



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR OTTER NAMES IDAHO EDUCATION NETWORK WORKING GROUP

(BOISE) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced today that former State Senator John Goedde will lead a 20-member working group to chart a path forward for the Idaho Education Network (IEN).

Specifically, the working group will review long- and short-term contract and funding options for ensuring uninterrupted statewide network services – including high-speed bandwidth – to public schools throughout Idaho.

The effort was prompted by a November 2014 court ruling against the State's IEN contracts. Governor Otter now has assembled a working group of people with the right expertise, perspectives and authority to ensure uninterrupted statewide network services – including high-speed bandwidth – to Idaho schools.

"There's a broad consensus within this group, the Legislature and the public at large that the IEN is a tool on which the future of our students, our schools, our communities and our economy depend," Governor Otter said. "These folks represent the technical, financial and political skills we need as well as a real commitment to technology's role in advancing the quality of every public school in Idaho. They all embrace the Idaho Constitution's commitment to providing public schools as a fundamentally proper role of government."

The IEN Working Group, including 11 legislators, will conduct its first meeting at **3 p.m. Thursday, February 5**, in the Senate Majority Caucus Room on the Fourth Floor of the Idaho State Capitol.

Individuals invited to participate include:

- Idaho Senate President Pro Tem Brent Hill
- Idaho House Speaker Scott Bedke
- Idaho Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis
- Idaho House Majority Leader Mike Moyle
- Idaho House Minority Leader John Rusche
- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Dean Cameron
- House Appropriations Committee Chairman Maxine Bell
- Senate Education Committee Chairman Dean Mortimer
- House Education Committee Chairman Reed DeMordaunt
- Senator Dan Schmidt of the Senate Finance Committee

- Representative Luke Malek of the House Appropriations Committee
- Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Director Dick Armstrong
- Idaho Department of Administration Director Teresa Luna
- Idaho Department of Commerce Director Jeff Sayer
- State Board of Education member Debbie Critchfield
- State Legislative Services Office Director Eric Milstead
- Jerry Reininger, director of Information Systems, West Ada School District
- John Miller, dean of Off-Campus Instruction, College of Southern Idaho
- Keven Denton, president-elect, Idaho Education Technology Association
- Ryan Gravette, director of technology, Idaho Digital Learning Academy
- Tim Corder, special assistant to the superintendent, State Department of Education
- Will Goodman, chief technology officer, State Department of Education

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