



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

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

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

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

13:13:39 Sen. McClafferty

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

13:17:35 Rep. Novak

13:18:22 Sen. Tempel

13:18:38 Rep. Anderson

13:19:10 Rep. Novak

13:19:58 Sen. O'Brien

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)

13:30:30 Rep. Funk asked about a bill that Sen. Salomon proposed.

13:31:48 Sen. Salomon described the proposed bill.

13:32:51 Rep. Anderson commented on residential treatment impacts on student graduation.

13:33:30 Ms. Sankey Keip described the difference between two bills.

13:34:41 Sen. McClafferty asked Ms. Sankey Keip for clarification.

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.

13:39:49 Rep. Reksten asked Ms. Sankey Keip about the HiSET.

13:40:58 Rep. Novak commented on the rules in SB 18 and asked Ms. Sankey Keip about potential problems for students caused by those rules.

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.

13:51:27 Rep. Funk responded to Rep. Reksten's question.

13:53:06 Rep. Anderson commented on transition programs for individuals getting out of prison.

13:54:46 Sen. McClafferty restated the points of the discussion so far.

13:55:04 Sen. O'Brien commented on individuals' testing scores.

13:56:50 Rep. Hill commented on transformational learning and asked to continue working on the school choice overview.

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.

14:09:42 Sen. O'Brien commented on employee salaries.

14:13:17 Rep. Novak commented on costs for the school districts.

14:14:58 Rep. Anderson commented on the relationship between a potential health plan and property taxes.

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.

14:22:20 Sen. O'Brien commented on a solution for attracting and retaining teachers.

14:23:27 Sen. McClafferty asked for comment on the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program (QELAP).

14:24:42 Sen. O'Brien commented on making funds available to students.

14:24:49 Rep. Reksten asked about colleges giving money for educator health care benefits.

14:25:59 Rep. Funk commented on loan forgiveness for students going into teaching.

14:26:36 Mr. McCracken presented a memo on schools operating outside school districts that was given to the committee in January. ([Exhibit 4](#))

14:29:34 Rep. Novak asked Mr. McCracken about grandfather clauses ruling against any suggested prohibition.

14:31:27 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. McCracken about tuition for schools that operate outside of their districts.

14:33:32 Sen. Tempel commented on school districts and asked the committee about solving the issues. (See exhibit 4)

14:37:39 Sen. McClafferty asked Sen. Tempel about a proposed bill that addressed the situation.

14:38:53 Rep. Novak asked if the committee needs to act quickly with the Board of Public Education.

14:40:41 Ms. Sankey Keip described the process of working with the Board of Public Education.

14:42:27 Mr. McCracken discussed the next item on the work session. (See exhibit 1)

14:45:12 Rep. Reksten commented on truancy and compulsory attendance laws.

14:45:49 Rep. Funk asked for a truancy study bill.

14:47:00 Sen. McClafferty commented on a truancy draft bill.

14:47:41 Sen. Tempel commented on fines for student enrollment.

14:48:30 Rep. Funk commented on schools' attempts to reinforce attendance.

14:49:20 Sen. Salomon described the reasons behind truancy and the issues related to it.

14:51:04 Rep. Anderson commented on enforcement efforts on compulsory education laws.

14:52:13 Rep. Reksten commented on compulsory attendance solutions.

14:53:50 Rep. Novak commented on mental health needs for school-aged children.

14:55:28 Mr. McCracken discussed the next item on the work session. (See exhibit 1)

14:56:35 Sen. Salomon asked Mr. McCracken about exceptional circumstances for enrolled students.

14:58:00 Rep. Novak commented on kids in early education exceptional circumstances.

14:59:02 Sen. O'Brien commented on educational preparation for young children.

15:00:42 Rep. Funk asked about nineteen-year-old students' ability to attend school.

15:02:52 Sen. O'Brien described the challenges in switching curriculums when students are not ready.

15:04:04 Rep. Reksten commented on Title I funds.

15:06:14 Mr. McCracken presented a graphic on skill progression and transformational learning. ([Exhibit 5](#))

15:10:24 Rep. Anderson commented on the different focuses between time and achievement.

15:16:26 Rep. Anderson commented on proficiency standards in schools.

15:17:40 Rep. Funk asked the committee for additional information on transformational learning for their next meeting in June.

15:19:26 Rep. Reksten commented on identifying transformational learning and drafting legislation that addresses the topic.

15:25:21 Sen. McClafferty stated that the committee would like to see a draft for legislation on transformational learning after the committee's June meeting.

15:26:19 Rep. Funk asked about the timeline for transformational learning.

15:26:30 Rep. Funk asked about legislation eliminating reduced copay for meals in schools.

Recess

Recess until tomorrow's joint meeting with the regents.

RECESS

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