

**IDAHO SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD  
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING**

**Tuesday – June 02, 2020 - 09:30 a.m. (MT)**

**Division of Building Safety  
1090 East Watertower Street, Suite 150, Meridian  
1250 Ironwood Drive, Suite 220, Coeur d'Alene  
2055 Garrett Way, Building 1, Suite 4, Pocatello**

*NOTE: The following report is not a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting,  
but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.*

Chair Wendy Horman called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. (MT)

**Board Members Present:**

Representative Wendy Horman, Chair  
Sen. Lori Den-Hartog

**DBS Staff Members Present:**

Brian Armes, IOS3 Program Manager  
Tara Biddle, Administrative Assistant 1

**Board Members Via Webex Live**

Matt Freeman, Vice-Chairman  
James Fry  
David Gates  
John Ganske  
Dr. Becky Meyer  
Brad Richy  
Eric Studebaker

**DBS Staff Members Via Webex Live**

Ron Whitney, Deputy Administrator  
Spencer Holm, Deputy Attorney General  
Guy Bliesner, South East School Analyst  
Elliot Cox, South Central Analyst  
Mark Feddersen, North School Analyst  
Mike Munger, Southwest School Analyst  
Kayla Green, Project Coordinator

**Board Members Absent:**

Chad Huff

◆ **INTRODUCTION**

- Chair Horman took this time to thank the First Responders present and the Idaho Office of School Safety and Security employees for their hard work and sacrifice during the Covid19 Pandemic.
- PM Armes introduced new Board Member Chief Terry Cochran of the Cottonwood Police Department. He is representing the Chief of Police Association filling the seat formally held by Jeff Gunter.

Chief Cochran addressed the board giving a background of his career. He has been working with schools on school safety and security, and active threat incidents and drug and alcohol related incidents as the chief of police for the past 20 years. Prior to becoming chief of police, he was in the army. Chair Representative Wendy Horman took this opportunity to thank Chief Cochran for volunteering his time and sitting on the Office of School Safety & Security Advisory Board.

♦ **CONSENT AGENDA – Chair Wendy Horman**

**1. Approval of June 02, 2020 Agenda and December 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Board Member Gates made a motion to approve the June 02, 2020 agenda and December 17, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Board Member Freeman, Senator Den-Hartog seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**Roll Call:** Chair Representative Wendy Horman

Senator Den Hartog	John Ganske
Matt Freeman	Becky Myer
Terry Cochran	Brad Richy
James Fry	Eric Studebaker
David Gates	

♦ **INFORMATIONAL AGENDA -Brian Armes**

**2. Office Manager Report**

PM Armes thanked the Board members that were attending the meeting via the new format of the Webex meeting platform. This will be a platform that will continue in the future.

**Covid19 Update:**

PM Armes stated Covid 19 became the dominating feature very quickly for our office. He was unable to give the 2020 Legislative Report presentation to either the House Education Committee and Senate Education Committee. All items that were discussed at the last advisory board meeting were submitted to the Committee Chair and Secretaries. Due to other pressing issues and administrative rules being evaluated at that time unfortunately our agencies presentation was delayed and then Covid 19 and the closing down of legislative session in March did not allow for the presentation to be given.

PM Armes began to discuss the role our office has played since the Covid 19 pandemic hit. It was stated that schools still have been visited. One of the primary areas being charter schools that are looking to sign leases. The office has been working on getting on the front side of site choosing for charter schools to avoid future security issues and threats.

At this time PM Armes began to discuss our primary efforts in working with public health regarding Covid19, and what the possibilities of reopening for SY20/21.

The two new areas of concern, in addition to student safety are staff vulnerability and community spread. Most traditional public schools did not reopen. At this time, he asked if Senator Den-Hartog would like to give insight into the reopening of Nampa Christian due to her knowledge of the school. Chair Horman took a moment to thank all the IOSSS staff for all their hard work and gave Senator Den Hartog the time to discuss the valuable lessons that came from Nampa Christian reopening.

Senator Den Hartog stressed the commitment to safety, the importance of coordination with local public health agencies and partners and communicating clearly with the school community. Two problematic areas were identified as bussing, recess and student lunch processes and that creative solutions had to be identified to allow for these areas to proceed safely.

Overall it went very smoothly, and they did learn things that would help when coming back in the fall. One thing that is known is although this response to transportation and food worked for a brief period in these smaller campuses, it is not expected this could be sustainable for the long term nor be possible to accomplish in the public-school system. These two areas will be the biggest challenge for public schools.

At this time PM Armes asked that Guy Bliesner, South East School Analyst (SESA) give a brief update to the board on the work that he had been involved in regarding Covid19. He has been working closely with South Eastern Idaho Public Health in a FEMA response in that region. He was part of a very specific task force responsible for best practice research and focusing on addressing shortages of PPE and sanitization. Additionally, SESA Bliesner also reported that he helped 3 schools write their SVPP Grants and 2 schools with their Fire Protection and Safety Grants.

PM Armes noted the South East Idaho Public Health did a good job at using the FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) format.

Board Member Gates stated one of the areas that did need to be addressed was community wide communication. In this incident a citizenry response was very important. It was observed that response can't only come from a government level down, but that it needs to be on a local level where citizens are involved, and community planning and communication lines are in place.

At this time PM Armes asked that Mike Munger, South West School Analyst (SWSA) report on his experience in working with different agencies regarding Covid19. SWSA Munger reported that during the pandemic the uncertainty is high, experience is low and new recommendations are constantly being released as we begin to learn more about the impact of the virus. Our office was able to come in and assist with distributing information. A core function of our office will be evaluating effective practice and disseminating effective practices out to schools, along with providing documentation on planning guidance and issues of consideration.

One of the main issues that immediately became evident that moving from traditional school to online education was very disruptive to students. This is a continuing concern moving into the fall. Technical working groups have been formed that have been working to address questions from the stakeholders and superintendents. They are doing all of this while understanding that they are at the end of the year in their budgets and their budgets next year will have severe fiscal restraints all while having to make due with restricted operating environments. Common school questions relate to liability, standards of care and effective operational changes to reduce transmission.

Another element being looked at is consumable supplies for the schools. Once school is back in session, if there is a mandatory recommendation for masks, what will that look like? For instance, how many will be needed, and how will they be supplied? Another area our office will be addressing is the all hazard planning for schools. For instance, how will schools maintain social distancing in fire drills and evacuation drills? Plans still need to be in place for normal operation plans under these challenging restrictions.

Many challenges have been identified for the upcoming school year. The workgroups are working through and putting a plan together to address these concerns although it is still in the formative base at this point. The efforts by the State Board and governor's office has set the stage for being able to put together those effective measures and effective guidance in a way that is flexible for schools. It will be tailored in a way that the response in one school district may not necessarily be the response for another and will deal with those disparities associated with those elements. Chair Horman thanked SWSA Munger for his reporting and for the time and effort he has put into addressing these concerns.

In conclusion of this report PM Armes stated that there are also political view points that are going to affect communities as well. Some people will see Covid19 as being a very important issue that has tremendous ability for adverse impact while people in other communities do not see it in the same way as a critical issue.

At this time Chair Horman gave the opportunity for other board members to speak. Board Member Studebaker took the opportunity to state that his agency the State Department of Education has made recommendations to identify curriculum software to deliver instruction remotely for career and technical education. He also reported that this is the first year that they are providing suicide prevention and sexual violence education resources online free to all educators in the state of Idaho.

Board Member Richy encouraged the Advisory Board to be looking at state and county wide planning and evaluate what has occurred through the pandemic and to identify and address what we've learned. By having this information, it is a great time to evaluate and update plans at the city, county, and regional level. He reported that FEMA is here and working with state officials and that they will be hiring 10 people to work with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) will also be hiring an additional 10 staff members to deal with the Covid19 pandemic. It is estimated that this event will last for 10 years as far as the recovery aspect, and the application part of projects put forth. There will always be challenges and things not anticipated, but most of the time when there is a plan in place it its easier to know what to do, and work through issues. He reported that 2,300 gallons of hand sanitizer and containers had been purchased and will be distributed throughout the state. Chair Horman thanked Board Member for his report.

At this time Vice Chair Freeman highlighted the higher education institutions. The higher education institutions had been working independently, and within 2 weeks of the pandemic they were delivering all instruction to students remotely. They began to provide isolation areas for students and delivering meals to those affected by the virus. He took this opportunity to recognize the leaders who showed remarkable leadership and judgment. Chair Horman thanked Vice Chair Freeman for his report. There being no other comments Chair Horman thanked the IOSSS staff again for lending their expertise and innovative ideas in a way that benefited K-12 schools and local and state agencies. The staff's expertise developed over the last 5 years at IOSS allowed them to not only served Idaho students but the citizens of Idaho.

Chair Horman also stated it has become clear through this pandemic that the board needs representation from the Department of Health and Welfare and the Public Health Districts on this board. PM Armes agreed that it had become clear that there was not a strong relationship with the Department of Health and Welfare and the Health Districts. To accomplish this legislative action will need to be taken. In the meantime, Chair Horman

said she would like to speak with DAG Holmes offline about adding ad hoc members to the board before the next board meeting.

Before moving on to the next agenda item PM Armes took the opportunity to praise the college campuses when the pandemic hit the higher education institutions. They rose to the challenges presented and proved that they have built a very resilient system to deal with very complex issues. One example of this was dealing with stranded students because of travel restrictions and residential facilities and town being shut down and provided housing and support.

### **3. Update on Title IX & Clery Act -Elliot Cox**

PM Armes reintroduced Elliot Cox the South-Central Analyst (SCA) to the board.

SCA Cox introduced himself to the board. He stated that his previous experience related to post-secondary federal safety requirements, specifically Title IX and Clery Act safety reporting requirements at the college/university level.

In order to assist he has provided individualized resources and technical assistance; and added a Clery Act section to our webpage that lists helpful resources. He has developed a program self-assessment tool; and hosts a statewide Clery Act group that connects all of the Clery safety teams in Idaho. As part of the group, he moderates a monthly conference call for group members to discuss Clery compliance efforts, strategies and best practices. The group includes representatives from all post-secondary public educational institutions in Idaho but is open to private colleges and universities as well. There are currently 13 Idaho post-secondary institutions participating in the group.

SCA Cox began reporting on the Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sexual violence, discrimination and harassment in education settings. Title IX applies to both higher education and K-12. While court cases and sub-regulatory guidance have previously established guidelines for how schools should respond to allegations of sexual harassment under Title IX, the Department of Education recently published updated rules.

The new rules bring about extensive changes and will have a significant impact on educational institutions, but especially to K-12 schools beginning August 1, 2020. He directed the board to a high-level summary of the impacts these rules will have on the K-12 sector in the “top 10” document that was included in the meeting packet and will be attached with the meeting minutes. Our office has provided superintendents with

guidance documents pertaining to the recent changes in Title IX, and we will be working with ISBA to assist with policy development. A Title IX section has been added to our webpage that includes helpful resources.

SCA Cox began to discuss in more depth of how our office may be able to assist with Title IX requirements and investigations. When this report concluded Vice-Chairman, Freeman thanked SCA Cox for all of his work and proactive help with coordinating with Institutions on both the Clery Act and Title XI, and suggested that a meeting be scheduled between himself and SCA Cox to discuss what his boards (the State Board of Education) role is in assisting schools with compliance and what role IOSS may be able to play in helping local school districts and higher education. At this time PM Armes asked for guidance on the time that was currently being spent with private institutions on these matters given that it is not part of our statute, yet we are serving Idaho students. Chair Horman stated that she had been in conversation with the Attorney General and the current level of time given along with approach was acceptable.

#### **4. Grant#2018-YS-BX-0059 TipLine**

PM Green reported on the changes that came with Covid19 to the SEE Tell Now tipline. As students went from traditional learning to remote learning an estimated 4-11% of students were virtually missing many of them being in the high-risk category already. Due to the concern of students not having access to school educators and support See, Tell, Now was opened up to those schools that were not currently enrolled in the program. These tips went through the dashboard and PM Green and NSA Fedderson reviewed and routed any tips coming in. PM Green reported that she worked with Reporter Sami Edge of the Idaho Education News to compile a list of local and national tip line numbers to assist with reporting. It was also reported a new addition was made to the tipline for “no access to food”. PM Armes reminded the board that the tiplines funding would be coming to an end in April of 2021 and the board will need to evaluate the future of the program and its funding. IOSSS believes that this is a very important program to have in place, especially in times like this.

#### **5. Advisory Board Re-Appointments – Brain Armes**

It was reported that the following board members are coming up for reappointment July 1, 2020, and that an email would be going out later today with the oath of office and data

sheet to be filled out by those currently serving or the agency they are representing replacement for them.

Matt Freeman

John Ganske

David Gates

Chad Huff

Brad Richy

## **6. Administrators Report – Ron Whitney**

It was reported that IOSS is in a good financial standing with no issues to be seen. This is due to the grant funding that has been received to assist IOSSS operations.

**MOTION:** Board Member Den-Hartog made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vice-Chair Freeman.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 (MT). The next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2020 at 9:30 A.M MT.

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WENDY HORMAN, CHAIR  
IDAHO SCHOOL SAFETY AND  
SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

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RON WHITNEY, ADMINISTRATOR  
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

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DATE