

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

Call to Order: Chair Rep. Fred Anderson-R, on February 20, 2023 at 3:02 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. Eric Matthews (D)
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)
Rep. Mark Thane (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Brandon Ler (R)

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 549 02/16/2023

HB 562 02/15/2023

Executive Action:

Other Events:

- 15:04:48 Chair Anderson turned gavel over to Vice Chair Reksten.
15:06:15 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 549 - Authorizing establishment of public charter schools

Opening Statement:

- 15:05:23 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 549, Authorizing establishment of public charter schools.

Proponent Testimony:

- 15:10:26 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)
[EXHIBIT\(230220EDHa1\)](#)
- 15:17:35 Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent)
- 15:18:33 Scott Walter, President, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA)
- 15:21:07 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

Opponent Testimony:

- 15:22:43 Chip Lindenlaub, Community Choice Schools (CCS)
- 15:26:56 Trish Schreiber, Self
- 15:29:50 Tony Hudson, Self
- 15:31:05 Robyn Mohs, Self
- 15:32:50 Matthew Roth, Self
- 15:34:46 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Montana Board of Public Education (MBPE)
- 15:36:43 Megan Upton, Self

15:37:20 Cheryl Tusken, Self
15:39:20 Adryann Baldwin, Self
15:40:22 Kendra Espinoza, Self
15:41:15 Chelsey Culpon, Self
15:41:46 Melina Pyron, Self
15:43:05 Annika Fraley, Self
15:44:15 Karen Round, Self
15:45:19 Rep. Brandon Ler left the meeting.
15:46:16 Jessica Kirkendall, Self
15:47:15 Ellyn Apple-Skeahan, Self

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:48:39 Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

15:49:05 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
15:49:40 Chip Lindenlaub, CCS
15:50:17 Rep. Braxton Mitchell left the meeting.
15:51:58 Rep. Marta Bertoglio
15:52:17 Trish Schreiber
15:54:08 Rep. Eric Matthews
15:54:34 Rep. Fred Anderson-R
15:55:18 Rep. Eric Matthews
15:55:28 Rep. Fred Anderson-R
15:55:55 Rep. Melissa Romano
15:56:20 McCall Flynn, MBPE
15:57:16 Rep. Braxton Mitchell joined the meeting.

15:57:38 Rep. Mark Thane
15:57:45 Rep. Brandon Ler joined the meeting.
15:58:24 Chip Lindenlaub, CCS
16:00:12 Rep. Mark Thane
16:00:41 Melton, Lance, CAMPS

Closing Statement:

16:03:18 Rep. Fred Anderson (R), HD 20, closed the hearing on HB 549.

HEARING ON HB 562 - Authorize establishment of community choice schools

Opening Statement:

16:05:08 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, opened the hearing on HB 562, Authorize establishment of community choice schools.

Proponent Testimony:

16:07:48 Trish Schreiber, Self
[EXHIBIT\(230220EDHa2\)](#)

16:16:14 Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent)

16:18:18 Megan Upton, Self

16:19:25 Cheryl Tusken, Self

16:22:01 Russ Simnick, Senior Director of State Advocacy and Services, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS)
[EXHIBIT\(230220EDHa3\)](#)

16:25:40 Leslie Hiner, Vice President of Legal Affairs, Legal Defense and Education Center for Ed Choice
[EXHIBIT\(230220EDHa4\)](#)

16:32:22 Ben Lindquist, Self

16:36:32 Terry Ryan, Self

16:37:50 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity

16:39:57 Matthew Roth, Self

16:42:13 Robyn Mohs, Self

16:42:29 George Harris, Self

16:43:25 Marianne Dial, Self

16:44:29 Chip Lindenlaub, Community Choice Schools (CCS)

16:44:56 Gayle Asbury, Self

16:46:50 Tony Hudson, Self

16:47:03 Kathryn Watters, Self

16:48:27 Rep. Brandon Ler left the meeting.

16:48:28 Melina Pyron, Self

16:48:34 Peter Lynn, Self

16:48:56 Sandra Vasecka, self

16:49:23 Adrienne Baldwin, self

16:49:57 Annika Fraley, self

16:50:24 Chelsey Culpon, self

16:50:40 Kendra Espinoza, self

16:51:05 Jessica Kirkendall, self

16:51:38 Karen Round, self

16:51:57 Joseph O'Rourke, self

16:52:24 Camilla Petersen, self

Opponent Testimony:

16:53:05 Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMPS)

16:56:21 Amanda Curtis, President, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

16:58:33 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Montana Board of Public Education (MBPE)

17:00:18 Daniel Farr, North/South/East Rural Schools (NSERS)

17:03:42 Scott Walter, President, Montana School Boards Association (MSBA), Trustee for East Helena Public Schools

17:05:57 Jennifer Hensley, Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education (A.G.A.T.E.)

17:07:21 Ray Curtis, Self

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:09:48 Paul Taylor, Budget Analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee:

17:10:17 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

17:10:57 Terry Ryan

17:12:38 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

17:12:47 Terry Ryan

17:14:41 Rep. Eric Matthews

17:15:44 Rep. Sue Vinton-R

17:16:09 Trish Schreiber

17:17:38 Rep. Eric Matthews

17:17:47 Trish Schreiber

17:18:27 Rep. Eric Matthews

17:18:49 Trish Schreiber

17:20:00 Terry Ryan

17:21:43 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

17:22:04 Leslie Hiner

17:23:42 Rep. Lee Deming
17:24:00 Russ Simnick, NAPCS
17:24:57 Rep. Melissa Romano
17:25:46 Lance Melton, CAMPS
17:26:43 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf
17:27:40 Lance Melton, CAMPS
17:28:54 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf
17:29:09 Lance Melton, CAMPS
17:30:03 Rep. Mark Thane
17:30:29 Lance Melton, CAMPS
17:31:25 Rep. Sherry Essmann
17:31:58 Trish Schreiber
17:32:25 Rep. Braxton Mitchell left the meeting.
17:33:57 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf
17:34:48 Trish Schreiber
17:35:50 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf
17:35:52 Trish Schreiber

Closing Statement:

17:36:17 Rep. Sue Vinton (R), HD 56, closed the hearing on HB 562.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:39:19

Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230220EDHaad\)](#)