

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order: CHAIRMAN RICK LAIBLE**, on January 9, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 303 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Rick Laible, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Rick Ripley, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Gary Branae (D)  
Sen. Taylor Brown (R)  
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)  
Sen. Bob Hawks (D)  
Sen. Dan McGee (R)  
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)  
Sen. Ryan Zinke (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Casey Barrs, Legislative Branch  
Nadine Spencer, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 41, 1/2/2009; SJ 2, 1/2/2009; SJ  
4, 1/2/2009  
Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON SB 41**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:13 **SEN. DAVE LEWIS (R), SD 42**, opened the hearing on **SB 41**, Clarify community college district approval process.

00:05:08 Chairman Laible

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:05:20 Mary Sheehy Moe, Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:08:21 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of the Governor

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:42 Sen. Branae  
00:12:19 David Ewer  
00:13:58 Sen. Ripley  
00:14:44 David Ewer  
00:17:31 Sen. Ripley  
00:17:49 Sen. McGee  
00:18:23 David Ewer  
00:20:01 Sen. McGee  
00:21:15 David Ewer  
00:21:47 Sen. McGee  
00:23:26 David Ewer  
00:23:42 Sen. McGee  
00:23:50 Chairman Laible  
00:24:15 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy  
00:24:47 Sen. Lewis  
00:26:03 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy  
00:26:24 Sen. Lewis  
00:26:54 Chairman Laible  
00:27:14 Sen. Lewis  
00:27:39 Chairman Laible  
00:27:59 Sen. Lewis  
00:28:20 Chairman Laible

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:28:36 Sen. Lewis

**HEARING ON SJ 2**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:29:21 SEN. DAVE LEWIS (R), SD 42, opened the hearing on SJ 2,  
Study community college establishment process.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:30:35 Mary Sheehy Moe, (OCHE)

00:34:35 David Ewer, Budget Director, Office of the Governor

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:36:24 Sen. McGee

00:36:34 Mary Sheehy Moe

00:36:41 Sen. McGee

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:36:59 Sen. Lewis

00:37:39 Recess

00:47:43 Reconvene

**HEARING ON SJ 4**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:48:09 SEN. Dan McGee (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SJ 4,  
Study option for improving administrative efficiencies  
in school system.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

00:50:1 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)  
[EXHIBIT \(eds05a01\)](#)

00:58:50 Darrell Rud, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)  
[EXHIBIT \(eds05a02\)](#)

01:08:36 Mark Ferro, MEA-MFT  
01:10:10 Lynda Brannon, Montana Association of School Business  
Officials (MASBO)  
01:11:55 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA)  
01:17:57 Bruce Messinger, Superintendent of Helena Public Schools

**Informational Testimony:**

01:22:15 Joan Anderson, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
[EXHIBIT \(eds05a03\)](#)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:24:48 Sen. Ripley  
01:24:54 Chairman Laible  
01:25:03 Sen. McGee  
01:25:59 Chairman Laible  
01:27:11 Sen. McGee  
01:28:28 Darrell Rud  
01:28:39 Sen. McGee  
01:28:46 Darrell Rud  
01:29:25 Sen. McGee  
01:29:48 Darrell Rud  
01:30:27 Sen. McGee  
01:31:36 Darrell Rud

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:32:36 Chairman Laible

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:45 P.M.

---

NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

ns

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([eds05aad.pdf](#))**