MINUTES LOG
May 18, 2022
MSU Northern - Havre, MT
Helena, Montana

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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)
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:
Pad McCracken, Research Analyst
Bethany McDowell, Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney
CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:12:28 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty-D called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

OPENING REMARKS

13:14:04 Pad McCracken, Research Analyst for the Education Interim Committee, reviewed the agenda and the work session memo. (Exhibit 1)

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION on the tours and events of the week

13:18:22 Sen. Tempel
13:21:32 Mr. McCracken commented on the partnerships between MSU Northern and industry companies.
13:22:54 Rep. Funk commented on the efforts that have been made to build personal relationships between students and industry workers.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW – Staff Attorney for EDIC, Laura Sankey Keip

13:23:57 Ms. Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney for the Education Interim Committee, updated the committee on Administrative Rule as well as the IEFA litigation. (Exhibit 2)

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:27:59 Sen. Salomon asked Ms. Sankey Keip about the proposed rule from the Superintendent in the Administrative Rule Review. (See exhibit 2)
13:33:30 Ms. Sankey Keip described the difference between two bills.
13:36:02 Rep. Reksten commented on her constituents' concerns surrounding increased regulations.
13:37:22 Ms. Sankey Keip clarified the difference between the bills previously mentioned.
PUBLIC COMMENT on any topic within EDIC’s jurisdiction
13:44:34 None

WORK SESSION
13:44:48 Mr. McCracken reviewed the work session memo and the remaining interim work plan. (See exhibit 1; Exhibit 3)

13:48:34 Sen. Salomon asked to discuss with the parole board regarding HJ 47.
13:49:10 Rep. Reksten asked about individuals in prisons and how the committee could help reduce recidivism.
13:54:46 Sen. McClafferty restated the points of the discussion so far.
13:58:00 Sen. McClafferty asked to work on expanding increased opportunities for education and training at the Montana Women's Prison.

13:58:44 Mr. McCracken discussed the next item on the work session. (See exhibit 1)
14:04:17 Sen. Salomon commented on K-12 employee health benefits and asked the committee to work on looking at all the options and address issues.
14:05:24 Rep. Reksten asked the committee to consider a cost-analysis for health care for educators.
14:06:59 Rep. Funk asked the committee to bring a bill forward to address educator health care benefits.
14:08:49 Sen. McClafferty asked the committee to discuss further before attempting to draft a bill.
14:16:00 Sen. Salomon asked the committee to evaluate cost effectiveness for state health care benefits for educators.
14:17:45 Rep. Reksten commented on cost sharing between the state and the districts.
14:19:29 Rep. Funk asked about the number of schools required to join state health care.
14:21:26 Sen. Tempel commented on county competition with the health care market.
14:23:27 Sen. McClafferty asked for comment on the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (QELAP).
Mr. McCracken presented a memo on schools operating outside school districts that was given to the committee in January. *(Exhibit 4)*

Rep. Novak asked Mr. McCracken about grandfather clauses ruling against any suggested prohibition.

Sen. Salomon asked Mr. McCracken about tuition for schools that operate outside of their districts.

Sen. Tempel commented on school districts and asked the committee about solving the issues. *(See exhibit 4)*

Sen. McClafferty asked Sen. Tempel about a proposed bill that addressed the situation.

Rep. Novak asked if the committee needs to act quickly with the Board of Public Education.

Ms. Sankey Keip described the process of working with the Board of Public Education.

Mr. McCracken discussed the next item on the work session. *(See exhibit 1)*

Rep. Reksten commented on truancy and compulsory attendance laws.

Rep. Funk asked for a truancy study bill.

Sen. McClafferty commented on a truancy draft bill.

Sen. Tempel commented on fines for student enrollment.

Rep. Funk commented on schools' attempts to reinforce attendance.

Sen. Salomon described the reasons behind truancy and the issues related to it.

Rep. Anderson commented on enforcement efforts on compulsory education laws.

Rep. Reksten commented on compulsory attendance solutions.


Mr. McCracken discussed the next item on the work session. *(See exhibit 1)*

Sen. Salomon asked Mr. McCracken about exceptional circumstances for enrolled students.


Sen. O'Brien commented on educational preparation for young children.

Rep. Funk asked about nineteen-year-old students' ability to attend school.

Sen. O'Brien described the challenges in switching curriculums when students are not ready.

Rep. Reksten commented on Title I funds.

Mr. McCracken presented a graphic on skill progression and transformational learning. *(Exhibit 5)*

Rep. Anderson commented on the different focuses between time and achievement.


Rep. Funk asked the committee for additional information on transformational learning for their next meeting in June.

Rep. Reksten commented on identifying transformational learning and drafting legislation that addresses the topic.

Sen. McClafferty stated that the committee would like to see a draft for legislation on transformational learning after the committee's June meeting.

Recess
Recess until tomorrow's joint meeting with the regents.

RECESS
15:28:16 Sen. McClafferty recessed the meeting.