



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 09, 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.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

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

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

10:01:43 Presiding Officer Salomon called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

10:02:19 Presiding Officer Salomon

10:02:46 Pad McCracken, LSD

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW

10:04:09 Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney, LSD
[EXHIBIT1](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

10:07:17 Sen. Fuller

10:08:45 Rep. Reksten

10:10:04 Sen. Emrich joined the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE REVIEW- Cont'd

10:12:48 Laura Sankey Keip

10:14:21 Pad McCracken

MONTANA ARTS COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

10:16:06 Krys Holmes, Executive Director
[EXHIBIT2](#)
[EXHIBIT3](#)

RECESSED

10:36:42 Reconvened at 10:45:03

MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND (MSDB)

10:45:44 Paul Furthmyre, Superintendent

10:51:11 Avyia Kosine, Ambassador
[EXHIBIT4](#)

10:53:10 Amerra Portee, Ambassador

10:58:50 Paul Furthmyre

10:59:47 Sheri Devlin, Transition Coordinator

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:10:11 Rep. Reksten

MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND- Cont'd

11:10:36 Paul Furthmyre

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:34:14 Sen. Fuller to Paul Furthmyre

11:39:16 Rep. Reksten

11:40:39 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

Public Comment on MSDB

11:42:19 Eliza Kragh, Self

Committee Questions/Discussion

11:45:57 Rep. Reksten to Paul Furthmyre

11:47:13 Rep. Keogh

RECESS

11:49:08 Reconvened at 13:04:11

2023 EDUCATION LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Department of Revenue

13:04:48 Robert Finstad, CIO DOR

[EXHIBIT5](#)

13:06:17 Presiding Officer Salomon

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:17:05 Presiding Officer Salomon

13:18:54 Rep. Reksten

13:19:30 Redirected to Dona Losett

Office of Public Instruction

13:20:52 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, OPI

13:21:28 Paul Taylor, Senior Budget Analyst, OPI

13:21:30 Pad McCracken

[EXHIBIT6](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:26:32 Rep. Reksten to Paul Taylor

13:27:22 Presiding Officer Salomon

Office of Public Instruction- Cont'd

13:29:59 Jay Phillips

13:31:31 Paul Taylor

[EXHIBIT7](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:42:23 Sen. Fuller to Paul Taylor

13:44:04 Rep. Reksten

13:48:57 Presiding Officer Salomon

Office of Public Instruction- Cont'd

13:50:21 Jay Phillips (See Exhibit 6)

[EXHIBIT8](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

13:53:38 Sen. Fuller

13:54:06 Rep. Vinton

Office of Public Instruction- Cont'd

13:55:56 Jay Phillips

13:57:58 Christy Mock-Stutz, Assistant Supt, OPI

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:01:01 Rep. Reksten

14:04:27 Presiding Officer Salomon

14:04:39 Rep. Romano

14:05:47 Rep. Seekins-Crowe left the meeting.

Office of Public Instruction- Cont'd

14:06:22 Jay Phillips

14:06:33 Wendi Fawns, ESSER/EANS Director (See Exhibit 6)

Board of Public Education

14:14:40 McCall Flynn, Executive Director

[EXHIBIT9](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:21:55 Rep. Reksten

Board of Public Education- Cont'd

14:23:43 McCall Flynn

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:29:42 Rep. Vinton

School Administrators of Montana

14:30:40 Dr. Rob Watson, Executive Director

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:36:55 Sen. McClafferty

14:38:08 Presiding Officer Salomon

Public Comment on 2023 Education Legislation Implementation Updates

14:38:56 NONE

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

14:39:10 Pad McCracken

[EXHIBIT10](#)

[EXHIBIT11](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

14:50:06 Rep. Reksten

14:51:03 Sen. Fuller
14:54:17 Presiding Officer Salomon
14:54:37 Rep. Seekins-Crowe joined the meeting
14:54:49 Rep. Reksten
14:55:51 Sen. Emrich

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

14:57:52 Laura Sankey Keip (See Exhibit 11)

Committee Questions/Discussion

15:02:32 Sen. Tempel
15:05:06 Sen. Fuller
15:06:44 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
15:10:27 Presiding Officer Salomon
15:10:46 Rep. Reksten
15:12:29 Rep. Romano
15:13:31 Sen. Emrich

Public Comment on Teacher Recruitment and Retention

15:16:04 NONE

RECESS

15:16:36 Reconvened at 15:27:36

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

15:27:43 Pad McCracken
15:28:41 Anna Maier, Senior Policy Advisor, Learning Policy Institute
[EXHIBIT12](#)
15:45:17 Christa Rowland, Western Regional Deputy Director, Coalition for Community Schools
[EXHIBIT13](#)
15:59:39 Barbara Frank, Academic and Community Services Director, MCPS
[EXHIBIT14](#)
16:00:10 Rae Cooper, Principal, Lowell Elementary

Public Comment on Community Schools

16:07:23 NONE

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:07:39 Rep. Reksten
16:09:35 Rep. Vinton
16:13:47 Presiding Officer Salomon directed to Anna Maier or Christa Rowland

School Funding- Cont'd

16:20:10 Pad McCracken
16:21:49 Julia Pattin, LFD
[EXHIBIT15](#)

16:28:26 Sen. Fuller
16:28:51 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT16](#)
[EXHIBIT17](#)
[EXHIBIT18](#)
[EXHIBIT19](#)

Committee Questions/Discussion

16:51:53 Rep. Reksten
16:54:03 Presiding Officer Salomon
16:54:19 Sen. Fuller

Public Comment on Anything Within the Committee's Jurisdiction

16:56:09 NONE

Meeting Wrap Up

16:57:39 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT20](#)
17:00:25 Rep. Reksten
17:02:01 Rep. Seekins-Crowe
17:03:56 Rep. Romano
17:05:24 Rep. Vinton

ADJOURNMENT

17:06:00 Presiding Officer Salomon adjourned the meeting.