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Republican candidate, superintendent of public instruction

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1. Outgoing state superintendent Tom Luna has pushed the state Land Board to maintain smaller balances in reserves, in order to boost payments to K-12. Do you support such an idea? Why or why not?

The main goal of the Land Board is to protect the long-term investment for its beneficiaries (mainly public schools). With the fund balance, the board is required to maintain a focus on future students, as well as current students to provide equity in funding as well as to minimize the unpredictability in payments. This is part of our constitutional and trustee responsibilities; therefore, before reducing the earnings reserve, the board should take into consideration the effect that such a decision would have on funding future payments or disbursements to our public schools and students. This is an example of the type of fiscal responsibility that Idaho is looking for in the next state superintendent of public instruction. Someone like myself, who will build a model for financial sustainability in education.

2. In February, the Land Board voted to suspend the purchase of commercial properties. Do you support this move, and keeping this moratorium intact? Are there any circumstances under which you support adding commercial properties to the state's endowment portfolio?

None of us want to see competition between the government and local businesses; therefore I support the decision of the Land Board to suspend the future purchase of commercial properties. Also, given the present assembly of that structure, such as the current laws and the constitution, I currently see no logic to adding more commercial properties to the endowment portfolio.

3. A recent Congressional Research Service report says federal agencies spent \$392 million managing federal lands in Idaho in 2011-12 — and the state would incur much of these costs if federal lands are transferred to the state. Could the transfer of federal lands prove to be a net loss to the state, and to the endowments supporting K-12 and other beneficiaries?

Either the option of keeping, or transferring lands, could result in gains or losses for the state of Idaho — depending upon what the circumstances are that surround such a transaction. I also believe the current conditions at the federal level of our government will prevent this transfer from becoming real world.

4. The state is beginning the process of auctioning off lakeside cabin parcels. How do you think the state should balance the interests of leaseholders against the short- and long-term interests of endowment beneficiaries?

According to our Constitution and Idaho law, the board is required to seek maximum long-term returns on state school lands. The value of the cabin parcels plus the management demands of them, lends to the conclusion that the beneficiaries will be better monetarily assisted (as required by law) if the board separates and invests elsewhere. However, we need to work together as a community to find ways that are sensible and courteous to the leaseholders, while protecting the interests of the endowment beneficiaries.