

# Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel

## Meeting Outline

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

**Motion/Second (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, a Deputy Attorney General, reviewed the Idaho Open Meeting Law with the Panel. She went over the applicable law that governs 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 (3) plus 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 who 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 presented 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