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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
Bri Nordhagen - Secretary
Laura Sankey - Attorney

MINUTES LOG

September 14, 2020

3:00

Helena, Montana 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.

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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 Keip, Attorney

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)**VISITORS' LIST** [\(Attachment 2\)](#)**COMMITTEE ACTION****CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

21:02:13 Rep. Fred Anderson called the Education Interim Committee meeting to order at 9:02 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

Administrative Rule Review

15:02:30 Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Division (LSD), began her overview of the administrative rule review handout. [\(Exhibit 1\)](#)

Legislative Services updates

15:02:50 Sonja Nowakowski, Director of Research and Policy Analysis, LSD, began her review of the legislative services updates, including "The Interim: Is it what you want" handout. [\(Exhibit 2\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

15:18:37 Rep. Keogh asked for clarification regarding legislator orientation dates and if reports generated during committee meetings would be put under the primers online.

Agency monitoring - MUS/OCHE /Board of Regents

15:19:35 Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education, began his review of the school system's COVID response and updates.

15:26:38 Tyler Trevor, Director Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education began his presentation on the state funded financial aid report (20-26-105). [\(Exhibit 3\)](#)

15:29:17 Eric Meredith, Business Intelligence Analyst, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, continued the presentation regarding financial aid programs.

Questions and discussion from the committee

15:37:27 Rep. Vinton asked if the panel had information regarding the status on the search for a new chancellor for MSU Billings.

15:40:30 Rep. Woods asked what happened to the share of out-of-state students and how that ratio was played out. Rep. Woods stated concern amongst educators regarding an online program after COVID is over.

Agency monitoring - Office of Public Instruction

15:44:27 Tim Johnson, Deputy Superintendent at the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), began his review of department updates.

Questions and discussion from the committee

15:55:04 Rep. Funk asked Mr. Johnson how OPI intended to make whole the public-school systems that have lost funds that were supposed to be going to them but were instead going to nonpublic entities. Rep. Funk asked what the plan was to assist public school districts in terms of the bookkeeping and the relationships between public and nonpublic LEA's. Rep. Funk asked for a response from Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen and if ANB could be held harmless this year.

16:02:11 Rep. Woods stated concern with the special needs curriculum and where that stood currently with COVID in relation to online programs. Rep. Woods asked what was being done differently and what could the legislature provide in this next session to help with educating special needs students in this new environment.

16:07:27 Rep. Keogh asked Mr. Johnson what OPI was saying about letting the public and parents know about the cases in the schools and if the Office was opposed to doing that. Rep. Keogh asked if directed by public health county officials would OPI be opposed to sharing data at that point.

Economic impact statements for content standards revision

16:11:55 Mr. McCracken gave an overview of the five sets of content standards required.

16:15:57 Pete Donovan, Executive Director at the Board of Public Education, BPE, thanked Colet and OPI for all their hard work creating these standards.

16:17:16 Colet Bartow, Senior Manager for the Teaching and Learning Department, OPI, reviewed the five content standards website locations as well as handouts for; career and technical education, computer science, library media, social studies and technology integration. [\(Exhibit 4\)](#) [\(Exhibit 5\)](#) [\(Exhibit 6\)](#) [\(Exhibit 7\)](#) [\(Exhibit 8\)](#)

Public comment

16:28:44 Ann Ewbank, MSU - Bozeman, MT

Questions and discussion from the committee

16:33:17 Rep. Funk asked for clarification regarding if the committee was to vote individually/separately on each of the content standards and say the cost is insubstantial, and/or on ones where there is more of a cost the committee has to say it's substantial but still a good idea.

16:39:09 Rep. Grubbs asked if some of the cost be absorbed by school districts.

16:42:23 Sen. Salomon asked where the funds would go and about the standards with no cost and whether those were for the school district or for the state to provide something to OPI or the Board of Public Education. Sen. Salomon asked if all school districts had this and was it mandated in order to graduate.

Motion

- 16:45:20 Sen. Salomon made a motion to go with OPI's recommendations with the first four standards being insubstantial to districts, with the 5th being substantial to districts and it's an elective district can move forward with if they see fit.
- 16:45:30 Sen. Tempel seconded that motion.

Vote

- 16:45:34 The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Pre-kindergarten follow-up from August

- 16:46:31 Mr. McCracken reviewed the Pre-kindergarten follow up as well as the "2019-2020 Education Interim Committee Preschool Wrap-up" handout. [\(Exhibit 9\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

- 16:55:15 Rep. Funk asked if the Board of Public Education had ever partnered with another agency other than OPI that worked with accreditation and standards.
- 16:57:25 Sen. Salomon asked about older students and moving forward from there with their education instead of just Pre-kindergarten.
- 16:59:49 Rep. Keogh asked about the STARS Preschool grants and those like it, and if the reason there wasn't a partnership directly with the Board of Public Education was because they weren't using education dollars.

Public comment

- 17:01:38 Kaitlyn Jensen, Executive Director at Zero to Five Montana
- 17:06:00 Christine Lux, Associate Professor at MSU
- 17:08:50 Grace Decker, Zero to Five Montana
- 17:14:32 Dana Lozier, Teacher in Frenchtown, MT

Questions and discussion from the committee

- 17:18:52 Sen. Salomon asked about community partnerships and if that could be expounded upon as to what that meant and how that would work.
- 17:20:26 Rep. Keogh stated the committee could not lose sight of the need for Pre-K, thanked the staff, public and departments for their work on this study.
- 17:27:15 Rep. Grubbs agreed with Rep. Keogh and supported either bill that the committee would support.
- 17:28:57 Sen. Salomon stated he liked PD 18 better and stated the committee needed to pursue looking at other ways this could be funded.
- 17:31:26 Rep. Vinton stated because of the pandemic we would be facing financial deficits and the committee needed to look at the reality of the economic situation.
- 17:32:43 Rep. Funk stated this bill would be the only one she would support but stated concern in bringing something forward that the committee knows would not pass.
- 17:34:39 Sen. Boland stated this bill was one the committee should try hard to get moving forward.
- 17:36:01 Sen. Salomon suggested putting all bills related to Pre-K in order and members could make choices from there in moving forward for one bill.
- 17:37:17 Rep. Woods concurred with Sen. Salomon's statement in reviewing all related Pre-K bills.

Motion

- 17:40:02 Rep. Keogh's made a motion to move PD 09 forward as a committee bill.

Vote

17:40:22 The motion to move PD 09 forward as a committee bill failed 4-5 on a roll call vote with Sen. McClafferty excused with no proxy. ([Attachment 3](#))

Motion

17:42:29 Chair Anderson made a motion to move PD 18 forward as a committee bill.

Vote

17:42:31 The motion to move forward PD 18 as a committee bill failed 2-7 on a roll call vote with Sen. McClafferty excused with no proxy. ([Attachment 4](#))

Montana Digital Academy update

17:44:37 Robert Currie, Director at the MTDA, gave an overview of the digital academy's role would be throughout the rest of the year and reviewed the "MTDA Fall ENR" handout. ([Exhibit 10](#))

Questions and discussion from the committee

17:59:27 Rep. Funk asked about flat funding and stated the committee would work hard to get his department that and asked about increasing their funding.

18:03:16 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. Currie about possible opportunities to partner with online learning and or other collaborations in the future due to COVID.

18:07:08 Sen. Tempel asked Mr. Currie and if he encouraged the schools to make sure students are enrolling in a school for the ANB?

Public comment

18:08:56 none

Recess

18:09:38 Chair Anderson called the Education Interim Committee to recess until 3pm September 15th, 2020.