Idaho Digital Learning Alliance

Virtual Meeting of the Board of Directors
9199 W. Black Eagle Drive, Boise ID 83709
Zoom: https://idla.zoom.us/j/2083420207
Meeting ID: 208 342 0207
October 13, 2026

Tuesday, October 13, 2026	*10:00 AM*

Board Members Present

- Mr. Norm Stewart, Mr. Matt Valadao, Mrs. Megan Sindt, Mr. John Stiffler, Mr. Thane Price, Mr. Brian Lee, Mrs. Alica Holthaus

Board Members Absent

- Mrs. Karla LaOrange

Staff Members Present

- Dr. Simmons, Mr. Jeff Farden, Ms. Julie Patterson, Ms. Jolene Del Re, Ms. Kim Caldroney, Mr. Brian Smith, Mr. Monte Woolstenhulme

Others Present

- Mrs. Heather Anderson, Mr. Brad Patzer, Mrs. Kristin Binder

---

Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome @ 10:00 AM

I. Agenda

The meeting began at 10:00 am. A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mr. John Stiffler and seconded by Mr. Matt Valadao. The motion is unanimous.

II. Public Comment

Open Forum is held only during regularly scheduled Board meetings—not during special meetings or Executive Sessions—and is limited to a total of fifteen minutes, with individual speakers allowed up to five minutes each. The Board Chair may adjust speaking time, limit the number of speakers, or request group representatives to summarize shared viewpoints. Priority is given to individuals addressing agenda items or those who have not recently spoken at Open Forum. Public testimony must not include comments about employees, personnel matters, disciplinary issues, personal grievances, or partisan political topics. Board members do not respond during the forum, but concerns raised will be recorded and may be addressed at a future time.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes

2. Expenditures
3. Personnel

   A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mrs. Alica Holthaus and seconded by Mr. John Stiffler. The motion is unanimous.

IV. Action Items

1. Policies, 1st Reading
   a. #4120 - Uniform Grievance Procedure
   b. #5250 - Staff Grievances
   c. #5260 - Abused and Neglected Child Reporting
   d. #5290 - Political Activity - Staff Participation

   A motion to approve the first reading of policies #4120, #5250, #5260, and #5290 was made by Mr. Matt Valadao and seconded by Mrs. Alica Holthaus. The motion is unanimous.

2. Policies, 2nd Reading
   a. #5240 - Sexual Harassment/Intimidation in the Workplace
   b. #3085 - Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation
   c. #3085-P(1) - Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation - Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, Requirements and Definitions

   A motion to approve the second reading of policies #5240, #3085, and #3085-P(1) was made by Mr. Matt Valadao and seconded by Mr. John Stiffler. The motion is unanimous.

3. Federal Tax Credit

   A motion to approve the Superintendent to create opportunities for course fees to be covered by utilizing Education Freedom Tax Credit Funds The motion was made by Mr. Brian Lee and seconded by Mr. Matt Valadao. The motion is unanimous.

4. FY 27 Vacation Cash Out

   A motion was made by Mr. Thane Price and seconded by Mr. Matt Valadao to approve increasing the full-time IDLA employee vacation cash out option up to 6 vacation days for FY27. The motion is unanimous.

V. Updates

1. Superintendent Update - Mr. Jeff Simmons
   a. FY 28 Budget Update

      Dr. Simmons and Mr. Brian Smith provided a recap of the current budget reflecting recent legislative changes as well as the FY28 budget request submitted to the State Department of Education.
   b. Course Development Costs

      Ms. Jolene Del Re walked the board members through recent cost-saving measures that allowed for substantially lower costs to build a full-semester course. Reducing subcontractors, using AI, and automating workflows.
   c. Advocacy Tool Kit

      Dr. Simmons shared a document created to inform staff about appropriate avenues for advocacy for those interested in doing so.
   d. Fall Enrollment Update

Dr. Simmons advised the board that, as of the fall semester, IDLA is still serving more students than were appropriated. He also reported a 43% drop in dual-credit enrollments this fall due to the impact of required course fees.

e. District Programs Overview - Mr. Monte Woolstenhulme
Mr. Monte Woolstenhulme, along with staff members Mr. Brad Patzer and Mrs. Kristin Binder, discussed the District Programs department, providing an in-depth explanation of what the department does and how it helps throughout the state.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 am was made by Mr. Matt Valadao and seconded by Mr. Thane Price. The motion is unanimous.

2026 - 2027 Board Meeting Dates

- November 3, 2026, Face to Face, Boise, Noon MST
- January 12, 2027, Virtual 10:00 AM MST
- February 2, 2027, Face to Face, Boise, Noon MST
- April 13, 2027, Virtual 10:00 AM MST
- May 11, 2027, Virtual 10:00 AM MST
- June 8, 2027, Face to Face, Boise, Noon MST