



## EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE 67th Montana Legislature

### SENATE MEMBERS

Edith (Edie) McClafferty  
Shannon O'Brien  
Daniel Salomon  
Russel (Russ) Tempel

### HOUSE MEMBERS

Fred Anderson  
Moffie Funk  
Ed Hill  
Sara Novak  
Linda Reksten  
Tyson Running Wolf

### COMMITTEE STAFF

Pad McCracken - Research Analyst  
Bethany McDowell - Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip - Attorney

# MINUTES LOG

June 06, 2022

Capitol Room 317/Zoom

Helena, Montana

Joint meeting with EIBC, OPI, BOR, BPE, MTSBA, and the Governor's Office

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:**

Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Chair (D)  
Rep. Fred Anderson, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)  
Rep. Ed Hill (R)  
Rep. Sara Novak (D)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Pad McCracken, Research  
Analyst

Bethany McDowell, Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney

**AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**

**VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))**

**PARTICIPANT LIST ([Attachment 3](#))**

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

**JOINT MEETING WITH EIBC, OPI, BPE, BOR, MTSBA, AND THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

08:02:25 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty-D called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

**OPENING REMARKS**

08:04:58 Rep. Bedey

08:05:41 Sen. McClafferty

08:06:25 Rep. Bedey

**CASE FOR CHANGE - Jason Dougal, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) and Michelle Exstrom, National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)**

08:09:02 Mr. Dougal ([Exhibit 1](#))

08:29:35 Individual conversations on Mr. Dougal's presentation.

**Committee Discussion on the "Case for Change" posed by Mr. Dougal**

08:51:25 Scott Walter, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA) President Elect/East Helena Trustee, commented on the education system's response rate to problems.

08:52:55 Madalyn Quinlan, Vice Chair for Board of Public Education (BPE), commented on hi-tech education in Montana.

08:55:02 Rep. Windy Boy commented on the challenge of recruiting and retaining teachers on the reservations.

**OPENING REMARKS FROM GOVERNOR GIANFORTE**

08:58:53 Governor Gianforte

09:10:32 Mr. Dougal continued his presentation on the case for change. (See exhibit 1)

**Committee Questions for Mr. Dougal**

09:27:48 Deputy Superintendent Sharyl Allen, OPI, asked about outcome data in addition to testing data.

09:40:49 Jane Lee Hamman, BPE, asked about classroom sizes.

09:41:23 Tim Tharp, BPE, asked about the impact of special education in the United States compared to other countries.

09:49:01 Rep. Funk asked Mr. Dougal about implementing the ideas within his presentation.  
09:52:26 Lance Melton, MTSBA, asked Mr. Dougal about related costs to classroom sizes.

**OPENING REMARKS FROM SUPERINTENDENT ELSIE ARNTZEN**

10:03:08 Supt. Arntzen

**PERSPECTIVE ON CURRENT INITIATIVES**

**Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent**

10:06:58 Ms. Allen ([Exhibit 2](#))

**Board of Public Education (BPE), McCall Flynn, Director**

10:17:14 Ms. Flynn

**Montana School Board Association (MTSBA) – Lance Melton, Executive Director**

10:25:16 Mr. Melton ([Exhibit 3](#))

**Board of Regents (BOR)/Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) – Clayton Christian, Commissioner**

10:40:52 Mr. Christian

**Governor's Office**

10:52:34 Governor's Office, Dylan Klapmeier, Education and Workforce Development Policy Advisor

10:59:07 Sarah Swanson, Director of Strategic Engagement at the Department of Labor and Industry

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES THAT EXIST FOR GOVERNANCE OF MONTANA'S K-12 SYSTEM – Rep. Jones and Sen. O'Brien**

11:16:46 Sen. O'Brien ([Exhibit 4](#))

11:23:58 Rep. Novak

11:30:40 Sen. O'Brien

11:31:20 Rep. Jones (See exhibit 4)

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

11:54:01 Rep. Funk stated that diverse opinions need to be addressed during the small group discussions.

**LUNCH**

11:56:25 Rep. Bedey reconvened the meeting at 12:35:42.

**DEVELOPMENT OF SHARED STRATEGIC GOALS AND STRATEGIES - Jason Dougal and Michelle Exstrom**

12:38:40 Mr. Dougal ([Exhibit 5](#))

**RECESS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

12:43:21 Reconvened at 12:53:07.

**Committee Discussion on the question, "Is there a case for change?"**

12:54:47 The small groups responded.

13:02:40 Mr. Dougal presented the second question to the members, which asked, "What do we want Montana students to know and be able to do?"

**RECESS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

13:06:19 13:06:19 Reconvene at

**Committee Discussion on the question, "What do we want Montana Students to know and able to do?"**

13:31:26 Mr. Dougal asked Ms. Allen to restate a comment that she made during the small group discussion.

13:31:56 Ms. Allen stated that there is a need for a common goal or purpose.

13:33:50 Ms. Allen stated that she wants students to know their sense of purpose.

13:34:05 Rep. Jones stated that his group wants students to acquire base skills.

13:34:36 Rep. Bedey stated that his group wants graduates to be able to go to college without remediation and go to work out of high school with earned credentials.

13:35:27 Sen. O'Brien stated that her group discussed the foundations of learning and named those foundational skills.

13:36:45 Rep. Reksten stated that her group discussed early exposure to careers and learning skills related to certain jobs.

13:37:49 Tammy Lacey, BPE, stated that her group discussed student aptitudes and areas of interests.

13:38:41 Jeff Southworth, BOR, commented on the impact of having students understand their aptitudes at an early age.

13:39:45 Tim Tharp, BPE, stated that he wanted students to know that there are successful options for career opportunities other than acquiring 4-year degrees.

13:40:28 Rep. Windy Boy commented on students knowing about the cultural heritage of the first Americans.

13:42:03 Mr. Dougal commented on understanding another culture and its value as a transferable skill.

13:42:55 Sen. O'Brien stated that her group discussed senior bios that share what it means to be a Montanan and asked Rep. Running Wolf to share his thoughts on the discussion.

13:43:24 Rep. Running Wolf stated his thoughts on the importance of teaching tribal values and culture.

13:45:59 Rep. Jones stated that his group discussed the importance of high-performance in academic areas as well as career and technical areas.

13:48:29 Ms. Swanson stated that her group discussed the difference in tools that are provided to the professional community versus on what is provided to students deciding on a career.

13:49:51 Renee Rasmussen, BPE, commented on the MCIS tool that is available to students to help them decide on a career.

13:50:38 Rep. Keogh stated that she wants high school graduates to understand flexibility and the ability to accept uncertainties.

13:54:12 Mr. Dougal restated the main points of the discussion.

- 13:54:37 Ms. Allen stated that she wants students to know how to be compassionate and kind.
- 13:55:21 Sen. O'Brien stated that she wants students to understand their role in democracy and the community. She also stated that she wants students to know morality and ethics.
- 13:55:49 Luke Muszkiewicz, MTSBA, stated that his group wanted students to learn work ethics.
- 13:57:00 Susie Hedalen, BPE, stated that she wants students to be able to nurture strong relationships with adults in order to gain confidence in asking for help.
- 13:58:15 Sen. Morigeau stated that input from students is also crucial to the discussion.
- 13:59:17 Mr. Melton asked to put emphasis on work ethic as a teachable skill.
- 14:01:31 Mr. Dougal presented the next question to the committee, which asked, "What will the education system need to do/look like in order to produce the type of students described in the previous question?"

### **RECESS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

14:03:59 Reconvened at 14:31:30

### **Committee Discussion on the question, "What will the education system need to do/look like in order to produce the types of students described in the previous question?"**

- 14:31:31 Mr. Dougal asked Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI, to restate some of her comments that she made during the small group discussion.
- 14:32:26 Dr. Murgel stated that schools need to use technology that provides immediate feedback. She also commented on training educators to produce desirable changes.
- 14:36:58 Rep. Windy Boy stated that a primary focus should be on the teachers and individuals that are directly affected.
- 14:40:14 Rep. Bedey stated that his group wants CTE and college preparation courses offered at all schools across the state.
- 14:41:14 Rep. Jones stated that his group discussed the necessity of a proficiency-based system. He commented on uniformity in CTE programs across the state.
- 14:45:59 Rep. Novak stated that her group discussed personalized learning for every student. She commented on Maslow's Hierarchy of Learning.
- 14:48:03 Ms. Swanson stated that it is necessary to address how schools assess student proficiency.
- 14:49:49 Mr. Dougal responded to Ms. Swanson's comment.
- 14:50:05 Mr. Tharp stated the challenges with getting acceptance for different proficiency assessments. He commented on balancing improvements with the current system.
- 14:51:37 Rep. Keogh stated that a system is needed that aligns preparations for all K-12 programs, that is accessible to all, and that encourages students to become ready to learn.
- 14:52:32 Rep. Jones stated that it is necessary to address education for students in the bottom academic quartile.
- 14:54:39 Rep. Funk stated that her group discussed the education system for educators and how to teach those educators how to advocate for themselves.

- 14:56:55 Rep. Bedey stated that the system must acknowledge any change they wish to implement.
- 14:58:15 Ms. Lacey stated that her group discussed relevant assessments for proficiency levels. She stated that schools need to become more digitally prepared. She continued by stating that a plethora of programming needs to be accessible to students in order for them to better explore their interests.
- 15:01:14 Rep. Windy Boy stated that schools need to provide additional support that is indirectly related to academia.
- 15:03:48 Mr. Melton commented on MCA 20-9-309 and the necessary work associated with additional legislation that may be presented.
- 15:07:14 Supt. Arntzen commented on honoring local control.
- 15:08:53 Mr. Dougal asked the meeting members about the way that teachers work.
- 15:09:35 Rep. Bedey commented on revitalizing the teaching profession and providing career progression opportunities.
- 15:12:49 Rep. Reksten stated that immediate action can include transferring teachers across classrooms in order to align standards and curriculums.
- 15:15:49 Rep. Funk commented on Personal Learning Centers (PLC).
- 15:17:30 Mr. Melton commented on ways for teachers to exercise classroom autonomy.
- 15:21:00 Mr. Dougal commented on mentor teacher programs.
- 15:23:22 Ms. Rasmussen commented on educational leaders being included in the implementation process and learning about changes to be made.
- 15:25:29 Rep. Bedey stated that school administrators, teachers, and leaders should be included in the change and implementation process.
- 15:27:25 Mr. Dougal presented the next question to the committee, which asked, "Given the flexibility in Montana today, what are the biggest challenges to establishing a system that does what is described in the previous question?"

### **RECESS FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

15:27:40 Reconvened at 15:38:30

### **Committee Discussion on the question, "Given the flexibility in Montana today, what are the biggest challenges to establishing a system that does what is described in the previous question?"**

- 15:38:31 Tammy Lacey, BPE, stated that trust on a local level is a potential challenge. She also stated that change is a challenge for people who are not experiencing crisis.
- 15:40:30 Rep. Jones stated that it is necessary for educational leaders and key players to recognize an immediate need for change.
- 15:44:36 Mr. Melton described an article from Harvard Business Review that explained failures in attempts to implement change.
- 15:48:03 Ms. Swanson stated the biggest challenges that were discussed in her group, which included managing competition from implementation, teacher retention, and industry buy-in.
- 15:49:35 Rep. Windy Boy stated that his group discussed rulemaking as a challenge. He also stated the local challenges in dealing with drugs and alcohol.
- 15:51:35 Ms. Rasmussen stated that pulling a large number of communities together is a challenge.

- 15:52:10 Mr. Muszkiewicz referred back to Mr. Melton's handout and commented on showcasing successful changes in districts. (see exhibit 3)
- 15:54:10 Rep. Bedey stated that the Case for Change has to be clearly described by an appointed spokesperson.
- 15:56:18 Rep. Jones stated that a simple message for the Case for Change must be presented.
- 15:59:06 Supt. Arntzen commented on the challenge of measuring accreditation status and school quality.
- 16:00:40 Rep. Windy Boy commented on the challenge of eliminating silo funding.
- 16:01:02 The meeting members shared additional challenges in implementing change in Montana schools.

**THE PATH FORWARD – Rep. Bedey**

- 16:03:41 Rep. Bedey restated some of the priority goals for the committee to work on, based on their previous discussions.

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

- 16:16:44 Rep. Funk commented on the importance of timing for implementing change and including community input.
- 16:18:21 Mr. Tharp commented on delegating work to different groups in order to facilitate change.
- 16:20:49 Rep. Windy Boy commented on moving forward with the changes that have been discussed.
- 16:21:43 Rep. Jones commented on some of the previous discussions, which included student outcomes, education standards, and implementation of change.
- 16:28:29 Rep. Bedey asked to reconvene the group in September.
- 16:29:04 Rep. Funk asked Rep. Bedey to clarify homework for the group for their potential meeting in September.
- 16:31:54 Rep. Running Wolf commented on tribal education on the reservations.

**Public Comment on any topic within EDIC/EIBC jurisdiction**

- 16:34:23 Written public comment presented to the committee. ([Exhibit 6](#))
- 16:34:35 Amanda Curtis, MFPE
- 16:37:40 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana
- 16:45:35 Sherry Sprigg, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Helena ([Exhibit 7](#))
- 16:50:55 Trish Schreiber, Pale County
- 16:56:01 Christine Lux, Montana Preschool Alliance and Montana Early Childhood Higher Education, Bozeman
- 17:01:41 John Rouse, Potomac School District 11, Missoula
- 17:08:06 Bob Story, Self, Park City
- 17:14:37 Henry Kriegel, AFP, Helena

**ADJOURNMENT**

- 17:18:12 Rep. Bedey adjourned the meeting at 17:18:12 (5:18pm).