



School Funding Interim Commission

64th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064

HOUSE MEMBERS

JEFF ESSMANN
DONALD JONES
KATHY KELKER
DEBRA LAMM
EDIE McCLAFFERTY
SUSAN WEBBER

SENATE MEMBERS

ELSIE ARNTZEN -- Vice Chair
TOM FACEY -- Chair
KRISTIN HANSEN
MARY SHEEHY MOE
MATTHEW ROSENDALE
LEA WHITFORD

PUBLIC MEMBERS

PATRICIA HUBBARD
DAVE LEWIS
AIDAN MYHRE
RENEE RASMUSSEN

COMMISSION STAFF

PAD McCracken, RESEARCH ANALYST
LAURA SANKEY, ATTORNEY
KATYA GROVER, SECRETARY

DRAFT AGENDA

School Funding Interim Commission

January 11-13, 2016

Room 102, State Capitol

Note: Agenda times are approximate. Some agenda items may require more or less time than indicated.

Monday, January 11

- 8:30 **Call to order, roll call** - Sen. Facey, Chair
- 8:35 **Administrative matters** - Pad McCracken, Commission Staff
- Budget update
 - Agenda review
- 8:45 **K-12 Education and Demographics: Trends and Projections** - Mary Craige, Census and Economic Information Center, Montana Dept. of Commerce
- 9:15 **Current School Funding Formula (cont'd from September)**
- Overview of district level funds, revenue sources, expenditures, accounting, flexibility - Denise Williams, MASBO
 - Fund balances and reserves - Rob Miller, LFD
 - Current equity status and variations in state funding per pupil - Rob Miller and Pad McCracken
 - Federal K-12 funding overview - TBD
 - School funding legal background - Laura Sankey, Commission Staff Attorney
 - Other state approaches to district funds, reserves, and funding equity related to district size - Mike Griffith, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States
 - Public comment
 - Questions from the commission/discussion
- 12:00 **Lunch**

- 1:00 **Commission work session on School Facilities**
- Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
 - Funding for Capital Improvements Overview - Denise Williams, MASBO
 - Review of 2008 School Facility Inventory - TBD
 - Quality Schools Grant Program - Kelly Lynch, Community Development Division Administrator, Montana Department of Commerce
 - School Facility Entitlements (Debt Service GTB) - Pad McCracken and Rob Miller
 - School facility funding in other states, prioritization of projects - Mike Griffith
 - Public comment
 - Questions from the commission/discussion
- 3:00 **Recess for small group brainstorming on school facilities** (Rooms 102, 335, and 350) The commission will split into smaller groups with stakeholders and public welcome to join in addressing:
- What are the problems related to funding for school facilities?
 - What are the possible solutions to address these problems?
- 4:00 **Reconvene for report back and commission discussion of next steps**
- 5:00 **Recess for day**

Tuesday, January 12

- 8:30 **Commission work session on Recruitment and Retention**
- Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
 - Current pathways to licensure - OPI
 - Flexibility in meeting accreditation standards - OPI
 - Presentation on school staffing difficulties - Dr. Richard Ingersoll, University of Pennsylvania (via conference call) (pending)
 - Federal programs to support recruitment and retention - TBD
 - Health care benefits - TBD
 - State policies addressing recruitment and retention - Mike Griffith
 - Public comment
 - Commission discussion
- 10:30 **Recess for small group brainstorming on recruitment and retention** (Rooms 102, 335, and 350) The commission will split into smaller groups with stakeholders and public welcome to join in addressing:

- What are the problems related to funding for recruitment and retention?
- What are the possible solutions to address these problems?

11:30 **Reconvene for report back and commission discussion of next steps**

12:30 **Lunch**

1:30 **Commission work session on district structure and boundaries**

- Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
- School district structure/reorganization in other states; effects of consolidation on costs and achievement - Mike Griffith
- Public comment
- Commission discussion

3:00 **Recess for small group brainstorming on district structure and boundaries** (Rooms 102, 335, and 350) The commission will split into smaller groups with stakeholders and public welcome to join in addressing:

- What are the problems related to district structure and boundaries?
- What are the possible solutions to address these problems?

4:00 **Reconvene for report back and commission discussion of next steps**

5:00 **Recess for day**

Wednesday, January 13

8:00 **Commission work session on special education**

- Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
- Overview of current special education funding; role and funding of special education cooperatives; federal requirements and funding - Frank Podobnik, Special Education Division Administrator, OPI
- Public comment
- Commission discussion

10:30 **Commission work session on technology**

- Report on broadband/district connectivity - Daniel Lloyd, Governor's Office of Economic Development; Andrew Kenny, EducationSuperHighway (pending)
- Montana Digital Academy update - Bob Currie, Director, Montana Digital Academy

- Current technology funding - Rob Miller
- Public comment
- Commission discussion

11:45 **Lunch**

1:30 **Commission work session and discussion of next steps**

- Continued discussion of possible solutions and additional information needs
- Schedule remaining meetings
- Instructions to staff
- Public comment

3:00 **Adjourn**

*Public comment provided in person to the commission is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a commission meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative Web site as part of the minutes log for the commission meeting.

The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. If you require an accommodation, please contact Pad McCracken at 406-444-3595 or padmccracken@mt.gov at least 5 working days before the meeting date to discuss the nature of the accommodation you need.