

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Daniel Salomon-R, on March 22, 2023 at 3:05 PM, in 422

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Daniel Salomon, Chair (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)  
Sen. John Fuller (R)  
Sen. Greg Hertz (R)  
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

**Staff Present:** Pad McCracken, Research Analyst  
Lynnette Sena, Secretary

**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 231 03/17/2023

HB 501 03/17/2023

HB 502 03/17/2023

HB 535 03/17/2023

Executive Action:

15:30:30 Sen. Hertz has left

**HEARING ON HB 231 - Eliminate certification standards and practices advisory council**

**Opening Statement:**

15:07:02 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 231, Eliminate certification standards and practices advisory council.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:08:14 Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Advisor, Governor's Office

15:08:40 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty joined the meeting.

15:12:09 Renee Rasmussen, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:14:34 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:17:31 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

15:19:32 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

**Questions from Committee:**

15:19:55 Sen. Greg Hertz

15:21:57 McCall Flynn, BPE

15:22:33 Sen. John Fuller

15:23:11 McCall Flynn, BPE

15:23:52 Sen. John Fuller

15:24:14 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:24:36 McCall Flynn, BPE

15:25:12 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

15:25:56 Rep. Brandon Ler

15:26:42 Sen. Andrea Olsen  
15:27:30 Sen. Keith Regier left the meeting.  
15:30:39 McCall Flynn, BPE  
15:30:49 Sen. Daniel Emrich  
15:31:36 McCall Flynn, BPE  
15:31:54 Sen. Andrea Olsen  
15:32:27 Sarah Piper  
15:34:32 Sen. John Fuller  
15:36:00 McCall Flynn, BPE  
15:36:25 Chair Daniel Salomon

**Closing Statement:**

15:36:49 Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35, closed the hearing on HB 231.

**HEARING ON HB 501 - Revise school textbook laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:38:31 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 501, Revise school textbook laws.

[EXHIBIT\(230322EDSa1\)](#)

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:40:30 Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

15:44:30 Robyn Mohs, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:45:14 Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana (SAM), Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools (CAMP)

[EXHIBIT\(230322EDSa2\)](#)

15:51:09 Lance Melton, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)

15:53:21 Sarah Piper, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

15:55:50 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE)

15:57:34 Casey Bertram, Superintendent, Bozeman Public Schools

16:01:11 Dr. Chris Olszewski, Executive Director for Curriculum and Instruction, Billings Public Schools

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:05:36 Rob Stutz, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

16:06:21 Sen. John Fuller

16:11:26 Rob Watson, SAM, CAMP

16:11:47 Vice Chair Edith (Edie) McClafferty

16:12:36 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

16:12:49 Rob Stutz, OPI

16:16:02 Sen. Andrea Olsen

16:23:15 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, OPI

16:24:03 Vice Chair Russel (Russ) Tempel

16:24:18 Lance Melton, MTSBA

16:26:11 Chair Daniel Salomon

16:26:26 Sen. Greg Hertz joined the meeting.

16:29:03 Rob Stutz, OPI

16:29:35 Sen. Daniel Emrich

16:30:16 Rob Watson, SAM, CAMP

16:31:39 Lance Melton, MTSBA

16:32:14 Chair Daniel Salomon left the meeting.

16:34:07 Sen. Daniel Emrich

16:36:38 Chair Daniel Salomon joined the meeting.

16:37:30 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, OPI

16:38:05 Sen. Andrea Olsen

16:38:45 Rob Watson, SAM, CAMP

**Closing Statement:**

16:39:26 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 501.

**HEARING ON HB 502 - Revise education laws related to human sexuality instruction**

**Opening Statement:**

16:44:21 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, opened the hearing on HB 502, Revise education laws related to human sexuality instruction.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:47:41 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

16:49:18 Robyn Mohs, self

16:52:51 Alba Pimentel, Chapter Chair, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County

16:55:28 Jessie Browning, Moms for Liberty-Yellowstone County

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:58:14 Lance Melton, Coalition of Advocates for Montana Public Schools (CAMP)

[EXHIBIT\(230322EDSa3\)](#)

17:02:11 Sen. Greg Hertz left the meeting.

17:04:15 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:05:16 Rob Stutz, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:05:43 Sen. Daniel Emrich

17:07:27 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe

17:09:20 Sen. Daniel Emrich  
17:10:25 Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, OPI  
17:10:51 Rob Stutz, OPI  
17:12:06 Sen. Daniel Emrich  
17:12:38 Rob Stutz, OPI  
17:12:58 Sen. John Fuller  
17:16:28 Lance Melton, CAMP  
17:17:56 Chair Daniel Salomon  
17:18:06 Lance Melton, CAMP  
17:18:19 Chair Daniel Salomon

**Closing Statement:**

17:19:45 Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R), HD 43, closed the hearing on HB 502.

**HEARING ON HB 535 - Revising education laws to provide a definition of "financial literacy"**

**Opening Statement:**

17:27:00 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 535, Revising education laws to provide a definition of "financial literacy".

**Proponent Testimony:**

17:27:40 Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)  
17:31:10 Mike Paffhausen, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)  
17:35:31 Mike Paffhausen, on behalf of Jody Sandru, self  
17:37:09 Lance Melton, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)  
17:39:07 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:41:02 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

[EXHIBIT\(230322EDSa4\)](#)

17:42:29 Rob Stutz, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:42:54 Sen. Andrea Olsen

17:43:12 Rep. Braxton Mitchell

17:43:44 Sen. John Fuller

17:44:00 Lance Melton, MTSBA

17:45:44 Sen. Andrea Olsen

17:46:11 McCall Flynn, BPE

17:46:47 Chair Daniel Salomon

17:47:21 McCall Flynn, BPE

**Closing Statement:**

17:48:44 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 535.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:49:56

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Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230322EDSaad\)](#)