



Education and Local Government Interim Committee

60th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

KIM GILLAN
BOB HAWKS
SAM KITZENBERG
RICK LAIBLE
DAVE LEWIS
JIM PETERSON

HOUSE MEMBERS

GARY BRANAE
WANDA GRINDE
ROBIN HAMILTON
BOB LAKE
BILL NOONEY
JOHN WARD

COMMITTEE STAFF

CASEY BARRS, Lead Staff
LEANNE HEISEL, Research Analyst
EDDYE MCCLURE, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary
ALAN PEURA, Fiscal Analyst

MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the K-12 and PEPB Subcommittees

December 13, 2007

Room 137, Capitol Building
Helena, Montana

Please note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Committee tapes are on file in the offices of the Legislative Services Division. **Exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.**

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. The minutes are accompanied by an audio recording. For each action listed, the minutes indicate the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This time may be used to locate the activity on the audio recording.

An electronic copy of these minutes and the audio recording may be accessed from the Legislative Branch home page at <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side column of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*, and then the appropriate committee.

To view the minutes, locate the meeting date and click on minutes. To hear the audio recording, click on the Real Player icon. Note: You must have Real Player to listen to the audio recording.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

SEN. KIM GILLAN
SEN. BOB HAWKS
SEN. SAM KITZENBERG
SEN. RICK LAIBLE
SEN. DAVE LEWIS

REP. GARY BRANAE
REP. WANDA GRINDE
REP. ROBIN HAMILTON
REP. BOB LAKE
REP. BILL NOONEY
REP. JOHN WARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED

SEN. JIM PETERSON

STAFF PRESENT

CASEY BARRS, Lead Staff
LEANNE HEISEL, Research Analyst
EDDYE MCCLURE, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary
ALAN PEURA, Fiscal Analyst

Visitors

Visitors' list, Attachment 1

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

04:37:51 Sen. Kitzenberg called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m.

AGENDA

COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS AND REMEDIAL COURSES

04:38:18 Three organizations will be giving presentations on the issue of college preparedness and remediation: Tyler Trevor, Sheila Stearns will discuss college preparedness and remediation issues for the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. Linda McCulloch will speak on behalf of OPI, and Steve Meloy will speak on behalf of the Board of Public Education.

04:44:57 **Sheila Stearns and Tyler Trevor, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)**

Ms. Stearns said that Mr. Trevor's presentation will help summarize their data in regard to college preparedness and remedial or developmental course. She said that the University System must make sure that they clarify what they are trying to do with transferability, clarify what outcomes are expected in taking a writing or math course. It could well be that someone has graduated from high school at novice level or near-proficient level, but that is not sufficient for them to go straight into a college level math.

Tyler Trevor, Associate Commissioner, OCHE, gave a presentation that concentrates on data related to remediation rates and continuation rates (**EXHIBIT 1**).

05:08:03 **Linda McCulloch, Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction**

Ms. McCulloch gave a presentation on K-12 Education (**EXHIBIT 2**).

Questions

05:31:15 Rep. Lake said that he does not understand why someone can score high on entrance exams but still need to take remedial classes at the next level. Superintendent McCulloch said that they need to work as a K-12 community to make sure that we articulate these standards into what is expected in the freshman year science, the freshman year math, freshman year writing and English. **Sheila Stearns, Commissioner of Higher Education**, said that a good example of where that connection is very clear is in writing because they have been working for six years on the writing assessment and they use high school teachers as well as college teachers to develop it, test it, explain what the goals are. If you pass the writing assessment, then you don't have to use the ACT scores, you can use the university writing system scores. No one who has taken on a writing assessment test would have to be placed in remediation.

Rep. Ward said that the two sets of figures agree that the average composite score from the University System and from OPI are 219. But then the University says OPI figures say that the scores in math average 217, in English they

average 212, but then the University figure shows that 75% of the students are ready for college English which would be the equivalent to 18, but only half of them are ready for college algebra at a score of 22. Rep. Ward asked if that means a large number of higher math students or a large number of students leaving the state and going to MIT and Stanford? Mr. Trevor said that of a total of all students who took the ACT, 50% scored under 22 for math. He said that Rep. Ward is correct in one sense that they are losing some of those high scoring students to out of state institutions.

05:42:47

Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education

Mr. Meloy gave a summation of the Board of Public Education's work over the last three interim committees (**EXHIBIT 3**). He said that the Board likes to equate college preparedness with student achievements. Mr. Meloy talked about the impacts on schools if the Board mandates expansion.

Questions

06:05:46

Sen. Hawks asked Mr. Meloy if he knew how to change the dialogue between local control and standardization so that they can change remediation. Mr. Meloy said that when looking at all the analysis, the reliance on data, and drawing conclusions, something needs to be done. That is when the schools come to the Board of Public Education or the Superintendent of Public Instruction to tell them that they need to make a change.

TAYLOR PLAN FOR COLLEGE PREPAREDNESS AND PERFORMANCE - Bill Schilling, President, Wyoming Heritage Foundation

06:09:58

Bill Schilling, President, Wyoming Business Alliance and the Wyoming Heritage Foundation, gave a presentation on the Taylor Plan (**EXHIBIT 4**) and a presentation on the Wyoming Hathaway Scholarship Program (**EXHIBIT 5**).

Questions

06:40:08

Sen. Lewis asked Mr. Schilling if the State of Wyoming has a requirement that students stay in state for a period of time after they take advantage of this program? Mr. Schilling said that there is no requirement to stay in the state after the program.

06:40:59

Sen. Hawks asked Mr. Schilling if he had any indication of inevitable grade inflation taking place where this program has been in place for a long period of time? Mr. Schilling said that in the Georgia Hope Program's initial benchmark was GPA and they did have great inflation but that has been corrected. They have both GPA and ACT.

Adjournment

06:45:08

Sen. Kitzenberg adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

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