

RECONVENED

08:34:57 Madam chair McClafferty reconvened the Education Interim Committee to order. The committee secretary took the roll.

HJ 47 study of educational programs for the incarcerated

08:35:51 Brian Gootkin, Department of Corrections Director, began his presentation.
08:37:30 Cynthia Wolken, Deputy Director of the Montana Department of Corrections, presented.
08:40:22 Mr. McCracken referenced the “Montana Department of Corrections”, the “Public Comments for the Education Interim Committee”, the “2021 Facts about Montana education”, and the “Montana Department of Corrections Education Facts” handouts. [\(Exhibit 12\)](#) [\(Exhibit 13\)](#) [\(Exhibit 14\)](#) [\(Exhibit 15\)](#)
08:40:58 Gayle Butler, Division Administrator for the Montana Correctional Enterprise Division of the Montana Department of Corrections, began her overview of the “Montana Correctional Enterprises” presentation. [\(Exhibit 16\)](#)
08:46:25 Marisa Britton- Bostwick, Education Director at the Montana Department of Corrections, continued the presentation.
09:06:49 Ms. Butler continued the presentation.

Public comment

09:28:07 None

Questions from the committee

09:28:31 Rep. Anderson asked about programs that have disappeared from the Pine Hills facility.
09:29:53 Rep. Reksten asked about drug addiction and what the success rate was to keep felons from going back to that lifestyle.
09:33:19 Rep. Novak asked Ms. Butler about losing the Dairy Gold contract, the status of that, about the special education teachers have 16 IEP’s on their caseload, is that between the two facilities, and how does the child find obligation get met.
09:39:48 Madam chair McClafferty asked about the programs available at the private prison.
09:41:30 Rep. Anderson asked if those programs would include regional prisons like Great Falls, Montana.
09:42:23 Sen. Tempel asked about the special ed co-ops, how they work with them regarding funding, and does the funding cross anymore like it did before.
09:43:35 Rep. Reksten asked Ms. Butler if they needed more credentialed teachers and asked what further needs they had.
09:48:37 Rep Funk asked about finding housing and incentivizing programs.
09:51:52 Sen. O’Brien asked Dir. Wolken about the 1:181 ratio, how long is verification typically, do they all go into an education track, is there any formal education going on during the time it’s taking to track everything down and what is the average class size.
10:00:33 Sen. Tempel asked about a high set and whether they must pass that or not.

BREAK

10:07:27 Reconvened at 10:22:45

School health benefits panel

10:23:31 Andrew Holmund, MSSF/MUST, presented.

10:31:56 Connie Welsh, former Director of State of Montana and MUS health plans, presented.
10:40:15 Lance Melton, MTSBA, presented.
10:53:00 Diane Fladmo, MFPE, presented.

Public comment

11:04:00 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association

Questions from the committee

11:18:15 Sen. O'Brien asked Ms. Welsh if it would be a good route to look at the 2019 LC proposed.
11:22:55 Rep. Reksten asked how much does union negotiation play in this healthcare piece and how to unionize.

Montana Heritage Center update

11:32:33 Molly Kruckenberg, Director of the Montana Historical Society, began her overview of the Heritage Center presentation. [\(Exhibit 17\)](#)

Questions from the committee

11:38:38 Rep. Funk asked Dir. Kruckenberg if the skull sculpture was going to be anywhere on the premises.
11:39:13 Sen. Tempel asked Dir. Kruckenberg what the gift shop brings in annually.

Public Comment*on any other topic within the committee's jurisdiction

11:40:52 None

Work plan updates and November Missoula meeting discussion/planning

11:41:07 Mr. McCracken and committee discussed the work plan handout. [\(Exhibit 18\)](#)

ADJOURNMENT

11:58:44 Madam chair McClafferty adjourned the Education Interim Committee at 11:58 A.M.