



## 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  
Laura Sankey Keip – Attorney  
Bethany McDowell James - Secretary

# MINUTES LOG

September 12, 2023  
Capitol Room 317 / 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. Daniel Salomon, Chair (R)  
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Sen. John Fuller (R)

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

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

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

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

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

08:31:45 Chair Salomon called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

#### **THE SCIENCE OF READING: What do Montana Legislators Need to Know and is Montana on Top of It?**

08:33:10 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff

08:33:24 Patrick Lyons, Senior Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)  
[EXHIBIT1](#)

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

08:53:05 Rep. Vinton

#### **PANEL: The Science of Reading**

08:54:24 Kate Brayko, Associate Professor, University of Montana (UM)  
[EXHIBIT2](#)

09:03:00 Tricia Seifert, Dean, College of Education, Health, and Human Development at Montana State University (MSU)

09:09:11 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

09:12:36 Marie Judisch, Senior Manager of Teaching and Learning, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

09:15:04 Rachel Gott, Literacy Development Program Manager, OPI

09:17:54 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

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

09:20:28 Rep. Reksten

#### **Public Comment on The Science of Reading**

09:24:10 Mariah Pace, The Reading League

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

09:26:48 Sen. McClafferty

09:28:36 Rep. Reksten

## **TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

#### **The State of the Teacher Workforce: How Does Montana Rate?**

09:32:18 Pad McCracken

09:33:41 Susan Patrick, Senior Researcher, Learning Policy Institute (LPI)  
[EXHIBIT3](#)  
[EXHIBIT4](#)

09:44:04 Tara Kini, Chief of Policy and Program, LPI (See exhibit 3)

**What We Know and What We Need to Know: Montana Data and Indicators**

09:58:28 Crystal Andrews, Director of Accreditation and Licensure, OPI  
[EXHIBIT5](#)

10:09:11 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT6](#)

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

10:12:24 Rep. Reksten

10:17:10 Chair Salomon

**Public Comment on Teacher Retention and Recruitment**

10:23:28 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

10:25:18 Pad McCracken

10:28:02 Rep. Reksten

10:31:22 Chair Salomon

10:32:16 Sen. McClafferty

**RECESS**

10:33:19 Reconvened at 10:48:32.

**SCHOOL FUNDING 101**

10:48:43 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT7](#)

10:50:43 Julia Pattin, LFD (See exhibit 7)

10:52:29 Sen. Emrich joined the meeting.

**Committee Questions/Discussion**

11:02:09 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

11:03:50 Rep. Reksten

11:06:07 Sen. Emrich

11:08:38 Rep. Seekins-Crowe

11:09:30 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT8](#)

11:09:32 Julia Pattin (See exhibit 7)

**Public Comment on any topic within the committee's jurisdiction**

11:18:47 Chair Salomon

11:19:09 Gary Lusin, Bozeman School Trustee

11:27:30 Jenine Synness, Business Services for Liberty School District

11:32:05 Lona Running Wolf, Instructional Consultant for Liberty School District

11:36:25 Luke Haggerty, Superintendent at CJI schools

**DISCUSSION ON WORK PLAN OVERVIEW AND ADOPTION**

11:38:56 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT9](#)

11:41:30 Rep. Vinton on legislative action regarding principal recruitment and retention  
11:42:14 Rep. Reksten  
11:43:34 Sen. McClafferty  
11:43:56 Rep. Vinton  
11:44:36 Rep. Seekins-Crowe  
11:45:59 Rep. Reksten  
11:47:51 Pad McCracken (See exhibit 9)  
11:51:28 Rep. Seekins-Crowe on receiving an update from the Department of Corrections (DOC).  
11:52:11 Rep. Romano on receiving a status update from OPI.  
11:53:27 Pad McCracken  
[EXHIBIT10](#)

**Motion**

11:55:19 Sen. McClafferty moved to approve the work plan for 2023-24 with minor revisions as discussed. (See exhibit 9)

**Vote**

11:55:39 Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**ADJOURMENT**

11:57:11 Chair Salomon adjourned the meeting at 11:57 AM.