



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

March 12, 2024
Capitol 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. 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](#))

JOINT MEETING WITH INTERIM BUDGET COMMITTEE SECTION E- EDUCATION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:02:12 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM. The committee secretary took roll. ([Attachment 3](#))

LITIGATION UPDATE

08:03:36 Laura Sankey Keip

REVIEW STATUS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 2023 LEGISLATION

08:06:54 Presiding Officer David Bedey

House Bill 332 – School Health Trust Update

08:07:58 Vice Presiding Officer Edith (Edie) McClafferty

08:09:16 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon

Public Comment on House Bill 332

08:10:32 Rep. Eric Matthews, HD 66

08:11:10 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana, (SAM)

08:11:12 Rep. Llew Jones left the meeting.

House Bill 203 – "Open Enrollment" and House Bill 214 – Remote Learning/Offsite Instruction

08:12:01 Presiding Officer David Bedey

[EXHIBIT1](#)

08:12:57 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, LSD

[EXHIBIT2](#)

08:23:54 Shelley Turner, Executive Director, Montana Association of School Business Officials, (MASBO)

[EXHIBIT3](#)

[EXHIBIT4](#)

08:28:59 Presiding Officer David Bedey to Office of Public Instruction, (OPI)

08:29:17 Rob Stutz, Chief Legal Counsel and Deputy Superintendent, OPI

Committee Discussion/Questions

08:32:00 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon

08:33:04 Rep. Connie Keogh to Rob Stutz.

08:35:08 Presiding Officer David Bedey

08:35:39 Redirected to Christy Mock-Stutz, Assistant Superintendent, OPI

08:36:08 Rep. Sue Vinton to Pad McCracken.

08:37:30 Rep. Linda Reksten to Rob Stutz.

08:42:07 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Public Comment on House Bill 203

08:43:16 Sen. Becky Beard, SD 40

08:45:48 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting.

08:45:54 Sen. John Esp left the meeting.
08:48:25 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:55:12 Pad McCracken
08:56:34 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:56:46 Sen. Becky Beard
08:57:28 Doug Reisig, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition

House Bill 338 – Indian Education for All update

08:58:58 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT5](#)
09:09:40 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:09:50 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education, (BPE)
[EXHIBIT6](#)
09:13:38 Presiding Officer David Bedey to OPI
09:13:40 Rob Stutz
[EXHIBIT7](#)
[EXHIBIT8](#)
[EXHIBIT9](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

09:37:39 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
09:54:07 Sen. John Fuller
09:55:47 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:58:27 Laura Sankey Keip
10:05:37 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
10:07:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey to Shelley Turner
10:14:39 Rep. Linda Reksten
10:15:24 Sen. John Fuller
10:17:15 Sen. Shane Morigeau
10:18:55 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy to McCall Flynn
10:22:28 Rep. Linda Reksten to Rob Stutz.
10:30:32 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy

Public Comment on House Bill 338

10:32:58 Sharyl Allen
10:35:58 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:37:57 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
10:39:49 Presiding Officer David Bedey

House Bill 352 – Early Literacy Targeted Interventions

10:43:07 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:43:48 Laura Sankey Keip
[EXHIBIT10](#)
[EXHIBIT11](#)

[EXHIBIT12](#)

10:54:44 McCall Flynn, BPE
10:55:25 Christy Mock-Stutz, OPI
10:56:45 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Committee Discussion/Questions

10:57:11 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon
10:58:00 Rep. Brad Barker HD 58: (see exhibit 10)
11:02:10 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:02:20 Rep. Linda Reksten
11:03:33 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
11:07:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey

House Bill 352 – Early Literacy Targeted Interventions-Cont'd

11:08:26 Christy Mock-Stutz (see exhibit 12)
11:09:25 McCall Flynn (see exhibit 12)

Committee Discussion/Questions

11:19:47 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:19:57 Rep. Linda Reksten
11:21:16 Rep. Connie Keogh
11:22:23 Rep. Melissa Romano
11:25:37 Rep. Linda Reksten
11:26:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:26:41 Rep. Llew Jones joined the meeting.
11:27:14 Laura Sankey Keip

Public Comment on House Bill 352

11:27:49 Rob Watson
11:30:44 Doug Reisig
11:31:42 Rob Stutz
11:35:01 Rep. Sue Vinton to Rob Watson.
11:36:27 Laura Sankey Keip
11:40:33 Micah Hill, Superintendent, Missoula Public Schools
11:43:27 Shelley Turner
11:44:33 Presiding Officer David Bedey to Rob Stutz
11:44:35 Rep. Llew Jones left the meeting.
11:45:59 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon

House Bill 549 – Public Charter Schools

11:46:35 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT13](#)
[EXHIBIT14](#)

[EXHIBIT15](#)

11:49:45 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:50:06 McCall Flynn
11:54:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:55:20 Rob Stutz (see exhibit 14 and 15)
12:00:00 Presiding Officer David Bedey
12:01:24 Laura Sankey Keip
12:05:55 Rep. Fred Anderson HD 20
12:07:21 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon

Public Comment on House Bill 549

12:08:30 Rob Stutz
12:10:12 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education, (MOFE)
12:11:27 Doug Reisig
12:13:10 Rep. Eric Matthews
12:13:52 Sharon Patton Griffin, Great Falls
12:16:30 Shelley Turner
12:17:34 Rep. Eric Matthews
12:20:31 Presiding Officer David Bedey to Rob Stutz

RECESS

12:25:33 Reconvened at 12:46:05

SCHOOL FUNDING TECHNICAL CLEAN-UP

12:46:17 Sen. John Esp joined the meeting.
12:46:19 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT16](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

12:51:13 Presiding Officer David Bedey
12:52:10 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon
12:52:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey
12:54:04 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon
12:54:14 Presiding Officer David Bedey

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION UPDATE

12:54:33 Chelsea Rayfield, Legislative Audit Division, (LAD)
[EXHIBIT17](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:00:03 Rep. Connie Keogh
13:00:43 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
13:06:11 Presiding Officer David Bedey

SCHOOL FUNDING – LFD BI TOOL DEMONSTRATION

13:07:27 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division, (LFD)
[EXHIBIT18](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:24:58 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
13:27:10 Sen. John Esp left the meeting.
13:29:37 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:30:06 Rep. Connie Keogh
13:32:13 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
13:35:16 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:39:46 Julia Pattin
13:45:04 Kurt Swimmley, LFD

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:46:49 Presiding Officer David Bedey

STATE POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION AND INCREASE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

13:47:32 Pad McCracken
13:49:33 Dr. Ashley Berner, Director, Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy
[EXHIBIT19](#)
14:10:05 Presiding Officer Salomon left the meeting.
14:10:07 Rep. Linda Reksten

State Policies to Encourage Educational Innovation and Increase Student Achievement- Cont'd

14:12:36 Dr. Ashley Berner

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:30:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey

TEACH Act

14:31:40 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry, (DLI)
14:34:45 Barb Wagner, Division Administrator, Workforce Services Division, DLI
14:37:34 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT20](#)
14:38:46 Vice Presiding Officer Edith (Edie) McClafferty left the meeting.
14:39:25 Sen. Shane Morigeau left the meeting.

Committee Discussion/Questions

14:45:00 Rep. Connie Keogh

TEACH Act-Cont'd

- 14:46:46 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, OPI
- 14:47:19 Autumn Belmont, Budget Analyst, OPI
[EXHIBIT21](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

- 14:49:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey to Autumn Belmont
- 14:50:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey to Commissioner Swanson
- 14:52:15 Rep. Linda Reksten
- 14:53:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey
- 14:54:24 Vice Presiding Officer Edith (Edie) McClafferty joined the meeting.
- 14:56:06 Sen. John Esp joined the meeting.

Public Comment on TEACH ACT

- 14:56:38 Jim Howard, Superintendent, Bonner School District
- 14:58:16 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon joined the meeting.
- 14:58:25 Sen. Shane Morigeau joined the meeting.
- 15:00:55 Shelley Turner
- 15:03:16 Presiding Officer David Bedey
- 15:05:14 Dr. Julie Murgel, Chief Program Officer, OPI

RECESS

- 15:07:45 Reconvened at 15:19:06

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS – REVISION PROCESS UNDER 20-7-101 UPDATES

- 15:19:31 McCall Flynn
- 15:21:57 Dr. Julie Murgel
[EXHIBIT22](#)
- 15:22:34 Rep. Llew Jones joined the meeting.

Committee Discussion/Questions

- 15:31:12 Rep. Linda Reksten
- 15:37:40 Rep. Melissa Romano
- 15:41:05 Presiding Officer David Bedey

CONSTITUTIONAL PLAYERS DISCUSSION

- 15:41:35 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT23](#)
- 15:45:05 Presiding Officer David Bedey
- 15:46:40 Rep. Llew Jones
- 15:51:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey
- 15:51:32 McCall Flynn
- 15:51:44 Ron Slinger, BPE
- 15:53:18 Julie Murgel

15:55:42 Dylan Klapmeier, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
 15:56:24 Galen Hollenbaugh, Director, OCHE
 15:57:02 Sarah Swanson
 16:00:42 Rep. Llew Jones
 16:03:42 Rep. Linda Reksten
 16:04:46 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
 16:07:34 Rep. Melissa Romano
 16:08:04 Ron Slinger
 16:12:34 Lance Melton, Montana School Board Association, (MTSBA)
 16:13:12 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:20:34 Sen. Shane Morigeau
 16:21:23 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
 16:23:01 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:25:00 Rep. Linda Reksten
 16:26:19 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:27:00 Sen. Shane Morigeau
 16:28:04 Rep. Llew Jones
 16:31:07 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:31:19 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
 16:35:58 Rep. Connie Keogh
 16:38:27 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:38:37 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon
 16:39:36 Sen. Shane Morigeau
 16:41:09 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:41:20 Lance Melton
 16:44:54 Presiding Officer David Bedey

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANYTHING IN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

16:49:13 Rob Watson
 16:54:17 Moffie Funk, Self
 16:57:29 Kim Popham, Director of Policy and Research, Montana Federation of Public Employees, (MFPE)
 16:58:16 Rep. Llew Jones left the meeting.
 16:58:42 Jim Malizia, Friends of Neighborhood Schools
 17:01:24 Sara Urban, Helena
 17:07:08 Jenny Murnane Butcher

Potential Action to OPI

17:09:27 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 17:10:53 Rep. Linda Reksten
 17:13:06 Rep. Sue Vinton

17:14:18 Sen. Shane Morigeau
17:16:23 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy
17:20:44 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
17:22:39 Presiding Officer Daniel Salomon
17:25:10 Rep. Linda Reksten
17:26:51 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe
17:28:00 Presiding Officer David Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

17:30:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey adjourned the meeting.