



## 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 James - Secretary  
Laura Sankey Keip - Attorney

# MINUTES LOG

June 28, 2023  
Capitol Room 102 and Zoom  
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. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Chair (D)  
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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

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

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

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

#### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

10:06:07 Sen. Dan Salomon called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF**

10:07:07 The committee members and staff introduced themselves.

### **COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION - Pad McCracken, Lead Committee Staff**

#### **Committee Background**

10:10:04 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT1](#)

#### **Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees**

10:16:43 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT2](#)

#### **Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:18:48 Rep. Vinton  
10:21:17 Rep. Vinton  
10:23:25 Sen. Salomon  
10:32:27 Sen. Salomon  
10:33:00 Rep. Vinton  
10:33:20 Rep. Seekins-Crowe  
10:33:39 Pad McCracken to Rep. Seekins-Crowe.  
10:34:31 Rep. Seekins-Crowe  
10:35:07 Sen. Salomon  
10:35:16 Sen. Fuller  
10:35:56 Sen. Emrich  
10:36:36 Sen. McClafferty

#### **Committee Action - Motion**

10:36:57 Sen. McClafferty moved for the committee to adopt a simple majority vote for committee bills. She withdrew her motion.

#### **Committee Action - Motion**

10:37:28 Sen. Fuller moved for the committee to adopt a 3/4 vote on committee bills.

#### **Committee Action - Vote**

10:37:37 The motion carried 5 - 3 by roll call vote with Sens. Emrich and McClafferty, and Rep. Romano voting no.

### **Committee Action - Motion**

10:39:50 Sen. Fuller moved to adopt the Rules, Guidelines, and Procedures for Interim Committees with the committee bill vote modification. (See exhibit 2)

### **Committee Action - Vote**

10:40:26 The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Election of Committee Presiding Officers**

10:40:33 Rep. Reksten nominated Sen. Salomon as Presiding Officer for the Education Interim Committee.

10:41:51 Rep. Seekins-Crowe nominated Rep. Vinton as Presiding Officer for the Education Interim Committee.

10:42:46 Rep. Vinton

### **Committee Action – Vote**

10:43:20 The vote for Presiding Officer resulted in a tie, with Sens. Emrich and Fuller and Reps. Vinton and Seekins-Crowe voting for Rep. Vinton, and Sens. McClafferty and Salomon and Reps. Reksten and Romano voting for Sen. Salomon.  
([Attachment 3](#))

### **Committee Discussion on the Vote**

10:44:20 Sen. Salomon

10:44:29 Laura Sankey Keip to Sen. Salomon

10:44:46 Rep. Vinton

### **WORK PLAN OVERVIEW - Pad McCracken; Laura Sankey Keip, LSD Attorney**

#### **Article X and Constitutional Considerations, Roles, and Responsibilities**

10:45:22 Pad McCracken

[EXHIBIT3](#)

10:51:12 Laura Sankey Keip (See exhibit 3)

10:55:04 Pad McCracken

#### **Overview of Draft Work Plan**

10:56:10 Pad McCracken

[EXHIBIT4](#)

### **Committee Discussion/Questions**

10:58:57 Rep. Vinton (See exhibit 4)

11:01:23 Laura Sankey Keip to Rep. Vinton.

11:03:01 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

11:03:54 Sen. Fuller to Rep. Seekins-Crowe

11:04:14 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

11:05:32 Laura Sankey Keip

11:06:12 Rep. Seekins-Crowe  
11:08:51 Sen. Salomon to Rep. Seekins-Crowe

**Administrative Rule Review Overview**

11:12:59 Laura Sankey Keip  
[EXHIBIT5](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

11:24:12 Rep. Reksten

11:25:56 Laura Sankey Keip (See exhibit 4)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

11:27:31 Sen. Salomon  
11:28:04 Sen. Fuller  
11:28:48 Sen. Salomon  
11:30:53 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT6](#)  
[EXHIBIT7](#)  
11:31:11 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

**OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION (OCHE) - Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education**

11:34:27 Commissioner Christian  
11:35:18 Joyce Dombrowski, Chair, Board of Regents (BOR)  
11:36:44 Commissioner Christian  
[EXHIBIT8](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

11:42:44 Sen. Salomon  
11:43:29 Rep. Vinton

**OCHE Update on Initiatives – Joe Thiel, Interim Deputy Commissioner**

11:44:56 Joe Thiel

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

11:50:03 Rep. Vinton  
11:51:06 Commissioner Christian  
11:51:53 Sen. Salomon

**RECESS/LUNCH**

11:54:37 Reconvened at 11:54:37.

**WORK PLAN OVERVIEW - Pad McCracken; Laura Sankey Keip, LSD Attorney**

**Election of Committee Presiding Officers**

13:17:49 Rep. Vinton withdrew her nomination for Presiding Officer.

**Committee Action - Motion**

13:18:04 Sen. Salomon moved to vote on Sen. Salomon as Presiding Officer for Education Interim Committee.

**Committee Action - Vote**

13:18:08 The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Action - Motion**

13:18:15 Rep. Vinton nominated Sen. McClafferty as Vice Presiding Officer for Education Interim Committee.

**Committee Action - Vote**

13:18:20 The nomination passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Possible Topics for EDIC 2023-24**

13:18:57 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT9](#)

**2021-22 EDIC Committee Bill Outcome**

13:20:15 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT10](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

13:25:43 Sen. Salomon  
13:26:08 Rep. Reksten  
13:27:25 Sen. Salomon  
13:29:57 Rep. Vinton  
13:30:29 Sen. Salomon

**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION (BPE) - McCall Flynn, Executive Director**

13:33:11 McCall Flynn  
[EXHIBIT11](#)

**Committee Discussions/Questions**

13:45:58 Sen. Emrich  
13:47:05 Sen. Fuller  
13:48:09 Sen. Salomon

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI) - Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction****Data Modernization RFP Process – Kyle Baker, State Financial Services Division, Department of Administration**

13:48:24 Kyle Baker  
[EXHIBIT12](#)

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

13:51:28 Rep. Vinton  
13:53:13 Sen. Salomon to Rep. Vinton.  
13:53:23 Rep. Vinton  
13:54:11 Rep. Seekins-Crowe  
13:55:22 Rep. Reksten  
13:57:32 Sen. Fuller  
13:58:15 Rep. Seekins-Crowe to Rep. Reksten

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI) - Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

13:59:33 Supt. Arntzen  
14:03:05 Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, OPI  
14:05:01 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, OPI  
14:05:22 Chris Sinrud, Chief Information Officer, OPI  
14:06:03 Supt. Arntzen  
[EXHIBIT13](#)  
14:14:05 Mary Heller, Montana Ready Coordinator, OPI

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

14:19:36 Rep. Seekins-Crowe  
14:26:29 Sen. Emrich  
14:30:37 Rep. Seekins-Crowe  
14:31:11 Supt. Arntzen (See exhibit 13)  
14:35:49 Sen. Fuller  
14:37:08 Supt. Arntzen deferred to Chris Sinrud.  
14:39:40 Sen. Fuller  
14:40:30 Supt. Arntzen deferred to Chris Sinrud.  
14:42:08 Pad McCracken  
14:44:30 Sen. Emrich  
14:49:45 Supt. Arntzen  
14:51:40 Sen. McClafferty  
14:53:42 Sen. Fuller

**Public Comment on Work Plan**

14:55:40 Amanda Curtis, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)  
14:56:28 Tal Goldin, Disability Rights Montana (DRM)  
[EXHIBIT14](#)  
15:02:29 Sen. McClafferty to Tal Goldin  
15:02:41 Sen. Fuller to Tal Goldin  
15:04:09 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education  
15:07:20 Rep. Vinton to Jenny Murnane Butcher  
15:08:25 Sen. Emrich to Jenny Murnane Butcher

15:09:35 Rep. Seekins-Crowe to Jenny Murnane Butcher

**Implementation Timeline for HB 287 - Revisions to Montana Indian Language Preservation Program – Brenton Craggs, Attorney, Matthew Bell, Language and Cultural Specialist, OPI**

15:12:34 Brenton Craggs

15:17:11 Matthew Bell

**Public Comment on Work Plan, continued**

15:18:13 Gary Lusin, Belgrade, MT

15:23:46 Chuck Merja, None

**Committee Discussion/Questions**

15:29:24 Rep. Vinton

**WORK PLAN DISCUSSION**

15:31:02 Rep. Seekins-Crowe on Education Interim Budget Committee (IBC-E) joint meetings

15:33:41 Sen. Salomon on dates for future EDIC meetings

15:35:41 Pad McCracken

[EXHIBIT15](#)

15:36:45 Rep. Reksten on Butte literacy program

15:39:15 Sen. Salomon

15:40:10 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

15:41:19 Sen. Salomon

15:41:35 Rep. Reksten on data procurement updates from OPI.

15:44:15 Rep. Seekins-Crowe on reports from DOC.

15:44:56 Rep. Vinton on HJ 25. (See exhibit 7)

15:46:15 Sen. Fuller on future school funding interim commission.

15:47:14 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

15:48:47 Sen. McClafferty stated her interest in receiving updates on school employee health benefits as well as retention and recruitment issues within Montana schools.

15:51:05 Rep. Reksten on teacher training in universities.

[EXHIBIT16](#)

15:54:19 Rep. Vinton (See exhibit 16)

15:55:36 Rep. Romano on retaining teachers.

15:56:53 Pad McCracken

15:58:14 Rep. Seekins-Crowe on next meeting date.

16:00:04 Sen. McClafferty on Butte road trip date.

**Public Comment on any topic within the committee's jurisdiction and not on this agenda**

16:01:07 None

**Administrative Rule Review, continued**

16:01:16 Laura Sankey Keip

**ADJOURNMENT**

16:03:18 Sen. Salomon adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.