



EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE 68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Daniel Emrich
John Fuller
Edith (Edie) McClafferty
Daniel Salomon

HOUSE MEMBERS

Linda Reksten
Melissa Romano
Kerri Seekins-Crowe
Sue Vinton

COMMITTEE STAFF

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

MINUTES LOG

January 10, 2024
Room 317
Helena, Montana

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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Daniel Salomon, Chair (R)
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)
Sen. John Fuller (R)
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Pad McCracken, Research Analyst
LaVanda Jennings, Secretary
Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

JOINT MEETING WITH MARA

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

07:59:42 Presiding Officer Jones called the meeting to order at 7:59 AM. The committee secretary took roll. ([Attachment 3](#))

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS AND DUTIES

08:01:41 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, LSD
08:02:09 Lance FourStar joined the meeting.
08:06:23 Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney, LSD
08:06:37 Rep. Caffero joined the meeting.
08:12:51 Josh Poulette, LFD
[EXHIBIT1](#)
08:18:32 Nick Van Brown, LFD (See Exhibit 1)
08:22:24 Presiding Officer Jones
08:26:06 Sen. Esp
08:27:05 Presiding Officer Jones
08:27:52 Sen. Pope
08:28:46 Julia Pattin, LFD
08:30:53 Presiding Officer Jones

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

08:31:17 Ulcca Hansen, Chief Program Officer
[EXHIBIT2](#)
08:45:44 Rep. Mercer left the meeting.
08:45:45 Sen. Esp left the meeting.
09:16:16 Presiding Officer Jones
09:19:15 Virgel Hammonds, Chief Learning Officer
[EXHIBIT3](#)
09:27:56 Sen. Esp joined the meeting.
09:28:30 Rep. Seekins-Crowe left the meeting.
09:38:03 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.
09:38:11 Rep. Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.
09:38:55 Sen. Fuller left the meeting.
09:40:33 Presiding Officer Salomon left the meeting.
09:42:10 Sen. Emrich left the meeting.
09:45:00 Sen. Emrich joined the meeting.

Committee Questions/Discussion

09:51:02 Presiding Officer Jones to Virgel Hammonds
09:53:38 Sen. Fuller joined the meeting.
09:54:23 Kendall Cotton to Ulcca Hansen

10:00:08 Rep. Bedey
 10:06:54 Presiding Officer Jones
 10:07:05 Rep. Hamilton
 10:07:45 Presiding Officer Salomon joined the meeting.
 10:08:11 Rep. Seekins-Crowe left the meeting.
 10:11:02 Rep. Hamilton
 10:17:51 Sen. Pope
 10:21:29 Presiding Officer Jones
 10:26:21 Sen. Emrich
 10:35:26 Rep. Hamilton left the meeting.
 10:36:13 Presiding Officer Jones

REFLECTIONS ON VISIT TO BISHOP CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL

10:37:31 Presiding Officer Jones
 10:38:42 Julia Pattin, LFD
 10:39:10 Rep. Hamilton joined the meeting.
 10:40:53 Rep. Bedey
 10:46:33 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
 10:50:24 Presiding Officer Jones
 10:50:53 Rep. Reksten
 10:55:34 Rep. Romano
 10:57:17 Laura Sankey Keip
 10:58:01 Pad McCracken
 11:00:36 Presiding Officer Salomon
 11:01:49 Rep. Keogh
 11:05:11 Rep. Vinton
 11:06:10 Presiding Officer Jones
 11:10:24 Sen. Pope
 11:10:36 Presiding Officer Jones
 11:12:00 Sen. Fuller
 11:12:21 Rep. Mercer left the meeting.
 11:12:34 Presiding Officer Jones
 11:14:08 Heather O'Loughlin
 11:16:15 Presiding Officer Jones
 11:16:31 Ulcca Hansen
 11:16:42 Rep. Mercer joined the meeting.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION

11:20:52 Jason Neiffer, Montana Digital Academy, (MTDA)
[EXHIBIT4](#)
 11:50:00 Mike Agostinelli, MTDA (See Exhibit 4)
 12:00:43 Caitlin Byers, MTDA (See Exhibit 4)

12:11:02 Jason Neiffer
[EXHIBIT5](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

12:16:47 Presiding Officer Jones
12:17:36 Rep. Bedey
12:23:16 Kendall Cotton
12:25:28 Rep. Hamilton left the meeting.
12:27:31 Presiding Officer Jones
12:29:34 Sen. Fuller
12:27:23 Presiding Officer Jones
12:32:39 Rep. Mercer
12:33:45 Rep. Bedey
12:34:40 Presiding Officer Jones

RECESS

12:36:24 Reconvened at 13:01:22

FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS: USING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DATA TO BETTER SERVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

13:01:41 Pad McCracken
13:02:19 Paige Kowalski, Data Quality Campaign
[EXHIBIT6](#)
13:05:44 Baron Rodriguez, Data Integration Support Center, (DISC)
13:07:42 Sean Cottrell, DISC
13:19:50 Rep. Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting.
13:30:33 Sen. Fuller left the meeting
13:31:27 Sen. Emrich left the meeting.

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:37:30 Presiding Officer Jones
13:41:53 Sen. Emrich joined the meeting.

FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS: USING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DATA TO BETTER SERVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES- CONT'D

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:42:27 Rep. Reksten
13:42:37 Presiding Officer Jones

FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS: USING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DATA TO BETTER SERVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES-CONT'D

13:43:06 Baron Rodriguez (See Exhibit 6)
14:02:21 Sean Cottrell

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:30:17 Rep. Hamilton
14:39:28 Rep. Bedey

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14:41:35 Pad McCracken
14:46:26 Rep. Bedey
14:51:46 Presiding Officer Jones

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:56:10 Rep. Hamilton
15:00:00 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
15:00:01 Sen. Esp left the meeting.
15:01:06 Rep. Hamilton left the meeting.
15:06:40 Sen. Pope left the meeting.
15:13:20 Presiding Officer Jones left the meeting.

SCHOOL FUNDING: THE DECENNIAL STUDY AND DATA HAVES, WANTS, NEEDS

15:13:30 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT7](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

15:27:10 Rep. Hamilton

**SCHOOL FUNDING: THE DECENNIAL STUDY AND DATA HAVES, WANTS, NEEDS-
CONT'D**

15:28:33 Mike Griffith, Senior Policy Analyst, Learning Policy Institute
[EXHIBIT](#)
15:46:23 Julia Pattin
[EXHIBIT9](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

15:59:36 Rep. Hamilton
16:01:14 Rep. Bedey
16:01:21 Presiding Officer Jones
16:03:03 Rep. Bedey
16:04:33 Presiding Officer Jones
16:05:44 Rep. Bedey
16:06:43 Presiding Officer Jones
16:08:40 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
16:09:22 Presiding Officer Jones
16:11:45 Rep. Reksten
16:12:10 Presiding Officer Jones
16:14:42 Rep. Bedey
16:15:46 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
16:16:15 Rep. Vinton

16:17:02 Rep. Seekins-Crowe left the meeting.
16:18:14 Rep. Bedey
16:20:01 Rep. Vinton
16:20:35 Presiding Officer Jones
16:22:55 Rep. Bedey change time stamp
16:23:08 Presiding Officer Salomon
16:23:27 Presiding Officer Jones

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANYTHING WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

16:24:04 NONE

WORK SESSION

16:24:10 Amy Carlson, Director, LFD
[EXHIBIT10](#)
[EXHIBIT11](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:30:27 Rep. Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

16:33:59 Presiding Officer Salomon adjourned the meeting.