



**Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra
Inaugural Press Conference**

1/6/2015



SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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SERVICE, SUPPORT AND OUTREACH PRIORITIES FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION *Changes address "Educating the Whole Child" to Provide Individualized Learning*

(BOISE) - Incoming Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra announced today the new vision and mission for her administration at the Idaho State Department of Education. The vision is **"Supporting schools and students to achieve,"** and will serve as the department's foundation and guiding principal. At the state level, the Department will ***provide common-sense leadership, support and resources to educators across the state, to help reinforce higher standards for academic excellence for our students in the 21st century.***

"Educating the whole child means the focus is supporting the districts and teachers' efforts in the classroom to provide individualized learning for our students," Ybarra said. "Our focus will be on helping schools districts move education forward to positively affect student achievement."

During the past several months, Ybarra has been engaged in a "listening tour" and solicited the input from stakeholders across the state to include educators, superintendents, legislators, parents and members of her transition team. Ybarra thanked the 17-member transition team headed by former Superintendent Jerry Evans for their valuable input. She stated suggestions by the transition team matched much of what she has heard from other stakeholders. "They all have provided valuable input and I am grateful for their time and commitment to education and Idaho's students. As a result of this input, we are reorganizing the department to provide the level of service and support needed to assist the districts in their daily objectives," said Ybarra. "The changes I am announcing today support those goals," Ybarra added.

To demonstrate her emphasis on the Department's strategic plan for increased service and support, Ybarra announced Dr. Chuck Zimmerly will assume the new position of Community Relations Officer. This new position will focus on working with Idaho school districts to build, foster and support communications and relationships with the school districts, as well as other state and local stakeholders. The new outreach effort will provide a new means of communication for school districts to address their particular issues and provide guidance for school districts on policies.

Mr. Will Goodman will become the new Chief Technology Officer at the Department. Goodman is the current President of the IETA (Idaho Education Technology Association.) As a former teacher, principal, interim superintendent and technology director himself, his background is uniquely suited to schools and their unique needs. He will be able to assist with concerns local districts may have over critical infrastructure, technical and broadband questions.

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Ybarra recently announced Pete Koehler will serve as Interim Deputy Superintendent. Koehler came out of retirement to be of service under Ybarra's leadership. He previously served the Nampa School District as Superintendent. Ybarra also named Tim Corder as Special Assistant to the Superintendent. He will be the political liaison for the department and previously served in the Idaho Legislature for eight years. Dr. Charlotte (Charlie) Silva has been named the new Special Education Director and previously worked as Special Education Supervisor for the Boise School District.

"As you can see, this reorganization of the executive staff positions at the Department is aimed at service, support and outreach," Ybarra said. "The vision will be at the heart of everything we do to move education forward and improve student achievement. This reorganization reflects the "ground up" approach we will use to ensure our work contributes to student outcomes."

Ybarra also set forth priorities for the new plan to include the importance of retaining and recruiting quality educators, providing common-sense leadership and transparency, investing in innovation and technology that makes sense, and remaining committed to higher standards. Ybarra's team is also evaluating the current assessment system to be sure student growth is reflected properly and appropriately.

Ybarra is also in the process of reviewing the final budget recommendations to be made to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee on January 29th. "We are looking at ways to provide more operational funding for school districts," said Ybarra. "We are working with the Governor's office and members of the House and Senate Education committees, but will be ready for the budget presentation on January 29.

Ybarra said more changes could be forthcoming as she begins service as Superintendent but noted she wants to meet with school officials and work with the Idaho Legislature and Governor's office first.

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Chuck Zimmerly – Community Relations Officer

- Monitor public and/or school district opinions regarding the Department
- Plan school relations, attend events and give feedback to the Superintendent
- Present feedback on behalf of the Department to school districts and stakeholders
- Respond to inquiries from school districts as appropriate or be able to direct them to the correct department
- Assist with preparing organizational documents such as reports, profiles and submissions
- Prepare visual aids and make school district presentations on Department goals and mission
- Organize special events such as open days, visits, exhibitions and functions
- Conduct internal communications surveys with school districts and departments
- Develop risk assessments and aide in developing plans to protect the Department's reputation or culture as it relates to school districts
- Manage vision and mission
- Organize and manage events, exhibitions, and conferences for community relations purposes
- Gather data and feedback on decisions and what's happening in the field as it relates to the Department's mission and vision
- Build, foster and support communications and relationships with the school districts, and other state and local shareholders
- Work with Department staff and school districts to develop, coordinate and support the Department's vision and mission, and ensure their congruity with Idaho statute
- Work in a professional manner to provide assistance and guidance for school districts on policies that are already aligned to the Department's vision and mission
- Provide transparency and oversight of the Department's mission and vision
- Attend and represent the Superintendent at local, regional and statewide meetings as requested by the Superintendent
- Attend staff meetings

Ybarra News Conference Speech 1/5/2015

Thank you to the great citizens of Idaho I am honored to stand here today as the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Thank you to the transition team, for all of their valuable input, volunteered time, and your commitment to education. Thank you to all the school districts and educators in our great state. Also, thank you to the staff at the Idaho State Department of Education for all the hard work they do, as well.

As we gather here today, together, we must commit to making our students' lives better, because education happens at the local level and with that, the State Department of Education will renew our long standing commitment to helping schools and students flourish. Coming from the front lines of education, and the mother of a junior high student, I understand the importance of service, compassion and kindness, and most importantly how valuable a quality education is in ensuring a bright economy and a bright future for all of Idaho's children. That is why our new vision: **"Supporting schools and students to achieve"** will be the foundation for everything we do, and help to renew our enthusiasm for education in Idaho public schools.

The Department of Education will be the "go to place" for schools, districts, and parents alike.

Some examples of what we will be working on are:

-Retaining and recruiting quality educators

-Move ahead with common- sense leadership and transparency

-Work on increased operational funding for schools to help address adequate funding while addressing their unique community challenges

- Investing in innovation and technology that makes sense

-Be committed to higher standards—because the standards hold us accountable, not the test

-Evaluating our current assessment system to be sure we are measuring growth, so accountability reflects our students, as unique individuals

-Being strong and effective advocates for kids and schools

To demonstrate our emphasis on the department's strategic plan for increased service and support, Dr. Chuck Zimmerly has assumed the new position of Community Relations Officer. This new position will focus on working with Idaho school districts to build, foster and support communication and relationships with the school districts, as well as other state and local stakeholders. This new outreach effort will provide a new means of communication for school districts to address their particular issues and provide guidance for school districts on policies. We care and want to know what schools and districts think.

Mr. Will Goodman has been appointed the new Chief Technology Officer at the State Department. Will is the current President of the IETA (Idaho Education Technology Association). And, as a former Teacher, Principal, Interim Superintendent and School District Technology Director-- his background is uniquely suited to schools. He will be able to assist with concerns that local districts may have over critical infrastructure, technical and broadband questions.

Early this month, it was also announced that Mr. Pete Koehler, who recently came out of retirement, will serve as Interim Deputy Superintendent. He previously served the Nampa School District as Superintendent. Next, Mr. Tim Corder was named as Special Assistant to the Superintendent. He will be the political liaison for the department and previously served in the Idaho Legislature for eight years. Finally, Dr. Charlotte (Charlie) Silva has been named the new Special Education Director and she previously worked as Special Education Supervisor for the Boise School District

As you can see, this reorganization of the executive staff positions in the State Department of Education is aimed at service, support, and outreach. It is a reflection of the “ground up” approach we will use to ensure all of our work contributes to student outcomes. And the vision will be at the heart of everything we do to be strong advocates for kids and schools.

We owe Idaho’s children the best quality education we can deliver and all of our actions at the State Department of Education will reflect that we are committed to doing, just that!

Thank you again for coming and I now I would like to introduce my new interim Deputy Superintendent Pete Koehler.