidius/Westerberg): To approve the pending rule, Docket 08-0203-0805, IDAPA 08.02.03.105, Rules Governing Graduation Requirements, as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Rush noted that two people were in the audience to speak to this issue. Jim Reed, Superintendent of the Weiser School District was introduced. He serves this year as the President of the Idaho School Superintendents Association (ISSA). Mr. Reed explained that superintendents have discussed the readiness of schools to implement the science graduation requirement related to 10th grade ISAT testing. He asked that the Board consider a later implementation date beyond 2013 so the schools have time to put the critical elements in place. He discussed the need for a data stream and scaffolding. In addition, current science classes are not integrated and there is a need to restructure and rewrite the science curriculum. He indicated that districts are concerned about Plato software and are not in a position to purchase different software at this time. He noted that in light of the many challenges placed on schools right now, a science ISAT graduation requirement is an additional burden. On behalf of ISSA, Mr. Reed asked the Board to postpone this until science ISATs can be used in grades 8 and 9, science curriculum can be rewritten, and the Board has some agreement in place regarding Plato.

Joe Kelly, Curriculum Director from Meridian School District, discussed issues from the perspective of his position and experiences. He acknowledged the need to improve science and math content and requirements. He pointed out that the simplest part of the process is creating the standards. Mr. Kelly explained how involved and time-consuming implementing new standards are for the district and for schools. Curriculum development and rewrites must be undertaken. That results in major adjustments in instructional practices, followed by exam development to align it all. Meridian has already initiated an effort to align courses and the efforts are ongoing. To this point, Meridian has spent \$2.2 million on this effort. He indicated that none of this takes into consideration the students who have had to be removed from the program for remediation and the cost incurred in doing that. He noted this is the second time the district has had to go through this process. The numerous efforts and cycles of development with every standard overhaul are costly in terms of time and resources. He suggested that the current process does not have adequate data and is a hardship for students going into their junior year who are found lacking. He pointed out that the tests don't provide

any way to determine which concepts or content the students need remediation in. He reiterated that additional time to evaluate, adjust, and implement is critical and encouraged the Board to consider that in their decision making.

State Superintendent Luna indicated that he supports this motion to establish the date. He also noted that in the first year of the 10th grade science ISAT, over 50% passed. When the bar was raised, over 65% passed. As compared to other disciplines, the numbers are not that far off. And, the gains made were greater than in some of the others. Mr. Luna explained that this is about raising the bar and while it is a hardship on the adults, it is essential for the students. As far as adequate funding, he noted that considerably more funds are going out to districts for remediation, based on the number of students struggling with the ISATs. He pointed out that this graduation requirement is essential.

Board member Edmunds asked for clarification on the 8th and 9th grade ISATs and the costs. Mr. Luna noted there hasn't been an 8th or 9th grade science ISAT. Dr. Rush pointed out the change in the pending rule is from 2012 to 2013. If the pending rule is not passed, then the state falls back to the original date prior to the 2012 temporary rule implementation.

Board member Edmunds clarified with Mr. Luna his desire to implement a 9th grade ISAT. Mr. Luna noted that he is under the impression that we test too much, although he is in favor of a 9th grade science ISAT. He indicated that what many districts are doing are end-of-course exams and that is something he has discussed with folks. Mr. Reed agreed that they want to raise the bar and no superintendent or teacher wants anything other than that. He reiterated that his point is that the districts are not prepared to remediate another large number of sophomores in two years. That is a harsh lesson they have learned from other ISATs.

11. Pending Rule – Docket 08-0111-0802 – Registration of Postsecondary Educational Institutions and Proprietary Schools

M/S (Agidius/Thilo): To amend the Temporary Rule and approve the Pending Rule, Docket 08-0111-0802, Registration of Postsecondary Educational Institutions and Proprietary Schools, IDAPA 08.01.11., as submitted. Motion carried unanimously. (Note: this motion was re-read later in the meeting for clarification.)

INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH, AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Higher Education

1. Boise State University/College of Western Idaho Teach Out Memorandum of Understanding

M/S (Thilo/Agidius): To approve the Teach-Out of PTE certificates and select AAS degrees between Boise State University, the College of Western Idaho, and the College of Southern Idaho, in substantial conformance to the version attached, and to authorize Boise State University to continue to award professional-technical certificates and certain AAS degrees from July 1, 2009 until May 30, 2011 in order to ensure the appropriate degree continuation for eligible Selland College students. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Formation of a Task Force to Examine Alternative Approaches for Placement of Students into First-Year Courses (English 90, 101, 102)

Board member Thilo briefly presented this information item.

3. South Central Local Operations Committee – Summary Report

Board member Thilo briefly presented this information item.

4. Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant Program – Idaho’s Proposal for a Rigorous High School Program of Study

M/S (Thilo/Westerberg): To retain the Idaho State Board of Education Governing Policies and Procedures Section III.Q., Admissions Standards as the rigorous secondary school program of study for Idaho to meet the requirements for the Academic Competitiveness Grant program. Motion carried unanimously.

Dana Kelly of the Board staff briefly discussed this item. She noted that there were four programs offered to us by the U.S. Department, however Idaho chose an alternative proposal. She explained that many of Idaho’s college bound students may qualify under Idaho’s proposal who wouldn’t otherwise qualify. Eligible students receive additional federal funds to be used towards the cost of their postsecondary education. No additional state funds are required for Idaho students to participate. Board member Lewis clarified that there were four programs offered to us by the U.S. Department, however Idaho chose an alternative proposal

5. First Reading – Proposed Amendments to Board Policy III.D. – Official Calendars

M/S (Thilo/Luna): To approve the first reading of the proposed amendments to Board Policy III.D. Official Calendars as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Appointment for Council for the Education of Students Who Are Blind/Visually-Impaired and Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing

M/S (Thilo/Agidius): To appoint the following individuals, listed in Attachment 1, to the Advisory Council for the Education of Students Who Are Blind/Visually-Impaired or Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. Appointment of Committee Members

M/S (Lewis/Thilo): To approve the appointment of Naomi Shankel to the Audit Committee for a three year term ending December 31, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

M/S (Lewis/Thilo): To approve the appointment of Mark Heil to the Audit Committee for a two year term ending December 31, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, Board member Agidius clarified an earlier motion (item 11 of the Planning, Policy and Governmental Affairs agenda) reading it as it should have read which is as follows: “To amend the Temporary Rule and approve the Pending Rule, Docket 08-0111-0802, Registration

of Postsecondary Educational Institutions and Proprietary Schools, IDAPA 08.01.11., as submitted.”

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to this clarification and asked that it be reflected in the earlier motion.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

At this time the Board took up items 1 – 5 of the Consent Agenda for further inquiry. State Superintendent Luna was asked to lead the discussion. Mr. Luna asked that the institutions speak to the impact of budget holdbacks related to the plans of the institutions to fill new positions.

Stacy Pearson of Boise State University said BSU takes the holdback and the request for positions very seriously. She noted that BSU has been strategic in order to protect instruction. These position requests have been well-vetted. Only a few of the positions are funded with state funds. Most of the positions being requested are funded by local funds; some are funded as a result of reorganization. Mr. Luna wanted to know if BSU would ask for an increase in student fees because of the new positions and changes. Ms. Pearson said BSU would not come in for a request for increase for student fees because of these positions. These positions have already been accounted for because they have been filled by adjunct faculty. Reductions in operations and other measures will be undertaken. Board member Edmunds noted that by December 15 institutions have to notify non-tenured faculty about pending terminations. Ms. Pearson indicated that BSU is not planning to take exigency, but it is looking at every area in terms of reducing the budget. Mr. Luna asked how many vacant position BSU is choosing not to fill at this time. Ms. Pearson indicated that BSU reviews the list every week. She will be glad to give Mr. Luna those figures.

Board member Westerberg indicated that it would be helpful in the future to have the net effect of adding and deleting these positions included in the Board materials.

Jim Fletcher of Idaho State University said ISU operates within an overall plan. Of the positions requested, only one is state funded. In terms of how ISU operates, the University looks at every state funded position with great scrutiny to make sure it is essential to accreditation, instructional necessity, and key to the operation of a function. In terms of advising second year faculty of non-renewal of contracts by December 15, ISU is considering that notification. He noted that central to their plan is protecting core faculty. ISU is not considering exigency.

Lloyd Mues of the University of Idaho indicated that UI is asking for five reactivations. These positions have been vacant for up to twelve months. Cost is neutral on those five. There is no request for exemptions or additional appropriated funds. Student fees will not be used to pay for these positions. UI operates with a position-pause which means it does not fill a vacant position without further consideration of its necessity. Significant dollars savings have resulted to date using this approach. Mr. Mues indicated that the University is looking at the possibility of notifying faculty on December 15 of non-renewal of contracts, but it has not been decided to do so at this time. As far as exigency, UI has a heightened awareness due to the situation, but is not planning on exigency.

Chet Herbst of Lewis-Clark State College reported that its request is for two part-time positions and both are grant funded. In the bigger picture, LCSC is asking to delete 4.6 FTEs. LCSC is

not contemplating student fee increases or reductions based on the position changes. LCSC is looking at vacant positions right now to use towards the holdback. They will be cutting back on operating expenses as well. The institution is not considering exigency in FY 2009, but in terms of FY 2010 it is difficult to say at this time without knowing the full impact of reductions and fiscal constraints. LCSC is aware of the timelines for notifying staff by December 15, but at this time there is nothing to report. He noted that notification of staff in different groups would be done with great transparency.

Burton Waite of EITC reported that Eastern Idaho Technical College is asking for a reallocation of positions. It is looking for a new data base system for the College. The positions are essential to that effort. These requests align the skills needed with the implementation of the data base. He noted that these requests will have no effect on what happens with fee increases. As far as financial exigency, that is not on the table at this time. He noted that EITC has been working since last July in anticipation of what has occurred. They have identified how to meet the hold backs without impacting faculty to date.

1. BAHR – Section I – Boise State University – New Positions, Changes to Positions, Deletions of Positions

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the request by Boise State University for ten (10) new positions (10.0 FTE); term, salary, FTE change to one (1) position (1.0 FTE); and deletion of one (1) position (1.0 FTE). Motion carried 7-1 (Hall voted nay).

2. BAHR – Section I – Idaho State University – New Positions

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the request by Idaho State University for nine (9) new positions (8.55 FTE). Motion carried 7-1 (Hall voted nay).

3. BAHR – Section I – University of Idaho – New Positions, Reactivations of Positions

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the request by the University of Idaho to establish two (2) new positions and reactivate five (5) positions supported by appropriated funds. Motion carried 7-1 (Hall voted nay).

4. BAHR – Section I – Lewis-Clark State College – New Positions, Deletions of Positions

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the request by Lewis-Clark State College for two (2) new positions and five (5) deleted positions. Motion carried 7-1 (Hall voted nay).

5. BAHR – Section I – Eastern Idaho Technical College – Reallocations of Positions

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the request by Eastern Idaho Technical College for the reallocation of two (2) positions (2.0 FTE). Motion carried 7-1 (Hall voted nay).

Section I – Human Resources

1. Item pulled from the agenda

2. Boise State University – Employment Contract – Director of Athletics

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve Boise State University's request to enter into Addendum Three to Employment Contract with Director of Athletics Gene Bleymaier as presented.

First Substitute M/S (Lewis/Thilo): To approve Boise State University's request to enter into Addendum Three to Employment Contract with Director of Athletics Gene Bleymaier as presented, with the following modification of the marked copy under tab 2 page 7 where the asterisk is and deleting the words "may be" so that it reads "subject to the approval of the Board of Education."

Second Substitute Motion (Luna/___): To amend the substitute motion to change bullet point 2 from \$125,000 appropriated funds back to \$106,800 of appropriated funds and leaving number 2, letter b at \$141,115. (Motion failed for lack of a second.)

Second Substitute Motion (Agidius/Luna): That the total salary be \$266,115 with no more than \$106,800 coming from state general account.

Third Substitute motion (Luna/Lewis): To approve Boise State University's request to enter into Addendum Three to Employment Contract with Director of Athletics Gene Bleymaier as presented with the following modification of the marked copy under tab 2 page 7 where the asterisk is and deleting the words "may be" so that it reads "subject to the approval of the Board of Education." And, also to increase the salary to \$266,115 with \$106,800 coming from state general account funds and the balance coming from the athletic department funds. Motion carried 7-1 (Hall voted nay).

Board President Terrell noted this was brought before the Board's Athletic Committee which is made up of Ms. Thilo, Mr. Agidius, and Mr. Terrell. They have carefully reviewed it and give it a do-pass recommendation. Board member Lewis asked about increases being approved by the president of the institution rather than by the Board. Kevin Satterlee of BSU noted that this provision allows for increases such as a blanket 3% increase from a pool of funds that would be granted to employees for performance or merit raises. Mr. Satterlee noted that the Board does have policies that limit the amounts that can be granted without Board approval.

Board member Lewis indicated he has discomfort in allowing the president to approve an increase without Board approval. He asked if the Board desired to approve the contract subject to BSU bringing it back after considering that point further. Board President Terrell suggested that the motion be modified to read subject to Board approval rather than president approval. Kevin Satterlee referred to page 2 of tab 7 the second line from the end where it says "may be" so that it reads "subject to approval of the Board of Education". Mr. Lewis indicated that would be agreeable to him.

Board member Hall observed that when other hardworking state employees are not getting salary increases, it doesn't seem right that a salary increase is awarded for athletic performance. Mr. Luna indicated he agreed with Mr. Hall. He doesn't have a problem with increasing the pay out of the athletic department, but not out of state funds. Mr. Satterlee provided information on how much of the salary increase would come from the various sources.

There was discussion about how the motion should read. Mr. Luna explained that this would result in no salary increase from state appropriated funds. Mr. Westerberg suggested that the language say that the amount of appropriated funds stay the same.

3. Idaho State University – Employment Contract – Head Women’s Soccer Coach

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the request by Idaho State University for a multi-year employment agreement as submitted for Allison Gibson, Head Women’s Soccer Coach (1.0 FTE).

Board member Edmunds asked for clarification. Brad Hall, legal counsel for Idaho State University, noted that this provision regarding termination and rights is typical of multi-year employment contracts for athletics which rules out the at-will concept. Mr. Edmunds wondered why the Board pursues at-will contracts for some folks and not for others. Board member Lewis explained that the Board’s insistence for at-will has been specific to executive directors and presidents whereas there are other categories of employees where that hasn’t been a focus.

Board member Edmunds indicated that this contract, under 5.2.2., calls for compensation until the person finds other employment. He indicated that the Board had previously discussed different language to be used. Board member Agidius suggested approving the contract with the stipulation that the wording in this provision include the new language.

Kent Nelson of the University of Idaho was invited to share his perspective on the best language based upon his experience with these types of contracts. Mr. Nelson indicated that UI offsets the compensation so that the institution pays a portion if other employment is undertaken at a lesser amount. The Board asked him to work with the Board’s legal counsel and ISU to get that language into their contract.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to postpone this item until later in the agenda.

Note: the final motion appears between items 5 and 6 of the finance agenda.

4. Office of the State Board of Education – Permission for Earning Outside Income by the Executive Director

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To authorize the Executive Director’s involvement in other outside activities that have the potential for resulting in supplemental benefits or compensation, and to approve the receipt of any supplemental benefits or compensation derived there from, as specified in the letter to the President as Attachment 1. Motion carried unanimously.

Section II – Finance

1. Amendment to Board Policy – Sections V.I. Real and Personal Property and V.K. Construction Projects – Second Reading

M/S (Westerberg/Luna): To approve the second reading of the amendment to Board Policy V.I. – Real and Personal Property Services. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Westerberg presented this item. He noted this came to the Board previously with increased limits. In this version the limit stays the same.

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the second reading of the amendment to Board Policy V.K. – Construction Projects. Motion carried unanimously.

2. University of Idaho – Kibbie Dome – Life Safety Improvement Project

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the request by the University of Idaho to implement the Initial Construction Phase for the life safety improvements in the ASUI Kibbie Activity Center, at a cost not to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000), resulting in a total project authorization value up to twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000). Motion carried unanimously.

Lloyd Mues presented this item. He noted it is not a new issue. UI is asking for permission to move forward with construction on life safety improvements of the Kibbie Dome. He presented more details and gave a status report to the Board.

Board member Lewis indicated that the financing question is critical to consider given the current economic picture. Lloyd Mues explained that UI had anticipated bonding, but right now their credit rating would drop so much UI was advised not to take that route. UI has worked with its bank which agreed to give the University a short-term construction loan. He explained the University's plan in terms of financing to make sure payments can be made.

State Superintendent Luna asked if UI is still comfortable with their financial plan. Mr. Mues said this plan is already in place and will play out in such away without asking for any increase in their plan. Board member Edmunds asked if construction estimates have been determined and if a construction design person has been hired. Mr. Mues noted that last week a construction design person was hired. He also indicated that UI found some efficiencies on the design so that the original early cost estimates have been reduced.

3. University of Idaho – Kibbie Dome – Life Safety Construction Loan

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the request by the University of Idaho for a non-revolving line of credit with a principal amount not to exceed ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) and with a term of 24 months, requiring payments of interest only at an interest rate set at the Wells Fargo Prime less .65%, and to authorize the President of the Board to sign the Authorizing Resolution and to further authorize the Vice President of Finance to execute the Loan Agreement and Promissory Note, all in substantially the same form as attached to the board materials under this agenda item, as well as such other associated documents necessary to carry out the Loan Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

Board President Terrell asked how UI will secure the note. Lloyd Mues indicated that UI has already coordinated with Wells Fargo and they have already looked at the draft and are convinced that their risk is fine. Mr. Mues noted that the activity fee is the collateral. Board member Lewis directed Mr. Terrell to the details provided in the Board materials.

4. University of Idaho – Educational Broadcast Service Lease

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the request by the University of Idaho to enter into a lease of its EBS FCC License to Digitalbridge Spectrum Corporation in substantially the same form as the attached lease and to authorize the Financial Vice President to execute all necessary related documents. Motion carried unanimously.

5. University of Idaho – Research Diary Progress Report

Board member Westerberg introduced Rich Garber and Kent Nelson of the UI to present this item. Handouts were provided to the Board. It was noted this is a report on the concept. UI expects to bring back a full proposal to the Board along with a complete funding package.

At this time, the Board returned to item 3 of the Human Resources Agenda

3. Idaho State University – Employment Contract – Head Women’s Soccer Coach

Amended M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the request by Idaho State University for a multi-year employment agreement with changes in attached document 5.2.2 as submitted for Allison Gibson, Head Women’s Soccer Coach (1.0 FTE). Motion carried 7-1 (Edmunds voted nay).

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to accept the modification of Mr. Westerberg’s motion.

At this time the Board returned to the Finance Agenda, item 6

6. Lewis-Clark State College – Property Purchase – Clearwater Hall

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the request by Lewis-Clark State College to offer \$4.5M to College Town Development Idaho, for the purchase of Clearwater Hall; and, if accepted, to seek financing for the purchase and improvement expenditures through a note secured by student revenues and fees, subject to future Board approval of finance terms. Motion carried 6-0 (Luna and Lewis absent during the vote).

Board member Edmunds noted the motion didn’t allow for a build out and financing costs so LCSC needs permission for an additional \$300,000.

M/S (Edmunds/): To approve up to an additional \$300,000 for financing and build out costs if necessary. (Motion failed for lack of a second.)

M/S (Edmunds/): To amend his motion to read “up to an additional \$100,000 for financing costs”. (Motion failed for lack of a second.)

Board member Hall asked if it was appropriate to consider additional financing action at this time. Jeff Schrader indicated that the notice about the property transfer was the only thing posted in the Board agenda. Board member Agidius suggested that \$100,000 would be directly related to the purchase of the property and should fall under that notice. After clarifying with LCSC, Board member Westerberg suggested that LCSC bring the details of the financing back to the Board after the offer is accepted; and, that the Board wait until then to consider further action.

7. Lewis-Clark State College – Property Purchase – Parking Lots

M/S (Westerberg/Thilo): To approve the request by Lewis-Clark State College to purchase the property at 1014 4th St., Lewiston, Idaho, for \$141,000; and to authorize LCSC to acquire fee title to the property by condemnation under the provisions of Idaho

Code, should the President of LCSC determine that such action is necessary. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Edmunds asked about the language related to condemnation. Board President Terrell indicated this is normal.

8. Lewis-Clark State College – Property Sale – York House Lots

M/S (Westerberg/Hall): To approve the request by Lewis-Clark State College to sell the properties located at 508 6th Avenue and 512 6th Avenue, Lewiston, Idaho. Sale closing would be subject to Board approval of purchase agreement upon receipt of offers for one or both of the properties. Motion carried unanimously.

Board President Terrell raised a question about the sale price. Chet Herbst noted that LCSC is selling the properties for appraisal or higher price. There has been interest expressed in both properties.

9. College of Western Idaho – Property Transfer

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the transfer of the 100 acres as described in Exhibit “A” of the Grant Deed and to approve the request by the College of Western Idaho that the State Board of Education enter into and execute the Educational Facility Property Transition Agreement and the Facilities Use Agreement.

Substitute M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To postpone this item until later in December as determined by the President of the Board for reconsideration at a special meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Lewis raised a question about access. Board President Terrell noted that he was involved in those discussions. The way the property is split and parceled provide for several entrances that would be available to all entities using the complex. BSU would have availability to all of the entrances and roads and also an easement for signage at specific locations. Board member Agidius indicated that the language in the agreement doesn't reflect such an agreement about easements and Board member Lewis concurred.

Board President Terrell articulated his concerns related to the issue of easements at length. Kevin Satterlee suggested that if the Board is willing, it approve the motion with the understanding that CWI and BSU will work on the language related to the easement and subject to final approval of the Board. Ultimately, this item was postponed to allow the attorneys from CWI and BSU to work on language related to the easement.

Board member Lewis asked about the language on tab 9 page 18 related to the grantor. He asked about the word ancillary and suggested some sort of change to clarify that the services are related to the purposes of the community college.

At this time Board member Hall signed off from the meeting.

10. College and Universities – Approval to Submit Fee Increases in Excess of Ten Percent

This item was pulled from the agenda.

11. Amendment to Board Policy – Section V.W. - Litigation

M/S (Westerberg/Agidius): To approve the second reading of Board Policy V.W. – Litigation with a revision of the threshold for institution approval increasing to \$50,000 for both initiation and settlement of legal matters. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Westerberg presented this item. Board member Agidius indicated this is a good threshold. He noted that the Board would still be advised of all litigation and settlements regardless.

At this time Dr. Kustra of Boise State University acknowledged the role that Dennis Griffin has played in getting the College of Western Idaho established. He also thanked Sona Andrews, Stacy Pearson, and Kevin Satterlee of Boise State University for their leadership and patience. He expressed appreciation to Rod Lewis and Milford Terrell of the Board of Education for their hard work as well. Dr. Kustra presented Mr. Griffin with a framed picture of the CWI campus as an expression of his thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Superintendent's Update

Tom Luna updated the Board. He noted that student achievement has increased, but there is more to do. He reported that the number of schools making AYP over the last year doubled, with many of those schools making AYP for the first time. Mr. Luna discussed the contract with Plato and noted that as of today, it has been able to achieve over 90% alignment to the standards.

Mr. Luna discussed the budgets of the Department of Education (SDE) and the Public Schools. He noted that SDE's budget is not exempt from the holdback and it is absorbing the four percent holdback with two percent additional in reserve. SDE has been utilizing a cost-saving approach, as well as reorganizing their office space and saving money there. It has reduced printing costs in addition to added savings through travel and supplies. SDE has not had to let any employees go so far; they will be able to offer the same level of service. Mr. Luna indicated that if there are additional reductions in FY 2010, SDE will continue to make necessary adjustments to deliver good services.

In regards to the School budget, Mr. Luna is concerned that SDE will need to consider other options in addition to tapping into the stabilization fund. He has been in communication with the districts to look immediately at ways to save money now. He anticipates Public Education will be held whole this year, but will likely get less money next year.

2. College of Idaho Program Approval

M/S/ (Luna/Westerberg): To accept the State Review Team Report, thereby granting program approval of Math, Physical Education, Science (Chemistry and Physics), Visual Arts (Art, Music, and Theatre/Drama) at the College of Idaho. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force Update

Nick Smith for the Department of Education presented an overview for the Board of the work of the task force. Goals included incorporating multiple measurements of effectiveness and achievement, communicating clearly defined expectations, enhancing and improving student learning, and applying universally no matter the district size or location. The task force adopted Charlotte Danielson's Domains and Components and Idaho Minimum Standards as the minimum standards for teacher evaluation. This is what will be proposed to the Legislature in 2009. The task force is recommending statute and rule changes to require that category one contract teachers be included in the evaluation process. Technical assistance will be provided, including regional trainings on the Danielson Framework. He explained the timeline.

Board member Thilo asked what would prompt a district to seek a waiver. Mr. Smith indicated that the timeline is ambitious and that districts are facing other major institutional changes so may need more time.

Board member Lewis asked about the evaluation of the outputs. Mr. Smith indicated that it can be summed up by how much a teacher helped a student get from point A to point B. A highly effective educator should be able to do that and the Danielson Domains are set up to identify that. Board member Lewis urged Mr. Luna to include a goal to measure progress.

Executive Director Rush suggested it would be helpful to have a state model that could be used. Mr. Luna noted that SDE has designed a framework that the districts can use.

4. Dual Credit Task Force Update

Jason Hancock presented a report on the Dual Credit Task Force. He noted that the taskforce was charged to study and develop a plan for implementing concurrent secondary/postsecondary courses offered to qualifying eleventh-grade and twelfth-grade students in Idaho's public high schools. In addition, the task force was to develop a statewide unified plan for delivering concurrent college credit coursework to high school students. The task force recommendations include having the state help pay the credit fees for students so that classes are more affordable and accessible to the general population. A reporting and payment structure would be put into place so that SDE could pay those fees directly to the postsecondary institutions. The funds for this would come out of the Public Education budget. It is anticipated that the Dual Credit Task Force will finalize their work in December and make recommendations to the Governor and the Idaho Legislature in 2009. Mr. Hancock acknowledged that the budget cuts could impact the extent of what can be approved in FY 2010.

Board member Agidius raised a point about the possibility some districts have suggested that the postsecondary institutions give them a portion of any money they collect for offering dual enrollment courses. He suggested that serious issues could result if that is the case. Mr. Luna indicated that he is not aware of that situation happening, but would look into it further.

5. Math Initiative Update

Cindy Johnstone presented an update to the Board. Idaho's Math Initiative aims to improve student understanding and performance in mathematics and elevate public awareness of its importance. The Math Initiative has three focus areas: student achievement, teacher education, and public awareness. Ms. Johnstone discussed these areas in more detail to bring the Board up-to-date on the status of the Math Initiative. Mr. Luna indicated that the number of students using the live tutor capabilities is expected to increase next semester.

6. Middle School Task Force Update

Rob Sauer presented the Middle School Task Force report to the Board. He noted that the purpose of the task force includes: improving rigor, relevance, relationships and responsibility in the middle grades; identifying pockets of success; and, ensuring that every student is prepared to be successful in high school. Mr. Sauer pointed out that the main focus of the task force recommendations is on student responsibility. Related to that, the task force will recommend the implementation of a credit system no later than the 7th grade. The task force recommends having a systematic approach for student transition from middle to high school. Interventions must also be in place to help students who are failing. Professional development for teachers is important so that they can connect more rigorous curriculum to teaching. It is recommended that certification and/or endorsement be in place at the middle school level. He noted that it has been demonstrated that an adult advocate for every student contributes to a student's chances for success. The Middle School Task Force will finalize their work by fall of 2008 and make recommendations to the Idaho Legislature, the Board, SDE, and school districts by January 2009.

Board member Lewis raised concerns about whether these recommendations actually increase rigor in the middle grades. Mr. Luna explained that the focus is rigor, relevance, and relationships. The current rigor continues to be raised. But, getting students to be more responsive and accountable with the current rigor is also an issue that needs to be addressed because so many of them don't take it seriously. Mr. Sauer noted that this effort includes getting the students engaged and gives them a starting point. Board member Thilo suggested this helps to change the focus and the culture of middle school mindset. The rigor is important and this is a building block to get to it. It puts a structure in place.

7. Rural Education Initiative Update

Nick Smith presented this report to the Board. He briefly discussed the desired outcomes which include increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in rural districts, improving retention of highly qualified teachers, closing the technology gap between rural and urban schools, and establishing a way for rural districts to improve their facilities. Mr. Smith noted that the task force has been meeting for two years. This past year the task force focused on topics related to rural education including: four-day school weeks, defining what rural means in Idaho, transportation funding, school district consolidation, supplemental levies, facilities, student loan forgiveness, and teacher recruitment. Some of the solutions the task force discussed include establishing a statewide education network to connect all schools to high speed internet, establishing regional co-ops to provide needed services to the districts, and making it possible for districts to have more flexibility in hiring teachers. The Public School budget for FY 2010 includes a number of recommendations related to rural education needs. The recent budget cuts will obviously impact what kind of funding will actually be available. On an added note, Mr. Smith noted that the results of the four-day school week study were inconclusive as to whether or not a four-day school week has a positive or negative impact on student achievement. School attendance usually improves and while there are cost savings, they are not as substantial as one might expect.

8. Safe and Secure Schools Initiative Update

Matt McCarter updated the Board on the Safe and Secure Schools Initiative update. He noted that districts feel overwhelmed in tackling the implementation of an emergency operation planning guide for their schools. The Department has worked to ascertain safety and security gaps with an assessment. One of the areas of assessment is how well, if at all, a school is able to control who comes onto its campus. Findings are that 85% of Idaho's schools are partially or fully inadequate in the safety and security they provide. To address these issues, federal money has been pursued along with some other approaches in order to shore up the gap. Emergency Operations Planning is one of those approaches. Related to that, a template has been designed and SDE is now going throughout the state to do specialized training. The training course includes a guide that is on the Internet. The Bureau of Homeland Security has been involved as well as other emergency operation agencies such as FEMA. SDE has also designed a guide to school safety equipment with the intent that school administrators can make more informed purchases. The planning guide has eight steps and within each one are forms and very streamlined information.

OTHER BUSINESS

M/S (Agidius/Westerberg): To adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.