



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE
67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Carlie Boland
Edith (Edie) McClafferty
Daniel Salomon
Russel (Russ) Tempel

HOUSE MEMBERS

Fred Anderson
Moffie Funk
Bruce Grubbs
Connie Keogh
Sue Vinton
Tom Woods

COMMITTEE STAFF

Pad McCracken - Research
Analyst
Bri Nordhagen - Secretary
Laura Sankey - Attorney

MINUTES LOG

April 30, 2020

1:01 PM

Remote Meeting Via Zoom

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation 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 recording 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 the 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>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to 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.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Carlie Boland (D)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)

Rep. Bruce Grubbs (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)

Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)
Rep. Tom Woods (D)

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Pad McCracken, Research
Analyst
Bri Nordhagen, Secretary
Laura Sankey, Attorney

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

Committee Business Summary

- The committee provided direction to staff on various topics in preparation for its June 18-19 meeting.

K-12 COVID - 19 updates from Superintendent of Public Instruction Arntzen

13:03:43 Supt. Elsie Arntzen began her review of the K-12 COVID - updates.

Questions by the committee

13:14:14 Rep. Vinton asked Supt. Arntzen about the 10 percent remaining with OPI from the \$4.1 million, as well as the .5 percent for administrative costs. Was the .5 in addition to the 10, or is it included in the total.

13:15:34 Rep. Funk asked if there was any discussion about helping school districts hire individuals for summer school. Rep. Funk asked Supt. Arntzen to explain the Montana Learn Task Force and how people may apply.

13:23:23 Rep. Woods asked what was happening with long-term substitute teachers. Rep. Woods asked what was being done regarding delivery of teachings/materials to special education students. Rep. Woods asked Jenifer Cline, OPI - Student Support Services Director, if districts were learning from each other regarding special education measures.

13:36:08 Rep. Keogh asked Supt. Arntzen about the process for letting OPI know of an individual's interest in being on the task force for Montana Learn. Rep. Keogh asked if there were any issues getting current students licensed with the inability to take practice exams.

Administrative Rule Review

13:40:56 Laura Sankey Keip, Legislative Services Staff Attorney, gave her presentation on the administrative rule review.

Questions from the committee

13:42:30 none

HB 351 and HB 387 revision

13:42:48 Ms. Sankey Keip continued her presentation on "The Transformational Learning Aid Program" and "The Advanced Opportunity Aid Program". (Exhibit 1)

Questions from the committee

- 13:59:18 Rep. Funk asked Sharyl Allen, OPI - Transformational and Personalized Learning Manager, to make comments on the implementation and rollout regarding FTE.
- 14:04:47 Rep. Grubbs suggested not changing the rules and putting in place any changes necessary at the end.
- 14:06:01 Rep. Vinton stated the opportunity for school districts currently funded or already on the wait list shouldn't be taken away as it had already been given.
- 14:07:00 Rep. Woods stated it was a mistake to send out funds on a first come first serve basis.
- 14:08:12 Sen. Salomon stated looking at the applications to make sure they meet minimum situations but not grading as it would put extra weight on OPI.
- 14:09:39 Rep. Anderson asked what kind of evaluative procedures are in place for the schools that were granted money in the first go around.
- 14:12:23 Rep. Vinton stated if the committee were to go to an evaluative type of a scenario with a level of expectation people can go to, would make it fairer in awarding grants.

Committee discussion

- 14:14:16 Ms. Sankey Keip asked what the committee would request from staff moving forward.
- 14:14:53 Rep. Funk stated districts in the cue for obtaining grants need to be protected, but also looking at language pertaining to changing the rules and how that should be implemented.
- 14:16:13 Rep. Grubbs stated having a minimum threshold for applications for the grants, as well as making that minimum threshold equal amongst schools.
- 14:17:03 Sen. Boland asked if when the committee did start to move forward, would there be an annual report available.
- 14:18:03 Rep. Anderson stated the committee needed to keep in mind of the parameters of funding on the program without any assumptions it will go beyond that at this point.
- 14:18:33 Rep. Vinton stated possibly visiting the crafters of HB 351 and others at OPI to change the implementation and oversight of transformational learning.
- 14:20:31 Rep. Anderson asked which committee members wanted to be on the subcommittee. Rep. Vinton, Sen. Salomon and Rep. Woods are possible members.
- 14:22:29 Rep. Grubbs stated he agreed with contacting the original crafters of HB 351.

School Funding clean-up- possibilities

- 14:24:57 Pad McCracken, LSD - Staff Researcher and Paul Taylor, OPI ([Exhibit 2](#))

Questions from the committee

- 14:29:51 Rep. Vinton asked if there were any implications on adult education.
- 14:32:48 Sen. Salomon asked if the cleanup language was going to affect the bill.
Sen. Salomon asked if whatever the ANB number was for the year before should be the number going forward unless they put in for more with the expansion.

School Funding clean-up-possibilities

- 14:35:20 Mr. Taylor continued the presentation.

Questions from the committee

- 14:37:24 Sen. Salomon asked if the funds go into a reserve or a general fund, are there any stipulations to it.

School Funding clean-up-possibilities

14:39:14 Mr. Taylor and Mr. McCracken continued the presentation.

Questions from the committee

14:50:31 Rep. Vinton asked if lead issues would fall under #9.

14:52:55 Sen. Temple asked if the infusion of the federal CARES Act money would mess any of the flow up.

Pre-kindergarten work session

14:54:29 Mr. McCracken, Caitlin Jensen, Executive Director, Zero to Five Montana, and Ms. Sankey Keip began their presentations on policy options and considerations for mixed delivery models coordinated with/by public school districts. [\(Exhibit 3\)](#) [\(Exhibit 4\)](#) [\(Exhibit 5\)](#)

Questions from the committee

15:10:53 Rep. Funk asked Ms. Sankey Keip for clarification on the 60% and whether that was mostly in the head start and public programs, and which percentage was in the private schools.

15:25:06 Rep. Keogh asked for clarification regarding how the collaboration worked with all the different groups in the West Virginia model.

15:26:46 Rep. Funk stated her concern with considering other states.

Public comment

15:32:42 Bev Matsko, Head Start Director - Great Falls, MT Grace

15:36:22 Decker [\(Exhibit 6\)](#)

15:39:07 Jane Arntzen Schumacher, Childcare Connections Kirk

15:41:02 Miller, [\(Exhibit 7\)](#)

15:45:18 Brandi Thomas, Childcare Connections

15:47:18 Nanette Gilbertson, The Montana Advocates for Children

Questions or comments from the committee

15:49:23 Rep. Funk stated the importance of separating daycare and Pre-k.

15:50:33 Rep. Keogh stated the importance of considering other states.

15:51:48 Rep. Grubbs stated wanting to see the committee consider the private businesses that potentially under the wrong bill could be put out of business.

15:55:06 Sen. Salomon stated Rep. Moore's bill having a good chance of passing and to consider the language of said bill.

15:55:55 Rep. Vinton asked how many districts are admitting students under exceptional circumstances and what is the associated cost of those students for the last year.

16:01:16 Rep. Funk stated having something prepared for the June meeting regarding a bill brought forth by experts.

16:02:47 Rep. Anderson requested looking at options for mixed delivery being available to districts.

16:07:15 Rep. Vinton stated childcare was different from education.

16:09:08 Rep. Woods stated the university system is of grave concern.

Committee work session: review work plan: directions to staff

16:11:28 Mr. McCracken [\(Exhibit 8\)](#)

16:13:04 Sen. Salomon stated the importance of getting information regarding reopening the university systems.

16:13:54 Rep. Woods stated having OCHE give an update at the next meeting.

Adjournment

16:15:01