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## **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  
Laura Sankey Keip - Attorney  
Bri Nordhagen - Secretary

### **MINUTES LOG**

August 20, 2020

9:00 AM

Video Conference

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.

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### **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)

**Staff Present:**

Pad McCracken, Research Analyst

Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney

Laura Sherley, Secretary

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS SUMMARY**

- Requested information related to PD 20 bill draft eliminating reduced-price co-pays for school meals.
- Approved PD 5 as a committee bill authorizing Handle With Care programs.
- Instructed staff to prepare a bill draft addressing early enrollment of military children when family is being relocated.
- Provided staff direction on HJ 56 final report and topics for and structure of the committee's final meeting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW**

09:02:55 Ms. Sankey Keip ([Exhibit 1](#))

**AGENCY MONITORING - MUS/OCHE/BOARD OF REGENTS**

09:05:30 Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

**Committee questions and discussion**

09:16:52 Sen. Salomon asked if the Governor's Office \$20 million funding is given to the Montana University System in a lump sum and how is it distributed.

09:19:19 Rep. Woods asked what the COVID-19 trigger point is where school campuses would go to online only learning.

09:22:21 Rep. Woods asked who is responsible for making the decision that school campuses would go to online only learning.

09:24:10 Rep. Woods commented on mask use in dormitories.

**AGENCY MONITORING - OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

09:26:22 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Office of Public Instruction (OPI) ([Exhibit 2](#))

**Committee questions and discussion**

09:44:21 Sen. McClafferty asked what is going to be the protocol for proficient standards for distance learning and how are distance learners going to take the standardized assessment test.

09:50:13 Rep. Grubbs asked for clarification on the requirements for Title 1 federal funding and why some school districts are choosing not to accept it.

09:53:54 Rep. Funk asked how OPI is helping state schools reopen with COVID-19 standards.

09:58:45 Rep. Funk asked if OPI has a plan to use Title 1 funding to help state schools.

10:00:36 Sen. Tempel asked how OPI will be handling the loss of students and subsequent funding as some students move to homeschooling.

10:04:15 Sen. Salomon asked for clarification on reported loss of funding.

**Presentation continued**

10:06:30 Timothy Johnson, Deputy Superintendent, OCHE ([Exhibit 3](#))  
10:13:13 Superintendent Arntzen

**HJ 56 STUDY OF BULLYING AND STUDENT WELL-BEING**

10:13:50 Mr. McCracken ([Exhibit 4](#))

**Public comment**

10:20:06 None

**Committee questions and discussion**

10:20:16 Rep. Vinton commented on the Hope Squad program.  
10:21:12 Rep. Funk commented on mental health and the importance of school counselors especially during this time.  
10:22:54 Rep. Vinton commented on researching Hope Squad and other programs that are similar that would address mental health while distance learning.  
10:23:33 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on the Hope Squad program.  
10:24:28 Rep. Keogh commented on the Breakfast After the Bell program.  
10:26:28 Rep. Grubbs commented on the Hope Squad and similar peer programs.  
10:27:21 Rep. Anderson asked Mr. McCracken if staff had enough direction from the committee.

**ELIMINATING REDUCED PRICE (ERP) FOR SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST BILL DRAFT**

10:28:18 Mr. McCracken ([Exhibit 5](#))

**Public comment**

10:30:48 Craig Crawford, self

**Committee questions and discussion**

10:32:38 Rep. Vinton asked that the committee receive input from OPI on the proposed legislation.  
10:33:17 Committee discussion on funding the proposed legislation.  
10:38:18 Rep. Funk asked Mr. McCracken what changes in the bill draft are needed to move forward. Sen. Salomon also responded to the question.  
10:41:01 Rep. Anderson asked Mr. McCracken if staff had enough direction from the committee.

**HANDLE WITH CARE BILL DRAFT**

10:41:57 Ms. Sankey Keip ([Exhibit 6](#)) ([Exhibit 7](#))

**Public comment**

10:51:19 Ellen Livers, Shodair Children's Hospital  
10:52:37 Craig Crawford, self

**Committee questions and discussion**

10:53:39 Rep. Funk asked for clarification on bill draft language.

10:55:19 Rep. Anderson commented on the bill draft.

10:55:30 Sen. Boland commented on the title of the bill draft.

10:56:21 Rep. Anderson asked Mr. McCracken if staff had enough direction from the committee.

10:56:56 Sen. McClafferty moved to pass PD 5 as a committee bill.

**Vote:**

10:56:56 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS RELATED TO MILITARY CHILDREN**

10:58:13 Tammie Perreault, Northwest Liaison, Defense-State Liaison Office, Department of Defense ([Exhibit 8](#)) ([Exhibit 9](#))

**Public comment**

11:03:19 None

**Committee questions and discussion**

11:03:33 Sen. Salomon asked for clarification on the department's request.

11:04:48 Rep. Funk commented on state assistance to military families.

**Presentation continued**

11:05:42 Ms. Perreault ([Exhibit 10](#)) ([Exhibit 11](#))

**Public comment**

11:08:11 None

**Committee questions and discussion**

11:08:21 Sen. Salomon asked how higher education students of parents who are transferred in or out of the military receive in-state tuition.

11:10:13 Rep. Funk moved to have staff prepare a bill draft addressing early enrollment of military children when family is being relocated.

**Vote:**

11:10:13 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN FOLLOW-UP FROM JUNE 19 AND COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

11:12:08 Mr. McCracken ([Exhibit 12](#)) ([Exhibit 13](#))

11:20:22 Ms. Sankey Keip

11:30:50 Mr. McCracken ([Exhibit 14](#))

**Public comment**

11:33:13 Emily Dean, Montana School Board Association and Montana Public Education Center

### **Committee questions and discussion**

- 11:35:53 Rep. Keogh asked Ms. Dean if there is information on specifics from her associations on issues that prevent early childhood education changes.
- 11:38:03 Sen. Tempel asked Ms. Dean if it will be a bigger burden on small rural schools to implement education changes.

### **Public comment**

- 11:40:02 Chistine Lux, Montana Higher Education Consortium
- 11:44:50 Grace Decker, Zero to Five
- 11:48:07 Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five
- 11:54:02 Pete Donovan, Board of Public Education
- 11:56:11 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Advocates for Children
- 11:59:28 Brandi Thomas, Childcare Connections

### **Committee questions and discussion**

- 12:02:06 Sen. Tempel commented on implementing educational changes and how that may burden small rural school.
- 12:03:02 Sen. Salomon commented on finding better options for all state schools.
- 12:04:58 Rep. Anderson commented on possible committee action.
- 12:05:48 Rep. Grubbs asked for a review of PD 9.
- 12:06:30 Rep. Anderson commented on individual legislators carrying bills.

### **REVIEW WORK PLAN AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR FINAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14; INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF**

- 12:08:16 Mr. McCracken ([Exhibit 15](#))

### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 12:09:00 None

### **Committee discussion**

- 12:09:11 Committee discussion on work plan.
- 12:18:34 Rep. Funk asked when the EDIC final report needs to be completed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- 12:21:46 The chair adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.