

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) EDUCATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Fred Anderson-R, on January 16, 2023 at 2:59 PM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Fred Anderson, Chair (R)  
Rep. Linda Reksten, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)  
Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Sherry Essmann (R)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Eric Matthews (D)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

**Staff Present:** Rose Harmon, Secretary  
Amanda Persons, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Laura Sankey Keip, Research Analyst

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted:

HB 203 01/10/2023

HB 214 01/10/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 203 - Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities**

**Opening Statement:**

15:01:40 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB 203, Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:05:59 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Board Association and Coalition of Advocates for Montana Schools (CAMP)

15:12:40 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity

15:13:59 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Montana Governor's Office

15:15:51 Charles Denowh, Yes Every Kid (YEK)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:17:39 Christa Gabriel, Education Advocate, Disability Rights Montana

[EXHIBIT\(230116EDHa1\)](#)

15:20:11 Michelle Weltman, Attorney, Disability Rights Montana

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:24:54 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:25:33 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

15:26:36 Rep. David Bedey-R

15:27:34 Rep. Eric Matthews

15:27:57 Rep. David Bedey-R

15:28:50 Rep. Eric Matthews

15:29:15 Rep. David Bedey-R  
15:30:07 Rep. Mark Thane  
15:30:51 Rep. David Bedey-R  
15:33:42 Rep. Mark Thane  
15:34:31 Rep. David Bedey-R  
15:35:24 Rep. Melissa Romano  
15:36:09 Rep. David Bedey-R  
15:38:21 Vice Chair Linda Reksten  
15:39:11 Rep. David Bedey-R  
15:40:50 Rep. James Bergstrom  
15:41:21 Lance Melton, CAMP  
15:43:44 Vice Chair Linda Reksten  
15:44:24 Lance Melton, CAMP  
15:46:48 Rep. Mark Thane  
15:47:42 Rep. David Bedey-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:49:18 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, closed the hearing on HB 203.

**HEARING ON HB 214 - Revise education laws related to remote instruction**

**Opening Statement:**

15:51:25 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, opened the hearing on HB 214, Revise education laws related to remote instruction.

**Discussion:**

[EXHIBIT\(230116EDHa2\)](#)

15:55:00 Rep. Brandon Ler left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:55:26 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association  
and Coalition of Advocates for Montana Schools (CAMP)

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:02:38 Mike Talia, Lehrerleit - Hutterite Communities

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:04:43 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:06:10 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf

16:06:51 Lance Melton, CAMP

16:09:31 Vice Chair Tyson Running Wolf

16:09:48 Lance Melton, CAMP

**Closing Statement:**

16:10:16 Rep. Marta Bertoglio (R), HD 75, closed the hearing on HB 214.

16:10:50 **Recessed**

16:27:53 **Reconvened**

16:27:57 **Committee Discussion:** Chair Anderson

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:28:58

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230116EDHaad\)](#)