



# Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel

## Agenda

**JULY 10, 2023**

College of Southern Idaho  
Room 276, Taylor Building  
315 Falls Avenue, Twin Falls, ID 83301

**Public Streaming:** <https://www.youtube.com/@sdeidaho>

### **Monday, July 10, 2023 – 8:30am (Mountain Time)**

1. Open Forum/Public Comment – Informational Item
2. Agenda Review and Approval – Action Item
3. Approval of Draft Minutes, June 1, 2023 Regular Meeting – Action Item
4. Empowering Parents Program Update – Office of the State Board of Education – Informational Item
5. Panel Discussion Empowering Parents Program – Informational Item

## EMPOWERING PARENTS PARENT ADVISORY PANEL

JULY 10, 2023

### SUBJECT

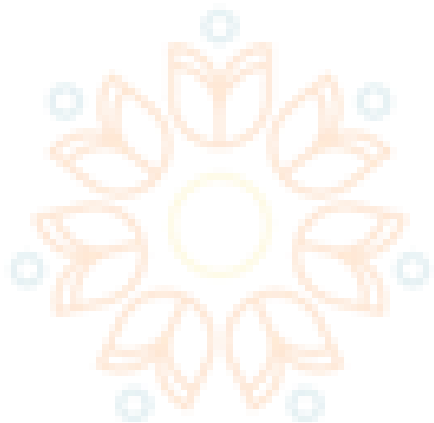
Open Forum/Public Comment

### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Public Comments Submitted as of June 30, 2023

### ACTION

This item is for informational purposes only.



Empowering  
**Parents**  
HELPING THEIR STUDENTS ACHIEVE

**From:** [marisela manrique](#)  
**To:** [Empowering Parents Advisory Panel](#)  
**Subject:** NNN  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 2:28:20 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern,

I placed an order from empowering grant Neighbors N Need on march 13th i have emailed them 2 times. The first time in april they said they where being audited second time they did not reply.

Am i able to get refunded for the orser that has not been sent and received?

Thank you in advance,  
Mari

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Teton Music](#)  
**To:** [Empowering Parents Advisory Panel](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Business Impact of Empowering Parents  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 11:57:47 AM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.**

---

Hello!

My name is Spencer and I'm the owner of Teton Music in Ammon. I wanted to take the opportunity and give some feedback for consideration as you're looking at the future of this grant. We opened our doors November 2022 and with any new business, it takes time to get name recognition and familiarity with the community. We're of course doing our part with mailers, radio ads, website ads, etc. Even though we were new to the state, the Empowering Parents grant was a tremendous boost to our business these first 9 months of operation. It has also been wonderful to serve parents from across the state and not just east Idaho.

I wanted to share this so as the committee and legislature considers the continuation and expansion of this program has a positive impact not only on families, but also companies in Idaho.

I've seen the list of all of the eligible vendors that parents can use and I'm very grateful for the portion of grants we've been able to assist in. It was wonderful to hear that many Idaho-based businesses were being utilized, but I'd love to see them utilized even more. You know probably to the dollar how much went through Amazon, but I'm hopeful that the majority went through Idaho businesses. Being a small business in a small town is very challenging to compete with a global behemoth like Amazon and doesn't help as many local Idahoans as buying in Idaho. If there were a way to steer more people local, it would be a double whammy for this program so we're helping businesses and students all in one program.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate and we help the program continues!

--

**SPENCER WILLIS**

Teton Music

Owner

[www.TetonMusic.com](http://www.TetonMusic.com)

**From:** [Alan Schweger](#)  
**To:** [Empowering Parents Advisory Panel](#)  
**Subject:** ATTN: Holly Cook  
**Date:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 5:22:45 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I am writing to make you aware of my experience with the Empowerment grant. We had put in an order in March with Neighbors N Need. They failed to communicate properly when our orders did not arrive. They finally announced they were being audited and quoted a certain time. And then we have never heard from them again. We have received no responses regarding our order that has been on hold for 3 months. We can't get the order cancelled and now have paid them over \$600+ from our grant with no product and no communication and some very disappointed kids. I'm not sure what the process is to get our funds back but this has been extremely frustrating.

Abby Schweger

**From:** [julie galeone](#)  
**To:** [Empowering Parents Advisory Panel](#)  
**Subject:** empowering parents grant  
**Date:** Friday, June 23, 2023 9:54:19 AM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.**

---

Good morning. Please keep my note confidential as I am not interested in my name being publicly published. Thank you.

My name is Julie Galeone, a parent of a rising junior in Boise, Idaho. During her sophomore year, she became actively involved with the debate team. To seek additional training, she took the initiative to discover [Gonzaga's Debate Institute](#), a competitive and highly regarded program that involves two intense weeks of training culminating in a competition. Upon initially reviewing the information, I was hesitant due to the cost of \$2000. She applied, was accepted, and is excited to go, under the condition that I can get funding for her.

Then a friend told me that she received funds to support her children's music with the Empowering Parents Grant. When I received the award, I was relieved because this could offset the cost of the course.

When I realized that I had to utilize the specific vendors through Odyssey's marketplace, I was concerned. I spoke with Gonzaga and the program director was not interested in participating as he perceived the vendors more as businesses and not student service providers. Fair enough. I tend to agree. Then I contacted Heather Zetlin at the state department for some help. I felt that there had to be a reimbursement program of some sorts for programs such as Gonzaga's. She labeled this program as a "summer camp" and stated that only the vendors on the marketplace are approved. I was pretty insulted since the debate institute has a tremendous reputation for its rigor. I assure you that it is NOT equivalent to summer camp. But the door closed.

My concern is as follows: If my daughter qualifies for these funds, is there I can seek a way for some flexibility. I accept full responsibility and ensure accountability for the way I spend this award, and will assure you that I will not abuse the privilege. It is just a bit disappointing to not be able to use the award money to benefit her learning and ambitions, especially given the lack of choices for students like my daughter.

Thank you for your time. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need further clarification.

Julie Galeone



*Julie Galeone*



*"Be the person your dog thinks you are!"  
- J.W. Stephens*

**From:** [Stephanie Boren](#)  
**To:** [AllThingsSensory NNN](#)  
**Cc:** [Odyssey](#); [Empowering Parents Advisory Panel](#); [heather.zeitlin@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:heather.zeitlin@osbe.idaho.gov)  
**Subject:** Re: [Odyssey] Re: RE: FW: [Odyssey] Re: Order 10540 & 10539  
**Date:** Monday, June 26, 2023 8:13:31 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.**

---

Thank you for the response. All of the items have not shipped. I have informed delivery with USPS, UPS and FedEx - only two boxes have been sent. Each containing one item, one of which I didn't order.

I understand you say the coding bot is a gift for patience with the order, however non of my kids will utilize the item created for ages 6 plus. I have a 12 year old and two teens. I'd like it to be returned at no cost to me.

I would also like the remaining items to be canceled and refunded.

I have one item I ordered - an herb garden.

Honestly, this is beyond frustrating.

Thank you.

----- Original message -----

From: AllThingsSensory NNN <[invoices.allthingssensory@gmail.com](mailto:invoices.allthingssensory@gmail.com)>  
Date: 6/24/23 9:55 AM (GMT-07:00)  
To: Stephanie Boren <[congleton85@gmail.com](mailto:congleton85@gmail.com)>  
Cc: Odyssey <[help@withodyssey.com](mailto:help@withodyssey.com)>, [eppanel@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:eppanel@sde.idaho.gov), [heather.zeitlin@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:heather.zeitlin@osbe.idaho.gov)  
Subject: Re: [Odyssey] Re: RE: FW: [Odyssey] Re: Order 10540 & 10539

We understand that the length of the audit put our company in a negative light. Our staff are all volunteers.

The coding bot reflected in your pictures was a free gift for your patience. Both of your orders have been filled.

On Fri, Jun 23, 2023 at 6:40 PM Stephanie Boren <[congleton85@gmail.com](mailto:congleton85@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello,

I received two Amazon boxes today with one item in each box. The herb garden was ordered in March, but the coding bot was not a part of my order. I ordered a watch bot, which is not the same item.

Photos of items, boxes, and order summary attached.

I'd like a return label to send the wrong item back and I'd like the rest of the order canceled

and refunded.

Every part of the purchase experience with this company has felt off and unethical. After reading all of the horror stories about this company online, and experiencing them myself, I wish not to be a customer and not to support this scam of a business.

I would like the incorrect item to be returned at no expense to me and I'd like a refund for the remaining items.

Stephanie Boren

----- Original message -----

From: Stephanie Boren <[congleton85@gmail.com](mailto:congleton85@gmail.com)>

Date: 6/19/23 5:51 PM (GMT-07:00)

To: AllThingsSensory NNN <[invoices.allthingssensory@gmail.com](mailto:invoices.allthingssensory@gmail.com)>, Odyssey <[help@withodyssey.com](mailto:help@withodyssey.com)>

Cc: [heather.zeitlin@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:heather.zeitlin@osbe.idaho.gov)

Subject: Re: [Odyssey] Re: RE: FW: [Odyssey] Re: Order 10540 & 10539

Hello,

After now three months without any items from my order, many negative comments and reviews about NNN orders not being filled, and little communication, I would like the order to be canceled and would like a refund.

I ordered on March 12, 2023. Order confirmation attached.

Thank you.

----- Original message -----

From: AllThingsSensory NNN <[invoices.allthingssensory@gmail.com](mailto:invoices.allthingssensory@gmail.com)>

Date: 5/16/23 5:15 PM (GMT-07:00)

To: Odyssey <[help@withodyssey.com](mailto:help@withodyssey.com)>, [congleton85@gmail.com](mailto:congleton85@gmail.com)

Subject: Re: [Odyssey] Re: RE: FW: [Odyssey] Re: Order 10540 & 10539

Per Odyssey vendor agreement: we do not offer refunds.

Due to the lengthy state audit of Odyssey we are behind on our shipments.

Thank you for your patience as your order will be filled as soon as possible.

On Mon, May 15, 2023 at 5:02 PM Sofia A (Odyssey) <[help@withodyssey.com](mailto:help@withodyssey.com)> wrote:

Hello, Neighbors N Need are the ones that have to cancel the order not Odyssey.

However, I will go ahead and put in the IT board to make sure that refund comes through once Neighbors N Need approves the cancellation.

Best,  
Sofia



On 2023 M05 15 23:10:59 UTC, Stephanie Boren [congleton85@gmail.com](mailto:congleton85@gmail.com) wrote:

This is a follow-up to your previous request [#86395](#) "Order 10540 & 10539"

Hello,

I am again requesting a cancelation on the below orders. I have emailed several times without a response.

Please cancel the orders and refund my Odyssey account.

Odyssey cc'd on this email for assistance with this ongoing request.

This email is a service from Odyssey. Delivered by [Zendesk](#)

--  
**ALL THINGS SENSORY!**

**From:** [Alice Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Empowering Parents Advisory Panel](#)  
**Subject:** Attn: Laura Milton  
**Date:** Monday, June 26, 2023 5:10:07 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.**

---

I appreciate your willingness to serve on the parent advisory board! I would like to bring to your attention some discrepancies in the administration of the program. I requested a desktop set of speakers from ODP and was denied. They are similar in price to a set that I just viewed on the Boise Depot website.

I would also love to see Amazon be a vendor in the future. Or possibly the ability to have purchases reimbursed. Our main purpose in applying for this grant was to use it for internet. We have been unable to find a vendor that services us. I would love to apply those funds to a Starlink subscription.

I am glad to provide any additional information you might need.

Alice Johnson,  
Thatcher, Id

# EMPOWERING PARENTS PARENT ADVISORY PANEL

JULY 10, 2023

## SUBJECT

Agenda Approval

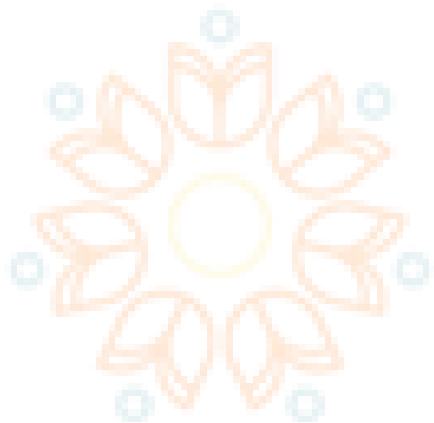
## BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

Changes or additions to the agenda

## ACTION

I move to approve the agenda as posted.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Carried Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



Empowering  
**Parents**  
HELPING THEIR STUDENTS ACHIEVE

## EMPOWERING PARENTS PARENT ADVISORY PANEL

JULY 10, 2023

### SUBJECT

Minutes Review and Approval

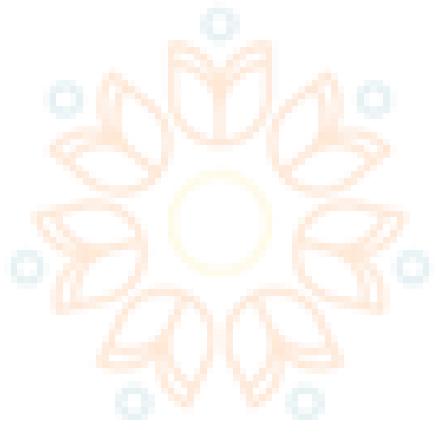
### ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Draft Minutes June 1, 2023

### ACTION

I move to approve the minutes for the June 1, 2023, Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel Regular meeting.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Carried Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



Empowering  
Parents  
HELPING THEIR STUDENTS ACHIEVE

# Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Idaho State Board of Education, Main Conference Room

650 W. State Street, Suite 307, Boise, ID 83702

### PANEL MEMBERS

Superintendent Debbie Critchfield, Chairman | Amy Henry, Panel Member | Barbara Schriber, Panel Member | Courtney Abenroth, Panel Member | Holly Cook, Panel Member | Jason Sevy, Panel Member | Joni Shepherd, Panel Member | Laura Milton, Panel Member

Thursday, June 1, 2023 – 9:00 am (MT)

#### Board Action

**9:00 am – Meeting called to order – Superintendent Critchfield, Chair**

#### Board Action

**M/S (Sevy/Cook) I move to approve the agenda posted.**

- Motion carried 7-0

Superintendent Critchfield welcomed members to the Office of the State Board of Education and the first Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel meeting. The panel moved through introductions of each member with their relevant experience and reason for applying to the panel.

Superintendent Critchfield introduced the Guiding Principles of the panel and moved through each principle previously sent to the panelists.

#### Board Action

**M/S (Sevy/Henry) I move to accept the Guiding Principles document.**

- Motion carried 7-0

#### Board Action

**M/S (Cook/Henry) I move to amend the agenda to bring Danielle Woods in early to review travel and reimbursement guidelines.**

- Motion carried 7-0

#### Board Action

**M/S (Milton/Schriber) 9:20 am – I move to recess until next presenter arrives.**

- Motion carried 7-0

**Board Action**

**M/S (Milton/Cook) 9:21 am – I move to resume meeting with Danielle Wood.**

- Motion carried 7-0

Danielle Woods, a Financial Specialist at the State Department of Education, reviewed State Department of Education policy on reimbursing travel for the advisory panel, including Travel Reimbursement Forms and W-9 policy.

Superintendent Critchfield asked the panel their opinions on public comment policy for future meetings, including length of time, and the most efficient way to accommodate multiple public commentators. The working plan is to allow an hour for public comments with a three (3) to five (5) minute maximum per speaker. The panel also expressed interest in a specific Empowering Parents email address in which to receive public comment

**Board Action**

**M/S (Cook/Shepherd) 9:33 am – I move to recess until next presenter arrives.**

- Motion carried 7-0

**Board Action**

**M/S (Milton/Shepherd) 9:34 am – I move to resume meeting with Kristine Moriarty.**

- Motion carried 7-0

Kristine Moriarty, Deputy Attorney General, reviewed Open Meeting Law with the Panel. She went over state and public policy for such meetings and rule of statutory construction. She then defined terms according to Open Meeting Law, including: decision, deliberation, public agency, governing body, and meetings (special and regular). Ms. Moriarty reviewed meeting and agenda notices of regular and special meetings and executive sessions, before going over meeting conduct and the specifics of public records, minutes, and enforcement of Open Meeting Law. Questions related to Special Meetings and Executive Sessions and the difference between the two were asked and answered.

**Board Action**

**M/S (Schriber/Milton) 10:09 am – I move to recess for fifteen (15) minutes.**

- Motion carried 7-0

**Board Action**

**10:25 am – Meeting reconvened – Superintendent Critchfield**

Superintendent Critchfield introduced Heather Zeitlin, Empowering Parents Grant Program Coordinator from the Office of the State Board of Education. She reviewed the basic history of the Empowering Parents Program and the legislative action surrounding the statute. Ms. Zeitlin

then went over the grant program review document the panel received previously. She reviewed the specific Board duties regarding Empowering Parents and the work she has done to date.

The panel had a number of questions for Heather to discuss and decide in later meetings, including:

- How funds can be used for households with three or more students if the maximum amount of funds have already been allocated
- Can the \$3,000 be used for more students per family if the student(s) was eligible (with eligible expenses) – in the case of three+ students?
- Should students identified with special education needs receive priority?
- Are students able to apply year after year?
- Who were the legislative sponsors?
- Is there data for percentages of receiving students/families per capita by region?
- Is there data for percentages of students that applied and were awarded per region?
- Can there be a breakdown of the data by type of schooling – homeschool, public, private, charter, etc.?
- Is there data for non-English speaking families who applied and were awarded?
- Is there data for who was awarded per wave per region?
- What was the initial communication and outreach of the program in general?
- What is the protocol for rollover dollars? Do they accrue? Who keeps track of the rollover dollars?
- What is the difference between the statutory categories?
- What is the policy for fiscal accountability for awarded families?

The next guest speaker was an Odyssey representative, Joe Connor, who reviewed a basic overview of how Odyssey manages the marketplace website and vendors. The panel asked clarifying questions related to vendors on the marketplace and their categories, how local businesses can become vendors for the marketplace, the process to review vendors, and how awarded parents can request vendors.

Superintendent Critchfield then previewed the dates for future Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel meetings, including July 10 at College of Southern Idaho, August 17 in the Idaho Falls area, and September 21 in Lewiston. The panel then reviewed the specific data points they would like to request from the State Board of Education before the next meeting on July 10.

**M/S (Cook/Sevy) I move to formally request four (4) information breakdowns from the State Board of Education, including: terms and conditions of the Empowering Parents Grant, data breakdown by school type and region, data breakdown of accounts that have not been spent and accounts that have a balance of less than \$100, and a breakdown of all services that have been approved in the Empowering Parents marketplace by statutory category "A".**

- Motion carried 7-0

**M/S (Abernath/Sevy) I move to amend the prior information request to include a further data breakdown of Native American tribes and their usage of the Empowering Parents grant funds, and more demographic data of the funds in general.**

- Motion carried 7-0

With no further questions or data requests, the panel moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Board Action**

**M/S (Critchfield/Henry) I move to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 am (MT)**

- Motion carried 7-0

DRAFT



# EMPOWERING PARENTS PARENT ADVISORY PANEL

JULY 10, 2023

## SUBJECT

Empowering Parents Program Update – Office of the State Board of Education

## REFERENCE

June 2023 First meeting of the Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel.

## APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

Section 33-1030 -1034, Idaho Code

## BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

This item will provide the Panel with an update on the Empowering Parents grant program. Staff from the Office of the State Board of Education will present an overview of the program transactions from FY2023, an update on the education expenses and services approved by the Board, and recommendations for additional education expenses and services for the Panel to consider.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Transaction Review Report

## ACTION

This item is for informational purposes only.



650 W. State Street • Suite 307 • Boise, ID • 83702

P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID • 83720-0037

---

## Transaction Review Report

6/30/2023

The State Board of Education's team has conducted a full review of the Empowering Parents Grant Program and determined that the overwhelming majority of program purchases were eligible and approved, with less than 1% of the total purchases being identified as ineligible. In total, the Empowering Parents Grant Program has helped 49,429 children across the State of Idaho purchase needed educational items and services, and we look forward to continuing the great work of the program in the months and years ahead.

### Summary of Findings

- The Office of the State Board of education (OSBE) staff have reviewed nearly all Empowering Parents Grant Program purchases made by grant awardees through the end of April, where the bulk of purchases were made before stronger procedures were put into place.
- Less than 1% of the total purchases were identified as ineligible. The total cost of ineligible expenses is less than \$180,000, which represents approximately 0.57% of the total grant funds expended. Additional work is ongoing to determine exactly how much less than \$180,000 the final amount will be.
  - Once ineligible purchases are determined, OSBE and Odyssey will move to reverse the purchases and reimburse the state.
- Of the total purchases made, 6% fall into categories that may be approved as eligible expenses under Idaho Code § 33-1030(3)(f). The Parent Advisory Panel will review these expenses and make a final recommendation.
- As the program is ongoing, OSBE and Odyssey will continue to review and gather information about an additional 8% of purchases, and expect to report back in the coming weeks.
- While the contract with Odyssey did not contain any conditions related to the accrual of interest, Odyssey has committed to return the interest to the State and is in the process of doing so.

### **Ineligible Purchases – <1%**

Less than 1% of the total purchases, and 0.57% of the total dollars spent, were identified as ineligible. Items for which an exact cost has been determined total \$83,466.00. Approximately 100 items were bundled purchases in which only a portion of the purchase was ineligible. These purchases total \$97,754.00, not all of which will need to be reimbursed. Additional work is being done to determine what portion of the total bundled purchases is attributed to ineligible items. The state will be reimbursed for the items for which exact cost has been determined. Once the bundled purchases are disaggregated, Odyssey and OSBE will work to provide any additional reimbursement if needed.

While these items are technically ineligible based on a strict interpretation of statute, many of the items could have been purchased for students with nuanced special education needs; things such as weighted blankets, sensory socks, and others. Odyssey will reach out to the parents who made these ineligible purchases to provide a final opportunity for parents to submit evidence and justification as to why the purchase was made and what the item is being used for to further the student's education. OSBE staff will review that documentation and may remove purchases from the ineligible list based on that review.

### **Categories to be Considered by Parent Advisory Panel – 6%**

OSBE staff is scheduled to present the findings of this review to the Parent Advisory Panel on July 10<sup>th</sup>. We propose that the Empowering Parents Advisory Panel (EPAP) consider recommending the categories of expenditures listed below to the State Board of Education for approval as eligible expenses pursuant to Idaho Code § 33-1030(3)(f). If the EPAP chooses to recommend any or all of the categories below and the State Board of Education subsequently approves the recommendation, the purchases in the newly approved categories would be considered eligible retroactively, and no further action would be taken.

- Camps and Classes \* <1% of all transactions reviewed
- Costumes, athletic gear, and uniforms \* less than 1% of all transactions reviewed
  - This category includes equipment parents have purchased for their students to participate in outside, education-based activities.
- Educational equipment \* 5% of all transactions reviewed
  - Things such as backpacks, lunchboxes, computer cases, and other items to help with the logistics of schooling are included in educational equipment.
- Physical education equipment \* 1% of all transactions reviewed
  - This category includes items that support physical education to support healthy living and well-rounded learners.

### **Continuation of Review**

Odyssey and the State Board of Education are working to compile information to review further purchases as we move into the coming months. We are gathering more information on approximately 8% of the purchases from the program start date through April, as well as the purchases from May and June which are being internally review by Board staff. If additional items are determined to be

questionable per limitations in statute or potential recommendations of the EPAP, OSBE staff will work with Odyssey and either approve them or refer them to the ineligible category.

### Looking Forward

- OSBE has implemented procedures for reviewing all purchases within 72 hours of purchase. This practice facilitates timely requests for reversals should any ineligible expenses be purchased in the future. OSBE and Odyssey have internal measures in place on items that have been previously identified as eligible or ineligible, helping streamline this process.
- Odyssey has established procedures for reviewing all purchases and has implemented a “punch-out” system for some vendors that requires Odyssey staff approval of items prior to the purchase being finalized. Odyssey has established agreements with vendors that require vendors to only make eligible products and services available on the marketplace. Along with this, parents using the marketplace will need to submit documentation and attestation as to the educational purpose for ALL items being purchased, not just items that need extra staff review.
- OSBE and Odyssey have worked together to document business processes that outline the workflow, procedures, and safeguards enacted to ensure that moving forward there is tight scrutiny around the program.

### Conclusion

The Empowering Parents Grant Program is well positioned to positively impact Idaho families. To date, the program has benefited 49,429 children across the state, with the vast majority of purchases doing exactly what they were intended to do—support improved educational outcomes for Idaho children. This efficiency is a result of OSBE and Odyssey having worked together to review and revise program administration workflows on both sides to ensure that this highly successful program stays on track as we move forward. With less than 1% of the purchases made being deemed ineligible, and proper recourse having been established to rectify, we believe that this program has filled a massive need in Idaho’s education system. Reimbursement is in process and procedures have been established to prevent such purchases in the future. The collaboration between OSBE and Odyssey has resulted in a fine-tuned, well managed program that has helped tens of thousands of students.

# EMPOWERING PARENTS PARENT ADVISORY PANEL

JULY 10, 2023

## SUBJECT

Panel Discussion – Empowering Parents Program

## REFERENCE

June 2023                      First meeting of the Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel.

## APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

Section 33-1032, Idaho Code

## BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Parent Advisory Panel for the Empowering Parents grant program advises the State Board of Education on ways to implement, administer, and improve the program. The Panel provides direction to staff on any changes they would like to see in the program administration, eligible expenses, vendor approval, and the appeals process. The Panel will submit the final recommendations for the Board's consideration and approval.

## ACTION

This item is for informational purposes only.

