



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

January 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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select Committees, then Interim. Once on the page for Interim Committees, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written Minutes Log, along with the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed.

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

SEN. EDIE MCCLAFFERTY, Chair

STAFF PRESENT

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

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

AGENDA ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:02 Rep. Anderson brought meeting to order. Secretary took roll. ([Attachment 3](#))

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Review agenda and previously distributed materials - Pad McCracken

00:00:49 Mr. McCracken went over changes in the agenda.

00:03:21 Mr. McCracken pointed out the preschool handout in the mailing packet. ([Exhibit 1](#))

Administrative Rule Review - Laura Sankey Keip, staff attorney

00:05:29 Ms. Keip went over the rule review. ([Exhibit 2](#))

Update from Governor's Office on Stars Preschool Grant Program - Siri Smillie, Education Policy Advisor to Governor Bullock

00:08:35 Siri Smillie began her presentation on the STARS preschool program. ([Exhibit 3](#)) ([Exhibit 4](#))

00:20:45 Tasha Van Nice, ABC Academy Preschool, Helena, MT, shared her testimony and experience with the STARS preschool program.

00:25:30 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on the "25% need base," and how students are selected for this.

00:27:51 Rep. Funk asked if DPHHS is doing the monitoring for the program.

00:28:39 Sen. Salomon asked if the STARS program is associated with the "child find" special needs program.

00:30:25 Sen. Salomon asked how the financial data is being collected to keep the program running.

00:35:21 Rep. Bachmeier asked what providers are doing to prepare children socially, emotionally, and academically for elementary school.

00:39:41 Rep. Jones asked how much was funded between the three different programs-- private, public and Head Start.

00:40:11 Rep. Jones asked what the teacher to child ratio was.

00:43:05 Sen. Tempel asked if there was resistance from parents in regards to mental health referrals.

00:45:07 Rep. Anderson asked if there were differences between children coming from the STARS programs, and those who had no formal preschool.

00:47:26 Sen. Facey asked how it would be possible to increase pay for early childhood providers.

00:51:31 Rep. Funk asked if it was in the legislation that only 25% are high needs.

00:53:39 Rep. Bachmeier asked if Gov. Bullock was considering continuing to provide a grant for the preschool program.

00:56:39 Rep. Bachmeier asked what could be done to prepare other, smaller

00:58:49 communities to be ready for the STARS program.
Rep. Jones asked if the old Stars to Quality program still exists outside of the grant program.

Update from Board of Public Education - Peter Donovan, Executive Director

01:01:30 Mr. Donovan began his update from the Board of Public Education. ([Exhibit 5](#)) ([Exhibit 6](#))

01:11:59 Rep. Anderson wanted to thank Mr. Donovan for his efforts in suicide awareness.

01:12:24 Sen. Salomon asked what kind of qualifications are required to be an educator or administrator or if they could translate experience into credits.

01:15:02 Sen. Facey asked about the accuracy of the applications in regards to the honesty of the applicants.

STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING PANEL

01:15:57 Mr. McCracken introduced the panel, and pointed out the student-centered learning brief. ([Exhibit 7](#))

Summary of OPI Innovative Learning Conference - Dr. Tim Tharp, Deputy Superintendent, OPI

01:19:46 Dr. Tharp began his testimony, followed by an update on the Innovated Learning Conference. ([Exhibit 8](#))

Collegial Learning Network on Personalized Learning - Dr. Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

01:24:39 Dr. Miller began his presentation on "transforming education" so that students at the center could become responsible for their own learning. ([Exhibit 9](#)) ([Exhibit 10](#))

St. Regis School - Joe Steele, Superintendent

01:32:10 Mr. Steele began his presentation on personalized learning. ([Exhibit 11](#)) ([Exhibit 12](#)) ([Exhibit 13](#))

Conrad Public Schools - Sharyl Allen, Superintendent

01:43:45 Ms. Allen began her presentation. ([Exhibit 14](#))

Bridger Charter Academy (Bozeman Public Schools) - Dr. Rob Watson, Superintendent

02:01:48 Dr. Watson began his testimony on personalized learning. ([Exhibit 15](#))

Paris Gibson Education Center (Great Falls) - Drew Uecker, Principal

02:08:51 Mr. Uecker began his presentation. ([Exhibit 16](#))

Committee questions and discussion

02:25:57 Mr. Tharp began discussions with the panel and committee.

02:27:16 Sen. Facey asked if there are any policies or changes that the legislature could pass that would make it easier for their communities.

02:32:40 Rep. Jones asked the panel about athletics requirements.

02:35:09 Sen. Salomon asked the panel for clarification on the differences in programs.

02:38:15 Sen. Facey asked where teachers and administrators would find themselves in regards to innovation.

BREAK (reconvene 11:35)

03:04:25 Rep. Anderson brought the meeting back to order.

AGENCY MONITORING - OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - Superintendent Arntzen ESSA Update

03:05:02 Supt. Arntzen began her update. (**Exhibit 17**) Note: Exhibit 17 is available in the Legislative Services Divisions Office upon request.

03:10:21 Susie Hedalen explained the ESSA plan was approved by the department of education.

03:18:34 Rep. Funk, on behalf of Sen. McClafferty, asked how student attendance will be shown on report cards, and how will we make sure the emphasis on math and English don't overshadow the social studies, physical education, arts, and history aspects of education.

03:22:54 Sen. Salomon asked what would be used to define ineffective teachers.

03:30:43 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on the effective teacher program.

Budget reductions and impacts

03:34:54 Supt.. Arntzen introduced Mr. Tharp to discuss budget reductions.

03:35:14 Dr. Tharp began his presentation on budget reductions. (**Exhibit 18**)

School and safety initiatives

03:40:46 Dr. Tharp discussed bus and safety standards.

03:43:05 Sen. Salomon asked if the vehicles that don't look like a bus will still be appropriately insured.

Student achievement update and assessment overview

03:44:17 Supt. Arntzen began discussion on student achievement data.

LUNCH (reconvene at 1:10)

04:41:02 Rep. Anderson brought meeting back to order.

HJ1 STUDY - GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

04:41:15 Mr. McCracken began overview of HJ1 study. (**Exhibit 19**) (**Exhibit 20**)

Current landscape of G&T programs in MT; estimates of program costs - Julia Cruse, OPI

04:52:04 Ms. Cruse began her presentation on the gifted and talented educational programs in Montana.

04:55:45 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on the percentages.

05:00:37 Sen. Facey asked for clarification on the funds provided for the 2008-2009 biennium.

05:05:30 Ms. Cruse referred to a graphic to explain gifted and talented needs. ([Exhibit 21](#))

Best practices in identifying and serving G&T students - Dr. Estee Aiken, UM Western; Dr. Tracy Missett, UM (by phone); Dr. Sarah Pennington, MSU (by phone)

05:07:48 Dr. Aiken began her presentation on the best practices to identifying gifted and talented students.

05:13:45 Dr. Missett began her presentation on gifted education services in Montana specifically.

05:19:47 Dr. Pennington began a discussion on where we are nationally in professional development in regards to gifted and talented children. ([Exhibit 22](#))

05:23:42 Sen. Facey asked who is responsible for requiring a class in gifted and talented background to graduates from a Montana college or university.

05:25:43 Rep. Jones added input on the University of Providence.

What advocates suggest - Julie Merritt, MT AGATE

05:28:10 Ms. Merritt began her presentation on MT AGATE. ([Exhibit 23](#))

05:33:50 Sen. Facey asked if the special needs were mostly focused on students in 2nd grade thru 8th grade, since high school aged students could be served with advanced placement (AP) classes and dual enrollment.

05:35:20 Dr. Missett noted that the field does not endorse the proposition that AP courses are a gifted and talented program.

05:36:40 Sen. Facey asked how identification of gifted and talented students are completed.

Committee questions and discussion

05:39:28 Rep. Funk asked about the "high school" component in finding gifted and talented children, and what the retention rate is.

05:44:18 Rep. Jones asked Dr. Missett about personalized learning and its association with gifted and talented children.

Public comment

05:50:01 Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of the College of Education at MSU-Billings.

05:52:38 Rep. Jones asked if the teaching program at MSU-Billings would show educators how to identify a gifted and talented child.

HJ 1 STUDY - AT-RISK STUDENTS

What do we mean by at-risk? - Mr. McCracken

05:57:14 Mr. McCracken began his presentation on at-risk students. ([Exhibit 24](#))

The basics of Title I and other federal education programs supporting at-risk students - Jack O'Connor, OPI

06:02:12 Mr. O'Connor began his presentation on Title I. ([Exhibit 25](#))

Initiatives to identify and serve at-risk students: Early Warning System and Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) - Eric Meredith and Susie Hedalen, OPI

06:09:20 Mr. Meredith, OPI data analyst, began power-point presentation on the early warning system. ([Exhibit 26](#))

06:17:18 Ms. Hedalen began her presentation on MTSS. ([Exhibit 27](#))
06:27:41 Rep. Bachmeier asked if the presentation would be made available online.

Public comment

No comment.

Committee questions and discussion

06:28:20 Mr. McCracken asked about the relation of the ESSA plan and funding percentages.

BREAK (reconvene at 3:15)

HJ 1 STUDY - ENGLISH LEARNERS

Current landscape in Montana and funding mechanisms in other states - Mr. McCracken

06:44:22 Mr. McCracken introduced the panel on English learners in Montana. ([Exhibit 28](#))

06:48:59 Rep. Funk asked about the success level of English learning students.

06:50:30 Yvonne Field, Office of Public Instruction, explained the learning proficiencies and differences.

Title III funding basics and the best practices in serving English Learners - Crystal

Andrews, OPI; Yvonne Field, OPI; Eric Meredith, OPI

06:51:59 Ms. Andrews began her presentation on the basics of Title III funding. ([Exhibit 29](#))

06:54:49 Ms. Field began her presentation on how English learners are identified.

Public comment

No comment.

Committee questions and discussion

06:59:46 Sen. Tempel asked how German speaking students are addressed.

07:01:26 Mr. Meredith clarified that the German Hutterite students all speak a different dialect of German.

07:02:09 Sen. Salomon asked about the heritage language and utilizing English as a second language.

HJ 1 STUDY - THE ROLE OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS IN SERVING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS - Dr. Tricia Seifert, Education Department Head, MSU-Bozeman; Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh, Dean of College of Education, MSU-Billings; Peter Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Ed

07:05:27 Mr. McCracken introduced the panel for education preparation. ([Exhibit 30](#))

07:07:28 Dr. Seifert began statement on differentiating exceptional learners. ([Exhibit 31](#))

07:13:04 Sen. Facey asked how many credits are required for an elementary endorsement from MSU.

07:15:36 Sen. Salomon asked for clarification on the credits.

07:17:49 Rep. Funk asked about elementary education and what percentage of classes take place in the elementary classroom.

07:19:59 Dr. Fishbaugh began her testimony on standards of education prep across the

07:29:39 state. ([Exhibit 32](#))
Mr. Donovan gave an accreditation perspective from the Board of Public Education.

Committee Questions and discussion

07:32:47 Rep. Anderson asked how much variance there was in regards to criteria.
07:34:51 Sen. Facey asked if the pass rates for the Praxis are public knowledge.
07:36:36 Ms. Seifert shared testimony with legislators.

PANEL PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS - WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW? HOW CAN THE LEGISLATURE HELP?

Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force - Angela McLean, OCHE; Dr. Seifert; Dr. Fishbaugh, Dr. Tharp

07:39:31 Mr. McCracken introduced the panel and pointed out handout on recruitment and retention of teachers. ([Exhibit 33](#))
07:41:20 Ms. McLean began her presentation. ([Exhibit 34](#)) ([Exhibit 35](#)) ([Exhibit 36](#))
07:53:01 Dr. Seifert began her presentation. ([Exhibit 37](#)) ([Exhibit 38](#))
08:04:05 Dr. Fishbaugh pointed out where MSU-Billings placed student teachers.
08:07:23 Rep. Funk asked if there was a way to excuse para-professionals from student teaching since they already have the teaching experience.
08:09:37 Sen. Salomon asked for clarification on teacher salaries between rural schools and bigger districts.

Rural Student Teacher Incentives through the MREA-MUS Educator Fellows Program - Dennis Parman, MREA

08:17:06 Mr. Parman began his presentation. ([Exhibit 39](#))

RISE4MT - Dr. Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana; Marco Ferro, MEA-MFT

08:26:13 Dr. Miller began his presentation on RISE4MT. ([Exhibit 40](#))
08:31:11 Mr. Ferro described SB 115. ([Exhibit 41](#))
08:36:45 Dr. Miller stated that the things described are the things that are actually happening in the "now."
08:43:44 Mr. Ferro discussed "Educators Rising."

Committee questions and discussion

08:49:59 Sen. Salomon asked if "Educators Rising" would be intra-curricular.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON K-12 EDUCATION ISSUES

08:51:57 Jessica Reynolds, Montana Speech Language and Hearing Association.

REVIEW TUESDAY AGENDA AND RELATED MATERIALS

08:59:21 Mr. McCracken reviewed the agenda for January 23rd, 2018.

RECESS/ADJOURN

09:01:47 With no further business for the committee, Rep. Anderson adjourned the meeting until 2:00pm January 23, 2018.



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

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STAFF PRESENT

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VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 1)

AGENDA (Attachment 2)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

00:00:03 Rep. Anderson brought the meeting to order. The committee secretary took roll.
(Attachment 3)

MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM COLLABORATION SESSION - Robert Nystuen, Regent; Casey Lozar, Regent; Clay Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education

00:00:58 Mr. McCracken introduced the panel, and corrected the agenda: introducing
Deputy Commissioner Tyler Trevor in place of Commissioner Clay Christian.

Debrief/discuss Economic Outlook Seminar

00:05:15 Rep. Bachmeier mentioned the default rates on student loans in the nation, and
asked what the rates are like in Montana.

00:06:06 Mr. Trevor answered.

00:07:36 Ron Muffick, director of operations and administration at student affairs at the
commissioners office, clarified services offered to borrowers.

00:09:17 Rep. Bachmeier asked for clarification on default rates based on race.

00:10:25 Sen. Facey asked what students can borrow for specifically.

00:11:56 Mr. Lozar commented on default rates.

00:13:30 Sen. Salomon asked about businesses offering loan repayment.

00:14:35 Mr. Nystuen commented on the impacts on student loan debt.

00:23:46 Mr. McCracken pointed out an earlier hand out that would clarify some things.
(Exhibit 1)

00:25:37 Shauna Albrecht, legislative fiscal, clarified some of the numbers.

00:26:42 Sen. Facey wanted to point out MUS flexibility.

00:28:00 Rep. Bachmeier asked for clarification on 20-25-421.

Dual enrollment

00:34:00 Mr. Trevor introduced Amy Williams, manager of dual enrollment efforts.

00:34:37 Ms. Williams began her presentation on dual enrollment. (Exhibit 2)

00:41:33 Rep. Jones asked for clarification on the graph.

00:48:00 Sen. Facey asked if any dual programs are offered through the digital academy.

00:49:16 Mr. Lozar commented on the priority of dual enrollment.

Student financial aid programs

Long-range Building Program

00:52:23 Mr. Trevor began discussions on long-range building program.

00:53:00 Mr. Muffick began his presentation on the long-range building program. (Exhibit
3)

00:56:26 Rep. Bachmeier asked how big of a role smaller campuses have in the long-range building program process, not just the flagship presidents.
01:00:03 Rep. Funk commented that smaller colleges get very low priority.
01:31:47 Sen. Salomon asked about the decrease in enrollment in the smaller colleges.

Ongoing EDIC and Regents collaboration

01:46:09 Rep. Anderson asked what the next steps in continuing collaboration would entail.
01:46:52 Committee discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

01:56:57 Cary Hegreberg, executive director of the Montana Contractor's Association.
02:01:53 Keith Ouzts, vice president of workplace development for the Montana Contractor's Association.

REVIEW WORK PLAN, SET NEXT MEETING DATE, DISCUSS AGENDA, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF

02:08:10 Mr. McCracken addressed the work plan for the remaining meetings. ([Exhibit 4](#))

ADJOURNMENT

02:24:17 With no further business before the committee, Rep. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 4:25pm.

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