



EDUCATION INTERIM BUDGET COMMITTEE 67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Shane Morigeau
Daniel Salomon

HOUSE MEMBERS

David Bedey
John Fuller
Llew Jones
Connie Keogh
Jonathan Windy Boy

COMMITTEE STAFF

Katie Guenther - Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Nancy Hall - OBPP Staffer
Kathy Sangray - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 16, 2022
Montana State Capitol Room 137
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:

Rep. David Bedey, Chair (R)
Sen. Dan Salomon, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Rep. John Fuller (R)
Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Connie Keogh (D)
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Katie Guenther, Fiscal Analyst
Nancy Hall, OBPP Analyst
Caitlin Cashman, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/RECONVENE

08:29:43 Chair Bedey-R called the meeting to order at 8:29 AM. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Next Steps

08:32:00 Katie Guenther, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

Commissioner of Higher Education

08:33:45 Quarterly Financial Report - Katie Guenther, LFD
[EXHIBIT1](#)

08:43:59 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any questions. There were none.

08:44:15 Update on Shared Policy Goals by Brock Tessman, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), Deputy Commissioner.

08:59:18 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any questions.

08:59:32 Rep. Llew Jones asked about the single interface for dual credits.

09:00:24 Brock Tessman responded.

09:01:00 Rep. Jones asked a follow-up question and stated that the interface ought to be accessible from a high school counselors office.

09:02:16 Brock Tessman responded.

09:02:35 Chair Bedey had an observation and a question about micro-relationships and asked how the university system serves places not served by community colleges.

09:03:48 Brock Tessman responded.

09:05:32 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any additional questions. There were none.

09:06:01 Shauna Lyons, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education Budget Analyst, began the presentation on Montana University System programs.
[EXHIBIT2](#)

09:08:18 Chair Bedey asked if there are any questions on Proficiency-Based Education. There were none.

09:08:52 Shauna Lyons began the presentation on Workforce Recovery.
[EXHIBIT3](#)

09:10:18 Rep. Windy Boy asked where the MT Tech is located. Ms. Lyons responded that it is in Butte.

09:10:47 Chair Bedey asked if there was anything unique about the Montana Technological University program in Butte and Shauna Lyons responded.

09:11:43 Chair Bedey asked a follow-up question. Ms. Lyons responded.

09:12:24 Chair Bedey asked an additional follow-up question and asked Ms. Lyons to contemplate additional funding models.

09:12:50 Shauna Lyons introduced CyberHub.
[EXHIBIT4](#)

- 09:15:11 Vice Chair Salomon asked if there are any difference between classes and workshops. Shauna Lyons responded.
- 09:15:50 Vice Chair Salomon asked a follow up question regarding the camps and Ms. Lyons responded.
- 09:16:26 Chair Bedey asked the committee if there were any additional questions. There were none. Chair Bedey then asked to what extent can the programs be self-sustaining, and if the deliveries to K - 12 are being delivered through the Digital Academy. Shauna Lyons responded.
- 09:17:29 Shauna Lyons invited Jenny Harms with Missoula College to the podium. Ms. Harms gave a presentation on AccelerateMT.
[EXHIBIT5](#)
- 09:23:29 Chair Bedey asked if there were any questions or comments. Chair Bedey commended Ms. Harms on outreach to Tribal colleges.
- 09:24:10 Shauna Lyons resumed her presentation and told the committee that some data will have to wait until the June meeting (or later) until cohort data can be collected and analyzed.
- 09:24:41 Chair Bedey asked if the expectation was to have the aforementioned data by the IBC-E June 2022 meeting.
- 09:24:43 Shauna Lyons responded.
- 09:24:53 Chair Bedey would like to see the assessment of the data as well as the data itself.
- 09:25:46 Rep. Windy Boy shared a personal antidote and vouched for these programs. There were no additional questions from the committee.
- 09:27:30 Katie Guenther, LFD began the presentation on the Community College Funding Formula.
[EXHIBIT6](#)
- 09:37:28 Chair Bedey asked the committee if there are any questions. There were none.
- 09:37:48 Tyler Trevor, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), Deputy Commissioner addressed the committee and shared recommendations.
- 09:42:48 Chair Bedey clarified that there are no decisions to be made today, but this was in preparation for June 2022 before which a collaborative meeting will take place.
- 09:43:43 Rep. Jones asked if OCHE did the comparison on "total support" which included all taxpayer support.
- 09:44:27 Tyler Trevor responded.
- 09:44:59 Rep. Jones would like to see the comparison between taxpayer funded verses student funded, not just state funded.
- 09:45:30 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any additional committee questions. There were none.

Public Comment

- 09:45:57 Jane Karas, President of Flathead Valley Community College thanks Ms. Guenther and Director Lyons for the work done on the Community College Funding Formula.
- 09:46:46 Kathleen O'Leary, Interim President of Dawson Community College thanked the members of the committee, the Legislative Fiscal Division for the work done on the Community College Funding Formula, and the OCHE office specifically.
- 09:48:44 Chair Bedey asked if there were any additional questions or public comments.
- 09:48:51 Ron Slinger, President of Miles Community College provided testimony to the committee.

09:51:33 Jane Hamman, Member of the Board of Public Education shared positive feedback with the committee.

Montana State Library

09:53:13 Quarterly Budget Report given by Katy Callon, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD).
[EXHIBIT7](#)

10:01:41 Chair Bedey directed a question to Nancy Hall of the Office of Budget & Program Planning (OBPP). Ms. Hall responded.

10:03:36 Chair Bedey asked the committee if there were any additional questions. There were none.

10:03:59 Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian gave an update on Real Time Network.
[EXHIBIT8](#)

10:07:05 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any question. There were none.

10:07:50 Ms. Stapp went on to provide additional reports.
[EXHIBIT9](#)

10:13:38 Chair Bedey asked if there were any additional questions.

10:13:48 Vice Chair Salomon asked if the hot-spots will continue to be utilized. Jennie Stapp responded.

10:15:01 Rep. Keogh asked what was going to happen to Newline. Ms. Stapp responded.

10:16:49 Rep. Windy Boy asked what kind of relationship the Montana State Library has with the Montana Historical Society.

10:17:35 Ms. Stapp responded to Rep. Windy Boy.

10:19:29 Rep. Windy Boy thanked Ms. Stapp for the information and shared some additional comments.

10:21:10 Ms. Stapp thanked Rep. Windy Boy for the suggestion and provided additional comments as a response.

10:21:40 Chair Bedey asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

10:22:56 Montana State Library (MSL) Program Discussion lead by Katy Callon, LFD.
[EXHIBIT10](#)

10:30:41 Chair Bedey asked Nancy Hall to provide her perspective on program options, elaborating on concerns regarding program options and the challenges regarding reporting option.

10:31:30 Nancy Hall responded.

10:35:19 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any questions. There were none. Chair Bedey provided a recap of what had been covered in the committee meeting.

10:37:22 Chair Bedey suggested that the committee move forward with the reporting option and it was met with no objections.

10:38:17 Recess

11:00:39 Reconvene

Montana Historical Society

- 11:01:05 Quarterly Financial Report given by Alice Hecht, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD).
[EXHIBIT11](#)
- 11:05:35 Chair Bedey asked if there were any committee questions. There were none.
- 11:05:56 Molly Kruckenberg, Director of the Montana Historical Society thanked Ms. Hecht for the report and invited the committee to take a tour of the Montana Heritage Center job site.
- 11:06:32 Rep. Keogh asked if the committee could take a field trip in June 2022.
- 11:06:44 Chair Bedey is in favor of visiting depending on what the agenda looks like for the June 2022 meeting.
- 11:06:59 Rep. Windy Boy asked a question.
- 11:09:57 Molly Kruckenberg responded.
- 11:10:32 Chair Bedey commented on the difference between libraries and archives and asked to be provided with a mechanism that would allow easy access to these materials.

Montana Arts Council

- 11:12:20 Quarterly Financial Report given by Alice Hecht, LFD.
[EXHIBIT12](#)
- 11:16:52 Chair Bedey asked the committee if there were any questions. There were none.
- 11:17:07 Kristen Burgoyne, Deputy Director of the Montana Arts Council came forward to answer any committee questions.
- 11:17:24 Chair Bedey asked if there were any committee questions. There were none.

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

- 11:17:45 Quarterly Financial Report given by Alice Hecht, LFD.
[EXHIBIT13](#)
- 11:23:24 Chair Bedey asked if there were committee questions. There were none.
- 11:23:43 Paul Ferthmyre, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind Superintendent gave an update on the phone system.
- 11:28:18 Chair Bedey asked the committee if there were any questions. There were none.

Public Comment

- 11:28:36 Chair Bedey asked if there was any public comment. There was none.
- 11:29:04 Recess
- 13:00:34 Reconvene

Board of Public Education

- 13:00:56 Quarterly Financial Report given by Alice Hecht, LFD.
[EXHIBIT14](#)
- 13:06:11 Chair Bedey asked if there were any committee questions.
- 13:06:35 Rep. Windy Boy asked if there is a mechanism in place or if there are penalties in regard to lapsed licenses.
- 13:07:33 McCall Flynn, Executive Director of the Board of Public Education responded to Rep. Windy Boy.
- 13:07:57 Rep. Windy Boy asked a follow-up question. McCall Flynn responded.

13:08:36 Rep. Windy Boy asked an additional question. Ms. Flynn responded.

13:09:26 Rep. Windy Boy asked a hypothetical question regarding life-time licensure.

13:09:44 McCall Flynn responded.

13:09:59 Rep. Windy Boy expressed an interest in knowing more about accountability.

13:11:06 McCall Flynn responded.

13:11:46 Chair Bedey requested that Ms. Flynn stay to participate in the OPI portion of the meeting.

13:12:12 Rep. Fuller shared a comment with the committee.

13:13:19 McCall Flynn recommended that Rep. Fuller's question be answered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

13:13:44 Chair Bedey made a distinction between levels of licensure for the benefit of the committee.

13:14:28 Montana Teacher Licensing Cost Analysis given by Alice Hecht, LFD.
[EXHIBIT15](#)

13:34:27 Chair Bedey asked the committee for questions.

13:34:40 Rep. Fuller asked if there is a formula for number of teachers in relationship to cost to number of years, and if there is a way to quickly figure out licensure cost.

13:35:29 Alice Hecht responded.

13:35:54 Rep. Fuller asked a follow-up question.

13:36:24 Rep. Windy Boy asked what pot the \$30 fee goes into.

13:36:48 Alice Hecht responded.

13:36:56 Rep. Windy Boy asked if the revenue is dedicated to professional development.

13:37:16 Alice Hecht responded.

13:38:10 Rep. Keogh shared a comment regarding licensure and asked if there are any additional requirements involved to get licensed in other states.

13:40:02 Alice Hecht responded.

13:41:00 Rep. Keogh shared a comment about cost.

13:41:47 Vice Chair Salomon asked what it would take to not subsidize licensure, and how much it would cost if it paid for itself.

13:42:22 Alice Hecht responded.

13:42:50 Vice Chair Salomon asked a follow-up question regarding an FTE.

13:43:19 Alice Hecht responded.

13:43:45 Jay Phillips, Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Chief Financial Officer responded to Vice Chair Salomon's question.

13:44:41 Vice Chair Salomon commented on licensure costs.

13:45:08 Rep. Fuller asked a rhetorical question regarding the cost of licensure requirements.

13:47:21 Chair Bedey suggested that the committee come up with legislation to correct artificial delineation of programs.

13:51:49 Rep. Keogh suggested the committee looks at the language that other states have in statute.

13:52:18 Chair Bedey responded to Rep. Keogh's comment and asked if the Board of Public Education would be willing to weigh in on the use of license fees. Chair Bedey also asked a question about licensing fees.

13:52:53 Alice Hecht responded to Chair Bedey's question.

- 13:53:21 Rep. Windy Boy commented that professional development may be included as an incentive.
- 13:54:38 McCall Flynn spoke to the committee about professional development, renewal units and how to receive renewal units.
- 13:55:25 Vice Chair Salomon shared some comments with the committee.
- 13:56:29 Chair Bedey asked the committee if there were any additional comments or questions.
- 13:56:35 Rep. Fuller wanted to go on record stating that he does not believe it is good policy for the Legislature to delegate its Constitutional authority to determine expenditures and disbursements and the general fund. The unintended consequences down the road might be very dangerous.
- 13:57:46 Chair Bedey agreed with Rep. Fuller.

Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

- 13:58:39 Quarterly Financial Report given by Julia Pattin, LFD.
[EXHIBIT16](#)
- 14:14:46 Chair Bedey asked the committee if there were any questions. There were none.
- 14:15:17 Vice Chair Salomon asked a question of Jay Phillips.
- 14:15:53 Jay Phillips deferred.
- 14:16:01 Paul Taylor of the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) responded to Vice Chair Salomon's question.
- 14:16:41 Vice Chair Salomon asked what the increase was going to be as we move into a new budget. Vice Chair Salomon then asked a question of Jay Phillips.
- 14:17:24 Jay Phillips responded.
- 14:17:39 Vice Chair Salomon asked if there will be money coming back and what is that process.
- 14:18:07 Jay Phillips responded.
- 14:18:56 Vice Chair Salomon asked an additional follow-up question.
- 14:19:26 Rep. Windy Boy asked about being on track with funding for computer coding.
- 14:20:04 Jay Phillips responded.
- 14:20:21 Chair Bedey asked if there were any additional questions from the committee. There were none. Chairman asked if there was still need of a supplemental being necessary.
- 14:20:59 Jay Phillips responded.
- 14:21:09 Chair Bedey addressed Paul Taylor who came to the podium. Mr. Taylor corrected his answer to Vice Chair Salomon's original question.
- 14:22:15 Chair Bedey shared some comments with the committee.
- 14:22:47 Jay Phillips, Office of Public Instruction (OPI) began a presentation on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds I.
[EXHIBIT17](#)
- 14:32:36 Rep. Windy Boy asked Jay Phillips about allocations for certain schools.
- 14:33:10 Chair Bedey asked if OPI is seeking another Project Manager. Wendi Fawns is continuing operations for this position and it is not vacant.
- 14:33:52 Jay Phillips introduced Wendi Fawns.
- 14:34:06 Wendi Fawns, Director of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) introduced herself to the committee.

14:35:31 Chair Bedey thanked Ms. Fawns and asked what the appropriation authority was for the homeless children and youth allocations.

14:35:54 Chair Bedey asked, more specifically, how these particular funds got appropriated to the state.

14:36:23 Jay Phillips responded.

14:36:33 Chair Bedey called on Rep. Keogh who asked about the monies being allocated. Allocated versus expended. Asked if Jay Phillips could explain what happens if the monies are not expended.

14:37:23 Jay Phillips responded.

14:38:40 Rep. Keogh asked a follow-up question.

14:39:05 Jay Phillips responded to Rep. Keogh.

14:39:35 Rep. Windy Boy asked a question regarding the ARP Homeless I and ARP Homeless II tables found in Exhibit 17 and asked what the definition is of "homeless youth."

14:40:19 Jay Phillips responded.

14:40:48 Rep. Windy Boy asked what the \$11,000 provides for the homeless youth.

14:41:12 Jay Phillips responded.

14:41:39 Rep. Windy Boy asked what the reporting mechanism is for the Office of Public Instruction.

14:42:03 Jay Phillips responded.

14:42:38 Chair Bedey asked if there were additional questions from the committee. There were none.

14:43:06 Barbara Quinn, School Finance Senior Manager, Office of Public Instruction (OPI) addressed the committee with an update on HB 206 activity.
[EXHIBIT18](#)

14:47:10 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any questions. There were none. Chairman asked about the difference between education costs and treatment costs.

14:48:27 Barbara Quinn responded to Chair Bedey and the committee.

14:48:45 Chair Bedey shared general comments with the committee.

14:49:27 Chair Bedey asked if there were additional questions. There were none.

14:49:46 Paul Taylor, OPI Budget Analyst presented a document to the committee.
EXHIBIT19

14:56:11 Chair Bedey introduced a memo prepared by Pad McCracken, Legislative Services Division Research Analyst.
[EXHIBIT20](#)

14:57:34 Vice Chair Salomon asked a question regarding anticipated vs unanticipated absorption.

14:57:59 Paul Taylor responded.

14:59:23 Chair Bedey addressed the committee, asked if there were any committee questions or comments regarding topic at hand and seeing none, proceeded along to the next agenda item.

15:01:07 Rep. Windy Boy introduced the Montana Indian Language Preservation (MILP) and Immersion Programs.

15:02:54 Katie Guenther tried to present a video on behalf of Jonathan Jay Eagleman. There were technical difficulties.

- 15:06:54 Jonathan Jay Eagleman addressed the committee and introduced Dr. Lanny Real Bird.
- 15:09:33 Dr. Lanny Real Bird presented the Class 7 Alliance Survey PowerPoint.
[EXHIBIT21](#)
- 15:29:42 Jonathan Jay Eagleman provided background information to the committee.
- 15:34:29 The committee watched the Class 7 Language Testimony video presentation.
[EXHIBIT22](#)
- 15:43:12 Rep. Windy Boy addressed Chair Bedey and the committee to request the Capitol be an official venue for upcoming conference.
- 15:50:03 Chair Bedey referenced the agenda.
- 15:50:13 Dr. Larry Real Bird addressed the committee.
- 15:51:51 Chair Bedey addressed the Office of Public Instruction.
- 15:52:04 Donnie Wetzel Jr., Director of the Tribal Relations and Resiliency Unit of the Office of Public Instruction addressed the committee.
[EXHIBIT23](#)
- 15:56:46 Rep. Windy Boy asked a question of Donnie Wetzel Jr. regarding the timetable of when MILP will be implemented under OPI.
- 15:57:31 Donnie Wetzel Jr. responded to Rep. Windy Boy.
- 15:58:25 Chair Bedey asked if the committee had any additional questions. There were none.
- 15:58:35 Matt Bell introduced himself to the committee. Mr. Bell is the American Indian Youth Development Coordinator with OPI.
- 15:59:12 Donnie Wetzel Jr. addressed the committee regarding a website that is being built and called attention to a colorful flier.
[EXHIBIT24](#)
- 15:59:28 Chair Bedey addressed the committee with several points regarding the Montana Indian Language Program (MILP).
- 16:12:31 Rep. Windy Boy affirmed Chair Bedey's understanding of everything related to MILP and Immersion Programs.
- 16:17:17 Chair Bedey addressed the committee. No further comment on the MILP topic.

Next Steps

- 16:17:38 Chair Bedey addressed the committee in regard to next steps.
- 16:21:15 Katie Guenther had a request from the OCHE for more information regarding the HiSET program.
- 16:21:29 Chair Bedey addressed the committee and staff regarding Community College Funding Formula.
- 16:22:03 Rep. Windy Boy asked Chair Bedey if there is the possibility of a committee bill. Chair Bedey answered in the affirmative.
- 16:23:00 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy shared thoughts with the committee.
- 16:23:23 Chair Bedey thanked Rep. Windy Boy for the comments.
- 16:23:49 Katie Guenther shared future dates for the next Education Interim Budget Committee meetings.

Public Comment

- 16:24:35 Diane Fladmo, Public Policy Director Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) addressed the committee.

Committee Discussion

16:27:19 Chair Bedey addressed the committee before adjourning the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:59:08