



Education Interim Committee

65th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

EDIE MCCLAFFERTY--Chair
TOM FACEY
DANIEL SALOMON
RUSSEL TEMPEL

HOUSE MEMBERS

FRED ANDERSON--Vice Chair
JACOB BACHMEIER
MOFFIE FUNK
DONALD JONES

COMMITTEE STAFF

PAD MCCRACKEN, Lead Staff
LAURA SANKEY KEIP, Staff Attorney
JENNI CARR, Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 22nd, 2018
Room 137, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides a notation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video record of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. EDIE MCCLAFFERTY, Chair
REP. FRED ANDERSON, Vice Chair
SEN. TOM FACEY
SEN. DANIEL SALOMON
SEN. RUSSEL TEMPEL
REP. JACOB BACHMEIER
REP. MOFFIE FUNK
REP. DONALD JONES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

STAFF PRESENT

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VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 1](#))

AGENDA ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

The committee directed staff to prepare several bill drafts and gather more information on various topics for the June meeting. The committee also formed a subcommittee on State Financial Aid Programs. Sen. Facey will chair the subcommittee and Sen. Salomon and Reps. Anderson and Bachmeier will participate.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:03 Sen. McClafferty called the meeting to order; the committee secretary took roll. ([Attachment 3](#))

REVIEW AGENDA - Pad McCracken, Committee Staff

00:00:48 Mr. McCracken clarified items on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW - Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney

00:03:00 Ms. Sankey Keip discussed rule reviews. ([Exhibit 1](#))

AGENCY MONITORING

Montana Arts Council - Tatiana Gant, Executive Director

00:04:19 Ms. Gant began her presentation on the importance of arts in Montana.

00:14:24 Sen. Facey asked how much money comes from the state versus federal funds.

STAFF UPDATES

Policy overview of chronic absenteeism and truancy - Mr. McCracken

00:16:21 Mr. McCracken presented an overview of truancy and absentee issues in the state. ([Exhibit 2](#))

00:22:39 Sen. Tempel asked what options a school with a high rate of truancy and absenteeism would have.

00:24:08 Sen. Facey suggested changing "days" to "hours" in defining the issue.

School safety memorandum - Ms. Sankey Keip

00:28:35 Ms. Sankey Keip discussed legislation for school safety and security for Montana schools. ([Exhibit 3](#))

00:40:55 Rep. Funk asked what the educational obligations are to a student who is suspended for an extended amount of time.

00:41:43 Sen. Facey asked if the county interdisciplinary child information and school safety team was mandatory.

00:44:08 Rep. Bachmeier asked for clarification whether the Board of Trustees could allow persons of interest to carry a firearm.

00:46:06 Rep. Bachmeier asked what types of people were granted express permission to carry firearms in certain districts.

00:46:47 Sen. McClafferty asked if there was a state law on how close someone could be to a school district with a firearm.

AGENCY MONITORING-OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - Dr. Tim Tharp

- 00:47:42 Dr. Tharp gave OPI's position on truancy and absenteeism, and school safety plans around the state.
- 00:53:00 Rep. Funk asked if OPI monitors districts to help them understand best practices, and if there are consequences for districts who do not have an adequate safety plan.

ESSA implementation update - Susie Hedalen, OPI

- 00:56:42 Ms. Hedalen began her presentation on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ([Exhibit 4](#))
- 01:05:33 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on the military component.
- 01:06:30 Rep. Bachmeier asked if the Montana University System (MUS) considers the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) scores in testing out of certain college classes.
- 01:10:48 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on defining an ineffective teacher.
- 01:11:40 Sen. Salomon asked for clarification on effective teachers and ineffective teachers for the state as well as other states.
- 01:13:20 Sen. Salomon asked about defining a teacher by performance.
- 01:15:23 Rep. Bachmeier asked what percentage of teachers would need to be considered effective or ineffective.
- 01:21:09 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on E-Grants.
- 01:25:12 Sen. Tempel asked for more information on "the team."
- 01:28:29 Sen. Facey asked what type of programs there are to help secondary schools to guide students into becoming college and career ready.
- 01:30:44 Rep. Funk asked if ethnicity was student self-identifying.

School and student safety support for schools - Tracy Moseman, OPI

- 01:33:13 Ms. Moseman began her presentation on school safety and emergency planning. ([Exhibit 5](#)) ([Exhibit 6](#)) Note: Exhibit 5 is available in the Legislative Services Division's office upon request.

Professional Development and Teacher Learning Hub - Colet Bartow, OPI

- 01:44:59 Ms. Bartow began her presentation. ([Exhibit 7](#))
- 01:52:57 Rep. Jones asked if access had to be paid for each time the program is used.

Public comment

- 01:55:35 Marco Ferro, Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers (MEA-MFT).

BREAK (reconvene 11:12)

- 02:09:58 Sen. McClafferty brought the meeting back to order.

PRESCHOOL

Policy Considerations and State Innovations for State-funded Preschool Programs - Dr. Matt Weyer, Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

- 02:10:53 Dr. Weyer began his presentation from NCSL. ([Exhibit 8](#)) ([Exhibit 9](#)) ([Exhibit 10](#)) ([Exhibit 11](#))
- 02:49:51 Rep. Bachmeier asked for specifics on the increase in skills.

- 02:50:40 Rep. Bachmeier asked for age appropriate examples for teaching social and emotional skills to kindergartners and pre-k students.
- 02:52:10 Rep. Anderson asked if there was an intersection point between students who have had pre-k and those who have not.
- 02:54:28 Rep. Jones asked if income is a factor in student readiness.

Update on STARS Preschool Grant Pilot Program - Siri Smillie, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Bullock

- 02:55:46 Ms. Smillie began her update on the STARS program. ([Exhibit 12](#)) ([Exhibit 13](#))([Exhibit 14](#))

Committee questions and discussion

- 03:00:15 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on funding differences between private and public preschools.
- 03:02:19 Sen. Salomon asked how the funds were distributed.
- 03:06:07 Rep. Jones asked for clarification on the definition.
- 03:12:48 Sen. Tempel asked for the demographics on one of the slides.
- 03:15:29 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on the length of the grants.
- 03:17:00 Rep. Jones asked if the biggest factors are low income and minority groups, and why higher income groups are qualifying for subsidized preschool.
- 03:22:09 Sen. Salomon asked about kindergarten achievement gaps.

Public Comment

No comment

LUNCH (reconvene at 1:20)

SCHOOL FUNDING 101 AND 201 WORKSHOP - Mr. McCracken; Nick VanBrown, LFD

- 04:23:39 Mr. McCracken began his presentation. ([Exhibit 15](#)) ([Exhibit 16](#)) ([Exhibit 17](#))
Sen. McClafferty approved an "open discussion" so that legislators could informally ask questions throughout Mr. McCracken's and Mr. VanBrown's presentation.

HJ1 STUDY - FUNDING PROGRAMS SERVING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Review HJ1 and previous committee work - Mr. McCracken

- 05:26:28 Mr. McCracken gave an overview on HJ1.

Review of Special Education Funding Basics and recap of Special Education Cooperative Funding Task Force (2016) - Frank Podobnik, Special Education Director, OPI

- 05:28:08 Mr. Podobnik began to recap Special Education Funding. ([Exhibit 18](#)) ([Exhibit 19](#)) ([Exhibit 20](#))
- 05:39:58 Sen. Facey asked which districts left the co-op.
- 05:43:44 Sen. Tempel asked for more information on Bear Paw cooperative.
- 05:45:24 Rep. Bachmeier asked for clarification on what services needed to be provided.
- 05:45:45 Sen. Facey asked if any positive adjustments have been made for the co-ops
- 05:49:09 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on what is needed to include special education in the inflation.

Possible changes to current funding - Mr. McCracken

- 05:55:35 Mr. McCracken discussed a memorandum on options for changing funding for special needs. ([Exhibit 21](#))
- 06:01:28 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on why districts wouldn't apply.
- 06:02:19 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on the permissive levy.

Public comment

- 06:03:27 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana AGATE.
- 06:05:55 Kirk Miller, administrators of Montana.
- 06:09:55 Dennis Parman, Executive Director of the Rural Montana Education Association.
- 06:11:02 Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT.
- 06:11:37 Dianne Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition.

BREAK (reconvene at 3:25)

INNOVATIONS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) AND WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL) PANEL

Introduction - Mr. McCracken

- 06:26:27 Mr. McCracken introduced the panel.

Overview of K-12 CTE programs and funding; K-12/CTL/WBL partnerships with MUS and Department of Labor and Industry - TJ Eyer, OPI; Amy Williams, OCHE; Casey Schreiner, DLI

- 06:29:16 Mr. Eyer began his presentation. ([Exhibit 22](#))
- 06:37:07 Ms. Williams began her presentation. ([Exhibit 23](#))
- 06:45:26 Mr. Eyer discussed what OPI is doing in regards to work-based learning. ([Exhibit 24](#))
- 06:49:58 Mr. Schreiner began his presentation.

Helena Public Schools - Greg Upham, Asst. Superintendent

- 06:56:39 Mr. Upham began his presentation. ([Exhibit 25](#)) ([Exhibit 26](#))
- 07:06:33 Sen. Salomon asked for clarification on Dick Anderson Construction.
- 07:06:58 Sen. Facey asked how Dick Anderson handled unemployment insurance.

Billings Career Center - Scott Anderson, Principal

- 07:09:49 Mr. Anderson began his presentation.

Three Forks Schools - Dr. Robert DoBell, Superintendent

- 07:17:51 Dr. DoBell began his presentation.
- 07:20:49 Justin Helvik, Three Forks principal, added his testimony.

Committee questions and discussion

- 07:23:17 Rep. Funk asked what the legislature could do to aid work-based learning.
- 07:25:14 Sen. Facey asked how to reach out to include smaller communities in work-based learning programs.
- 07:27:50 Sen. Salomon asked if Three Forks had issues with dual credit teachings.
- 07:29:39 Rep. Jones asked what kind of restrictions there were on funding.
- 07:30:54 Rep. Jones asked if Billings was utilizing City College facilities.

07:36:36 Sen. Facey asked if adult ed was a permissive levy.
07:38:16 Rep. Jones asked if students were utilizing Helena College facilities.
07:42:22 Sen. Salomon asked what it would take to develop benchmarks for what the student is going to learn.
07:45:31 Rep. Jones asked for clarification on a previous question.
07:47:10 Sen. Tempel asked how involved parents are in the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

07:50:02 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce.
07:52:37 Mario Martinez, Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Montana-Wyoming Carpenter Apprenticeship Chair.
07:55:44 Mr. Parman, executive director MREA. ([Exhibit 27](#))
08:00:38 Mr. Ferro, MEA-MFT.
08:03:29 Ms. Burke, Montana Quality Education Coalition.
08:05:12 Mr. Miller, School Administrators of Montana.

REVIEW FRIDAY AGENDA AND RELATED MATERIALS

08:12:08 Sen. McClafferty reminded the committee to meet at Shodair on March 23rd for a tour.

RECESS

The committee recessed at 5:15pm, scheduled to reconvene in room 137 on March 23rd, 2018 at 10:00am.

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STAFF PRESENT

PAD MCCRACKEN, Lead Staff
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JENNI CARR, Secretary

VISITORS' LIST([Attachment 4](#))

AGENDA(See Attachment 2)

RECONVENE AND ROLL CALL

00:00:05 Sen. McClafferty reconvened the meeting. The committee secretary took roll.
([Attachment 5](#))

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND DISCUSSION OF STATE FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS

Commissioner's Updates - Commissioner of Higher Education Clay Christian

00:01:00 Comm. Christian began his update.
00:13:19 Sen. McClafferty asked which school was going to have the eight week blocks.
00:13:45 Sen. McClafferty asked if any more schools would go into the block.
00:15:22 Sen. Salomon asked if the co-requisite design works as well in the smaller schools.
00:18:42 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on the common course numbering culture.
00:23:13 Rep. Funk asked if some of the university's budget was set aside for research, or if it was all paid for with grants.
00:25:54 Rep. Jones asked why the model was different from Western.

Why are we talking about financial aid? - Ms. Sankey Keip

00:28:42 Ms. Sankey Keip began her presentation on student financial aid.

Financial Aid overview - Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor

00:32:41 Mr. Trevor began his presentation. ([Exhibit 28](#))
00:44:45 Rep. Funk asked if Mr. Trevor had any figures on the communities.
00:45:52 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on the \$44 million.
00:48:22 Rep. Bachmeier asked about unfunded tuition waivers.

Review of State Financial Aid programs - Mr. Trevor; Shauna Albrecht, LFD Analyst

00:51:14 Ms. Albrecht began her presentation. ([Exhibit 29](#))
00:54:20 Sen. Facey asked what the leverage is for supplemental education grants and the work program.
00:56:22 Sen. Facey asked about a document provided by Ms. Sankey Keip. ([Exhibit 30](#))
00:59:18 Ms. Sankey Keip clarified terminology. ([Exhibit 31](#))
01:00:42 Rep. Anderson asked Ms. Albrecht if there was effective communication to high schools about the scholarships that are funded each year.
01:01:46 Sen. Facey asked Mr. Trevor if costs can be broken down to just tuition and fees, leaving room and board off of the total.
01:04:15 Sen. Facey asked Regent Lozar how difficult it is to design a policy that would limit the money to go to tuition and fees without including other expenditures.
01:08:44 Sen. McClafferty asked if any of the grants provided on the chart have not been funded for the last two years.
01:09:19 Rep. Funk asked if athletics scholarships would be categorized under "private-other."
01:10:05 Rep. Funk asked if athletic scholarships going to out of state students hurts Montana's growth.

Options for changes to state financial aid programs - Ms. Sankey Keip

- 01:12:13 Ms. Sankey Keip explained the handout previously discussed. (see Exhibit 30)
- 01:13:41 Sen. McClafferty asked if there's a reason to move the administration for the program from OCHE to OPI.
- 01:14:58 Sen. Facey stated that the committee should look for a dedicated, consistent reliable source for funds.
- 01:20:04 Committee discussion on funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

No comment.

BREAK (reconvened at 11:46pm)

COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

School funding (continued) - Mr. McCracken; Nick VanBrown, LFD

- 01:45:51 Mr. McCracken and Mr. VanBrown finished up the school funding presentation from the March 22nd meeting. (see Exhibit 15) (see Exhibit 16) (see Exhibit 17)

Moving towards wrapping up the interim - Mr. McCracken; Ms. Sankey Keip

- 02:21:01 Sen. McClafferty started working session. (Exhibit 32)
- 02:29:19 Sen. McClafferty initiated discussion of forming a subcommittee on State Financial Aid Programs. Following committee discussion, she appointed Sen. Facey as chair, and Sen. Salomon, Rep. Anderson, and Rep. Bachmeier as members.

Motion

- 02:39:24 Sen. Facey makes motion to request a bill draft to adding special education to the inflation adjusted formulas.

Discussion on motion

- 02:40:35 Committee discussed motion.

Vote

- 02:42:15 The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.
- 02:42:25 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on option 1(d) from Exhibit 32.
- 02:49:48 At the request of the committee, Dennis Parman gave input.

Motion

- 02:52:31 Sen. Facey moves to create bill draft that would allow local districts to have a levy to cover high-needs student costs for the co-op.

Vote

- 02:53:10 The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.
- 02:54:20 Sen. Facey asked that Mr. McCracken looks at HB32 to analyze the costs and whether actions from last session are in the base budget.

02:55:10 Committee discussion.

Motion

03:03:55 Sen. Facey requested that Mr. McCracken move forward with committee cleanup bills 1 through 4.

Discussion on motion

03:04:44 Sen. McClafferty began discussion on SB 307.

Vote

03:07:51 Sen. Facey's motion passed with unanimous yes vote.

Motion

03:07:56 Sen. McClafferty moved to adjust language in SB 307 in a way that the school districts could use the funds towards improving their school safety.

Vote

03:08:10 The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

03:08:40 Sen. Facey began topic of apprenticeships.

03:11:35 Committee discussion.

03:20:00 Sen. McClafferty began topic of the definition of "pupil."

03:20:20 Committee discussion.

03:24:29 Rep. Anderson began discussion on attendance and truancy.

03:28:59 Committee discussion.

03:33:05 Rep. Bachmeier began discussion on HB 446 and CSCT services.

03:35:28 Committee discussion.

03:47:40 Mr. McCracken began discussion on the next meeting and wrap up. ([Exhibit 33](#))

ADJOURNMENT

04:00:53 With no further business before the committee, Sen. McClafferty adjourned the meeting at 2:05pm.

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