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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 15, 2020 (day two of meeting)

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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Reconvened

15:01:56 Chair Anderson reconvened the Education Interim Committee at 3:01pm.

Statutory reports to the committee

15:04:48 Sharyl Allen, OPI, began her At-Risk Student report (20-9-328) handout. (**Exhibit 11**)

Questions and discussion from the committee

15:12:01 Rep. Keogh asked Ms. Allen how the committee knows what the money is being used for specifically. Rep. Keogh asked if there was a report districts generate saying certain funds were allotted to certain areas.

15:14:16 Rep. Funk asked if every school got the same amount per student, if it was different depending on the age/grade of the student, and if she knew that amount allotted per student. Rep. Funk asked Ms. Allen if there was a difference in funding allotted for Elementary school and High school students.

Statutory reports to the committee, continued

15:15:45 Lona Running Wolf, OPI, began her presentation on the American Indian Achievement report (20-9-330) handout. [\(Exhibit 12\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

15:31:51 Rep. Vinton asked Ms. Running Wolf about the graduation and dropout rates both decreasing.

15:32:55 Rep. Funk asked Ms. Allen about the graduation rates in her report versus the rates in the at-risk report.

15:34:57 Rep. Keogh asked why the graduation rates from 2020 wasn't included in the report.

15:35:03 Rep. Woods asked Ms. Running Wolf if she saw a correlation between the achievement gap and poverty. Rep. Woods asked Ms. Running Wolf what she saw the most effective action the legislative body could take to address the problem of achievement gap.

15:39:52 Sen. Tempel asked Ms. Running Wolf about intergenerational trauma and if she had a description of what those were that could be sent out to the committee.

Statutory reports to the committee, continued

15:43:20 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen addressed the committee and stated she would be available for questions.

15:44:33 Tim Johnson, OPI, began his presentation on the Gifted and Talented report 20-7-94). [\(Exhibit 13\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

15:47:43 Rep. Keogh asked Mr. Johnson if he had other information regarding how other districts were using the funds.

15:48:56 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. Johnson if there was enough money in gifted and talented to make it worthwhile.

Statutory reports to the committee, continued

15:51:22 Tim Johnson continued his presentation on the County Interdisciplinary Safety Teams report (52-2-211). [\(Exhibit 14\)](#)

15:52:28 Sen. McClafferty joined the meeting.

15:52:31 Pete Donovan (BPE) and Colet Bartow, (OPI) began their presentations on the Dyslexia report (20-7-469). [\(Exhibit 15\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

16:02:10 Rep. Funk asked Ms. Bartow if there was widespread testing or was it through the professional development that teachers would recognize a problem and then do testing from there.

Statutory reports to the committee, continued

16:05:32 Mr. Donovan and Ms. Allen began their presentations on the Transformational Learning report (20-7-1602). [\(Exhibit 16\)](#)

16:11:03 Mr. Donovan and Ms. Allen began their presentations on the Advanced Opportunities report (20-7-1506). [\(Exhibit 17\)](#)

- 16:15:46 Brig. General (Ret) Hal Stearns and Mr. Johnson began their presentations on the Educational Opportunity for Military Children report (20-1-231). [\(Exhibit 18\)](#)
- 19:33:42 Shawn Graham, TRS, began his presentation on the Retired Teacher Reemployment report (19-20-732). [\(Exhibit 19\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

- 16:38:52 Rep. Woods asked Mr. Graham if someone who was retired under PERS be eligible to work as a teacher under this legislation.
- 16:39:50 Rep. Funk asked Mr. Graham if the bill had an impact on what funds were getting in to support retirees and those in which they are now having to give out.

Public comment

- 16:43:00 Tammie Perreault, Department of Defense
- 16:45:08 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Agate – Gifted and Talented

Stage heritage properties status and stewardship report

- 16:49:58 Pete Brown (State Historic Preservation Officer,) Marcella Walter (State Preservation Review Board Chair), and Denise King (MHS) began their presentations on the Montana's Shared Heritage report (22-3-423). [\(Exhibit 20\)](#)

Early enrollment of military children bill draft

- 17:04:25 Mr. McCracken began his review of the bill draft PD 0022 "A act revising laws related to school admission; requiring trustees to allow children of military families that are relocating to Montana...." handout. [\(Exhibit 21\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

- 17:06:25 Rep. Funk asked Mr. McCracken if students accepted to state colleges still got the state tuition even if their parents were transferred out.
- 17:07:51 Chair Anderson asked the committee if there was anyone willing to be a sponsor on bill draft PD 0022.
- 17:08:03 Rep. Vinton offered to put in bill draft PD 0022 and stated she would be open to visiting with a freshman legislator when the time came.

Motion

- 17:09:18 Sen. McClafferty made a motion to adopt bill draft PD 0022 as a bill.
- 17:09:27 Sen. Salomon seconded the motion.

Vote

- 17:09:27 The motion to adopt bill draft PD 0022 passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Eliminating Reduced Price (ERP) For School Lunch and Breakfast bill draft

- 17:10:38 Mr. Johnson (OPI) and Linda Cleatus (Montana No Kid Hungry) began their review of the bill draft PD 0020 "An act establishing a state program to provide replacement funding for school districts that eliminate reduced-price copayments...", and "No Kid Hungry" handouts. [\(Exhibit 22\)](#) [\(Exhibit 23\)](#)

Questions and discussion from the committee

- 17:12:03 Rep. Woods asked Ms. Cleatus to explain why a legislator would vote "no" for bill draft PD 0020. Rep. Woods asked Ms. Cleatus to explain the mechanics of the bill and how it would increase access to nutrition to students who need it.

17:15:33 Sen. Salomon stated passing this bill would free someone up to work in the lunch system and most would be paid for by the federal government.
17:17:03 Sen. Vinton stated the cost was not insignificant and that it would be a challenge to move this bill forward during the next session.

Public comment

17:18:03 Marco Ferro, MFPE
17:19:13 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana
17:22:08 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association

Motion

17:23:56 Sen. McClafferty made a motion to adopt bill draft PD 0020 as a bill.
17:24:13 Sen. Salomon seconded the motion.

Questions and discussion from the committee

17:24:42 Rep. Funk suggested Sen. Salomon carry bill draft PD 0020.

Vote

17:25:11 The motion to adopt bill draft PD 0020 passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Questions and discussion from the committee

17:25:34 Rep. Vinton called a point of order as Sen. Tempel voted no on the previous motion.

Vote

17:25:49 The motion to adopt bill draft PD 0020 passed on a voice vote, with Sen. Tempel voting no.

HJ 56 Study of Bullying and Student Well-Being

17:29:52 Mr. McCracken began his review of the "HJ 56 Study of Bullying and Student Well-Being" handout. [\(Exhibit 24\)](#)

Motion

17:28:21 Rep. Vinton made a motion to adopt the HJ 56 committee report.
17:28:34 Sen. McClafferty seconded the motion.

Vote

17:28:54 The motion to adopt HJ 56 as a committee report passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Wrap-up; committee bill sponsor assignments; adjourn

17:29:52 Mr. McCracken reviewed the bill draft assignments to the committee.

Motion

17:32:21 Chair Anderson moved forward with the bill draft assignments without objection.

ADJOURNMENT

17:35:42 Chair Anderson adjourned the Education Interim Committee meeting at 5:35pm.