House convened at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Speaker presiding. Invocation by Representative Bachmeier. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call. All members present. Quorum present.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Speaker Hertz moved the House revert to Order of Business #11, Special Orders of the Day, for the purpose of receiving the State of Education Address by Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen. Motion carried.

Majority Leader Tschida moved Speaker Hertz be authorized to appoint a Committee of two members to escort Superintendent Arntzen into the House Chamber. Motion carried.

Speaker Hertz appointed Representative Berglee and Representative Keogh. The Committee was discharged.

Sergeant-at-Arms Murfitt notified Speaker Hertz the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen awaited entrance into the House Chamber.

The Committee escorted Superintendent Arntzen into the Chamber.

Speaker Hertz introduced the Honorable Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Superintendent Arntzen gave the following remarks:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members and guests of the Montana House. It is my honor to be able to serve as Montana’s State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

I am grateful for the dedicated staff at the Office of Public Instruction, whose heartfelt mission is to serve our Montana public schools.

Thank you to my fellow elected officials and colleagues for being here today, and to the most important person in the room, my high school sweetheart and husband, Steven. He’s stuck with me through 23 years of teaching, six legislative sessions, seven campaigns, and, so far, this job. That’s commitment.

Join me in recognizing all of the dedicated teachers across Montana for their service to students. Today is Public Education Advocacy Day and you will see many of Montana’s wonderful educators around our capitol and in your hearing rooms. Please join me in giving Montana’s teachers a round of appreciative applause.
Montana’s 2019 Teacher of the Year is Mr. Dylan Huiskens. He sends his very best today and is unable to be here in person, as he is where he wants to be, teaching his middle school students in Bonner. He is creating amazing opportunities for his students through innovative approaches to teaching, especially in the area of Indian Education for All. Help me recognize Montana’s Teacher of the Year, Mr. Dylan Huiskens.

My mother and father were public school teachers in Billings. I am a product of Montana’s public schools as are my daughters and grandchildren. I received an Economics Degree from the University of Montana, but education was my calling, and I returned to school to earn an Education Degree from Montana State. I was blessed to teach for 23 years in Billings Public Schools. It is my lifelong connection with our students and schools that drives me each and every day to serve with passion.

All means all. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act which replaced No Child Left Behind is being successfully implemented in Montana. For example, state and school report cards will be issued this spring to give families and communities transparent data on how their students are performing.

Together, in just two years, we have achieved a great deal for Montana’s students, but there is still much to be done to ensure that every Montana student has the opportunity to succeed.

I have directed the Office of Public Instruction to serve students and educators under the banner of four initiatives. The initiatives are Montana Hope, Montana Teach, Montana Learn, and Montana Ready.

Montana Hope is the whole-child approach to education. It encompasses mental health, suicide prevention, and school safety. Without this fundamental groundwork, student learning cannot occur. Representatives Dunwell and Pierson are leading efforts to provide teachers with tools related to mental health. Representatives Grubbs and Senator Salomon have introduced measures for flexibility in school budgets around safety.

Montana Teach is aimed at growing the teaching profession not just in numbers, but having a high-quality educator in front of every student. Thank you for your work last session on National Board Certified Teacher stipends. This session, Senator McClafferty is supporting the Montana Quality Educator Student Loan Assistance Program. I also appreciate Senator Lang recognizing recruitment and retention challenges, not just in rural Montana, but across the state.

Montana Learn is designed to close achievement gaps and create individualized learning opportunities that allow students to grow academically. Many pieces of legislation have been introduced to promote these goals and I want to thank the sponsors in this body: Representatives McKamey, Jones, Anderson, Windy Boy, and others.

Montana Ready is the result of the precious investment in a student’s elementary and secondary education. I appreciate Representative Vinton for her emphasis on career technical education in middle school and Representative Bedey for understanding this is a state-wide issue, not just an individual school issue.
Students in Browning are graduating high school certified to begin high-paying careers in welding, students in Kalispell are building houses and raising agriculture products to sell within their community, students in Missoula are gaining International Baccalaureates, students in Billings are joining the Youth Entrepreneurs program through the Career Center, and more schools than ever before are connected to high-speed internet allowing for individualized coursework. These are just some of the countless opportunities that students across Montana are taking advantage of.

You have my promise that we will continue to promote and grow these opportunities to make students Montana Ready. Ready for success for the rest of their life.

On the first day of this session I hosted a school safety panel to showcase the diverse approaches that Montana schools are taking to protect our students. Student safety has been my number one policy priority this legislative session. It is a challenging topic, and it weighs heavy in all of our hearts and minds. I want to thank this body for making student safety a priority as well.

Senator Regier is championing the Student Safety Accountability Act. This recognizes that students are a protected class and cannot consent to sexual relationships with school officials as they are in positions of trust and authority over them. This is targeted, common-sense legislation. I am grateful to Representative Morigeau, Representative Ricci, Senator Bogner, and all of you who are making student safety a priority this session. Montana must remove predators from our schools.

We are also seeking professional development opportunities for educators focused on school safety. A federal STOP School Violence Act grant was awarded to Montana and provides new opportunities for professional development focused on school safety for our Montana teachers. The Department of Homeland Security also provided the OPI with funds to assist schools in creating emergency preparedness plans.

You have my promise that the knowledgeable health and safety experts at the Office of Public Instruction will continue helping you, our schools, families, and communities address the full range of support that Montana’s children need.

I want to shift gears now to how we are teaching students, how students are learning, and how we are preparing them to be ready for careers or college after graduation. In 2018, Montana celebrated our highest graduation rates in recent history, including for our American Indian students. However, gaps continue to exist. We can, and we must, reexamine what an education looks like for each individual student.

I have weekly meetings with the American Indian legislators through our Tribal Education Caucus to address challenges to education on our reservations.

Please join me in Room 335 this Thursday morning at 7am for our education caucus, as we will be discussing mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

I want to thank you for your commitment to improving outcomes for our students. All Montana students must have the opportunity to succeed.
I am committed to developing strong relationships with Montana’s teacher preparation programs through the leadership of the Board of Regents, and working with the Board of Public Education to provide flexibility to educators, as they work toward licensure or certification.

I am committed to great government cooperation with ongoing discussions with the Department of Labor, Department of Health, Department of Corrections, and our Military to promote solutions. I have begun to build strong public-private partnerships with many of Montana’s businesses and industries to prepare our students in the path to be career, college, and community ready.

There is much to celebrate in Montana education and the future of education is strong. Yet, we still have much to do to prepare the next generation of Montana leaders for success. This legislative body plays a significant role.

I am requesting that you give Montana students the largest ever appropriation for K-12 BASE Aid funding: 70 million dollars. 70 million dollars which will provide our local school boards with stability as they begin budgeting for their next class of students. 70 million dollars that will provide for the quality education that Montana families and Montana students deserve.

I am urging your support for the restoration of our Career and Technical Education, our Gifted & Talented Education, and for our most at-risk Special Education students, as well as all of the other programs that were cut in prior legislation sessions.

I attended the appropriations hearing for HB 3 recently in support of Scobey’s public schools. Representative Hopkins made a statement that his mother told him, that is very fitting here, “if you are going to play with something that isn’t yours, be sure you put it back.”

A promise is a promise. Restore state responsibility to fund our schools.

Under my leadership at the Office of Public Instruction, we have accomplished much more with less. We have reduced our footprint of 4 buildings to 3. We have reorganized for efficiencies. As a result, more resources are directly serving our schools and students in our communities.

Like you, I have much homework to do in the coming biennium. As you return to serve in your communities, the homework that I give you is to continue in the commitment of putting Montana students first.

Thank you.

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Speaker Hertz thanked Superintendent Arntzen for her remarks and directed the Committee escort the Superintendent from the Chamber.

Sergeant-at-Arms Murfitt escorted the guests from the Chamber.

Speaker Hertz called the House back to order.
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BILLS (Ricci, Chair): 2/11/2019

Correctly engrossed: HB 25.
Transmitted to the Senate: HB 120, HB 132, HB 181, HB 190, HB 256, HB 260, HB 356.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION (Ricci, Chair): 2/11/2019

MR. SPEAKER:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration recommend employment of the following pages of the House cease as of 9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 9, 2019:

Logan Ball, Fort Benton
Madeleine Fink, Billings
Aase Hahn, Helena
Maleah Schott, Missoula
Joseph Spencer, Montana City
Allyson Young, Fairview

and recommend the following pages of the House be employed as of 1:00 p.m., Monday, February 11, 2019:

Morgan Ahmann, Helena
Matthew Charles, Billings
Masie Halliday, Helena
Lindsey Huber, Dillon
Garrett Oleson, Helena
Joel Wagner, Whitefish

Report Adopted.

Representative Curdy rose on a Point of Personal Privilege to recognize Montana’s 2019 Teacher of the Year, Mr. Dylan Huisken, Bonner School.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

SJR 1 - The Senate failed to concur in the House amendments and by motion, the President was authorized to appoint a Conference Committee and requests the House to appoint a like committee from the House to confer on House amendments to SJR 1:

2/11/2019

Senator Thomas, Chair
Senator Blasdell
Senator Pomnichowski

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FIRST READING AND COMMITMENT OF BILLS

The following House bills were introduced, read first time, and referred to committees:

HB 442, introduced by J. Read, referred to Judiciary.
HB 443, introduced by R. Fitzgerald, referred to Agriculture.
HB 444, introduced by G. Custer, D. Harvey, L. Jones, R. Lynch, R. Shaw, referred to Appropriations.
HB 446, introduced by M. Dunwell, referred to Judiciary.
HB 447, introduced by L. Sheldon-Galloway, referred to Local Government.

SECOND READING OF BILLS
(COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

Majority Leader Tschida moved the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading. Motion carried. Representative Vinton in the chair.

Mr. Speaker: We, your Committee of the Whole, having had under consideration business on second reading, recommend as follows:

HB 21 - Majority Leader Tschida moved consideration of HB 21 be passed for the day. Without objection, so ordered.

HB 93 - Representative Skees moved HB 93 do pass. Motion carried as follows:


Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None. Total 0
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Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 146 - Representative Holmlund moved HB 146 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 59

Total 41

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 274 - Representative Garner moved HB 274 do pass. Motion carried as follows:

Total 94

Nays: Burnett, DeVries, Duram, Glimm, Noland.
Total 5

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Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: Holmlund.
Total 1

**SB 51** - Representative Garner moved consideration of **SB 51** be passed for the day. Without objection, so ordered.

Majority Leader Tschida moved the Committee rise and report. Motion carried. Committee arose. House resumed. Mr. Speaker presiding. Chair Vinton moved the Committee of the Whole report be adopted. Report adopted as follows:

Total 88

Total 11

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: Manzella.
Total 1

**THIRD READING OF BILLS**

The following bills having been read three several times, title and history agreed to, were disposed of in the following manner:
HB 120 passed as follows:

Total 64

Total 34

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: Manzella, Windy Boy.
Total 2

HB 132 passed as follows:

Total 74

Total 26

Voted absentee: None.
Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 181 passed as follows:

Total 65

Total 35

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 190 passed as follows:

Total 85
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Total 15

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 256 passed as follows:
Total 100

Nays: None.
Total 0

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0

HB 260 passed as follows:
HB 356 passed as follows:

Total 100

Nays: None.
Total 0

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0
MOTIONS

Majority Leader Tschida moved to re-refer SB 61 to the Agriculture Committee. Without objection, so ordered.

Majority Leader Tschida moved the Speaker accede to the request of the Senate and be authorized to appoint a Conference Committee to meet with a like committee from the Senate to confer on House Amendments to SJR 1. Without objection, Speaker Hertz appointed the following members:

Representative Dudik
Representative Mandeville
Representative Skees

Representative Garcia moved that HB 354 be taken from the Education Committee and placed on second reading on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

Motion failed as follows:

Total 12

Total 88

Voted absentee: None.

Excused: None.
Total 0

Absent or not voting: None.
Total 0
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Speaker, I move that the following undersigned name be ADDED as sponsor to HB 413. Motion carried.

**HB 413** (F. Anderson, Chief Sponsor)
M. Dunwell.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee meetings were announced by the committee chairs.

Majority Leader Tschida moved the House adjourn until 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Motion carried.

House adjourned at 2:23 p.m.