

This CFAC meeting was held to discuss two proposals, by the State Board of Education and the Workforce Development Council. The committee also discussed an update to the small business grants.

Chairman Alex Adams began the meeting at 1:01pm with Lt. Governor Janice McGeachin, Senator Steve Bair, and Seth Griggs being absent.

Shawn Keough started the meeting with the proposal by the State Board of Education that involved acquiring new technology for education primarily to allow K-12 students to better access online classes and material. Keough stated that this would fill a gap we saw created with the COVID-19 pandemic and help keep students in pace with their studies, especially those in rural areas. In responding to questions, Keough indicated that no changes were needed pursuant to public comment, and that no objections or concerns were raised by the germane legislative committee chairs. Tom Kealey moved to adopt the proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Wendi Secrist presented the Workforce Development Council proposing a new training program that works with Idaho employers to identify different types of short-term training. This would give those who have not been rehired or seeking new employment more value to potential employers. Secrist stated that the goal is to partner with Idaho institutions to offer this training. Trent Clark, Chairman of the Workforce Development Council, emphasized the change COVID-19 will bring about and how low skill workers are going to have a difficult time coming back into the workforce. In responding to questions, Secrist indicated that no changes were needed pursuant to public comment, and that no objections or concerns were raised by the germane legislative committee chairs. Secrist also noted that the contractual elements were competitively bid. Bobbi-Jo Meuleman moved to accept the proposal as presented, seconded by Jani Revier. The motion passed unanimously.

Lastly Chairman Adams discussed an update to the Idaho Rebound Grant. New U.S. Treasury guidance on the CARES Act funds emphasized the fact that money passed down to the locals from the state can be used to support local businesses – with this new direction, Chairman Adams proposed letting locals use the funds made available to them to help local businesses that are affected by the new closures. Mayor John Evans moved to accept the proposal, seconded by Matt Newton. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee adjourned with the intent to discuss any more forthcoming proposals next week.