



## Education and Local Government Interim Committee

### 61st Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

KELLY GEBHARDT--Vice Chair  
GARY BRANAE  
KIM GILLAN  
BOB HAWKS  
DANIEL MCGEE  
JIM PETERSON

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

WANDA GRINDE--Chair  
ELSIE ARNTZEN  
RUSSELL BEAN  
BOB LAKE  
EDITH MCCLAFFERTY  
CHERYL STEENSON

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

LEANNE HEISEL, Research Analyst  
JEREMY GERSOVITZ, Staff Attorney  
CLAUDIA (CJ) JOHNSON, Secretary

## MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

March 11, 2010  
Rm 137

Capitol Bldg.  
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.**

Additional 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**

REP. BOB LAKE  
REP. EDITH MCCLAFFERTY  
SEN. BOB HAWKS

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED**

SEN. JIM PETERSON

#### **EX OFFICIO PARTICIPANTS**

DAN VILLA, Education and Policy Advisor, Governor's Office  
SHEILA STEARNS, Commissioner of Higher Education  
LYNN HAMILTON, Board of Regents  
STEVE MELOY, Board of Public Education  
MADALYN QUINLAN, Office of Public Instruction

## **STAFF PRESENT**

CASEY BARRS, Research Analyst  
JEREMY GERSOVITZ, Staff Attorney  
CLAUDIA (CJ) JOHNSON, Secretary

## **Visitors/Agenda**

Visitors' list, Attachment #1.  
Agenda, Attachment #2.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

The ELG Subcommittee approved:

- the minutes from December 10, 2009
- the initial draft of the K-12 shared policy goals and objective
- the post secondary K-20 shared policy goals and objectives
- to present the draft K-12 and K-20 shared policy goals to the full ELG committee.

## **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

00:00:01 Chair Lake called the ELG subcommittee to order at 1:34 p.m. The secretary called the roll. Attachment #3 Sen. Peterson is excused and provided a proxy.

## **AGENDA**

00:02:00 Sen. Hawks made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2009. The motion **passed**. Sen. Peterson voted aye by proxy.

### **Staff Comments on Process to Date**

- **Pam Joehler & Kris Wilkinson, Fiscal Analysts, Legislative Fiscal Division**

00:02:46 Ms. Joehler distributed a handout and explained the timelines that contain the goals and objectives that have been approved by the subcommittee and the full ELG committee. **(Exhibit 1)** She will have a draft of the full agreement that will be signed by the education partners and subcommittee.

00:05:39 Ms. Joehler informed the subcommittee members that the K-12 and K-20 workgroups have met since the last meeting.

00:07:50 Ms. Wilkinson addressed the four quadrants of the listed goals of Exhibit 1, and how to achieve them.

00:12:03 Chair Lake asked Ms. Wilkinson how they are viewing the measurement on the overall effect or the result of the expenditure of quadrant 4. Joyce Silverthorne, OPI, gave an explanation of the meetings that OPI has held.

### Postsecondary Panel

- **Tyler Trevor, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)**
- **Commissioner Sheila Stearns, OCHE**

- 00:15:19 Commissioner Stearns discussed the BPE meetings that took place earlier at OCHE with Mr. Trevor regarding their strategic plan and initiatives moving toward enrollment based budgeting. She informed the committee of their receiving a MOA grant. She talked about an effort called College Now that will increase the achievement of Montanans of post secondary education degrees. She discussed: 1) the strategic plan, 2) partnerships of policy goals between the regents, OCHE, other education entities, and 3) the state legislature and at the national level.
- 00:19:56 Mr. Trevor gave a presentation of the OCHE Strategic Plan 2010. **(Exhibit 3)** The handout is intended to facilitate what is in the document. It incorporates current initiatives. He walked the committee through the handout and explained the three shared policy goals:
- Goal 1 - Access & Affordability
  - Goal 2 - Workforce & Economic Development
  - Goal 3 - Efficiency and Effectiveness
- 00:29:33 The committee and Mr. Trevor discussed the goals, their completion, and the expected outcomes and achievements.
- Goal #1**
- 00:35:07 Mr. Trevor explained his handout: (Exhibit 3)
- Financial aid of the MUS Strategic Plan.
  - Metrics and affordability.
  - K-20 Collaboration.
  - Distance learning and the delivery of increased enrollment.
- 00:42:10 The committee talked about students in college being required to take one class online.
- Goal #2**
- 00:44:02 Mr. Trevor talked about 100% of the courses being delivered by distance learning. He talked about linking Montana graduates with the Department of Labor and Industry.
- 00:49:10 Commissioner Stearns spoke about the Montana University System (MUS) Science and Technology Advisory Committee (MUSSTAC) that will identify priorities for MUS, and the state of Montana in the allocation of resources to a research enterprise that can grow.
- Goal #3**
- 00:52:28 Mr. Trevor said that Montana is the 2nd most efficient state in the delivery of classroom services.

- 00:54:18 Mr. Trevor discussed:
- Transferability and that MUS is 65% of the way done in the course delivery for every college.
  - Budget allocation, course completions, moving from course to course, and connecting the strategic plan to the MUS budget process.

**K-12 Panel (HJR-6)**

- **Madalyn Quinlan, Office of Public Instruction**
  - **Steve Meloy, Board of Public Education**
- 01:06:41 Joyce Silverthorne (for Ms. Quinlan) distributed a handout explaining the K-12 shared policy goals. **(Exhibit 4)**
- 01:08:54 Chair Lake talked about this being a long difficult process. He thanked everyone for their input.
- 01:09:17 Mr. Silverthorne spoke about Exhibit 2 and how it is a companion to Exhibit 4. She addressed Goal #1 and its two objectives.
- 01:16:10 Mr. Meloy talked about the delivery of learning and including the virtual academy. He said that the Race to the Top is a benchmark for how Montana learns against national and international benchmarks which could bring more kids into the system. He informed the committee that the BPE is comfortable with the goals.
- 01:24:10 Ms. Silverthorne talked about a panel proposal to set U.S. Standards for Education. Mr. Barrs had several handouts from The New York Times that address setting standards. **(Exhibit 5)** and **(Exhibit 6)**
- 01:26:35 Mr. Dennis Parman distributed a handout of a memorandum of understanding signed by Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Schools, and Governor Brian Schweitzer confirming Montana's willingness to participate in the common core standards initiative spearheaded by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and the Council of Chief State School Officers. **(Exhibit 7)** Mr. Parman distributed and addressed a handout of the National Governors Association on the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) that provides answers to commonly asked questions. **(Exhibit 8)**
- 01:39:16 Chair Lake asked about signing on to a National Core Curriculum, and would it stand up in Montana. Mr. Meloy said there is a website that provides information on states adopting the federal standards, but allowing them a 15% leeway to fit the state.
- 01:48:06 Ms. Silverthorne informed the committee that by the next ELG subcommittee meeting that OPI will know more about Goal #2 and its objectives. She said that three additional people have been hired to process the data at OPI.
- 01:51:43 Ms. Silverthorne addressed Goal #3 - kids under the MOUSSAT. She stated there are a few schools that still do not meet the achievement goals, and said that OPI is making major changes to meet the mandates, but Montana's structure

does not allow for OPI to go in and take over those schools that do not meet the standards.

01:55:40 The committee discussed:

- intervention for struggling students in meeting the standards for schools.
- how teacher quality affects the students.
- teacher evaluations and a mechanism for identifying failure.

02:11:22 Mr. Parman talked about a performance model that tracks students over time and that the end goal is to get it to the classroom level to teachers with information such as what are the students' weakness, what are their strengths, and where did they come from, etc.

02:12:30 Ms. Silverthorne discussed Goal #4 - increase public awareness of the schools, agencies, and the legislators.

02:14:27 Mr. Meloy said this goal is one that the legislature, local schools and the BPE need to sign onto. He said as a good measure it would be nice to see fewer pieces of legislation that take a lot of people's time that will not make it through a court challenge.

#### **Motion**

02:20:26 Rep. McClafferty made the motion to present the initial draft of the shared objectives K-12 goals to the full committee. The motion **passed**. Sen. Peterson voted aye by proxy.

#### **Motion**

02:21:38 Sen. Hawks moved to approve the post secondary shared policy goals and objectives as amended. The motion **passed**. Sen. Peterson voted aye by proxy.

02:39:46 Break

#### **K-20 Panel (SJR-8)**

- **Madalyn Quinlan, Office of Public Instruction**
- **Steve Meloy, Board of Public Education**
- **Tyler Trevor, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education**

02:40:48 Mr. Trevor distributed a handout of the K-20 shared policy goals and objectives. **(Exhibit 9)** He explained the four quadrants (quantity, quality, effort, effect) for each objective.

02:44:56 Mr. Trevor and the committee discussed Goal #4. They talked about the data basis not requiring additional funds.

02:47:27 Sen. Hawks said OPI was appropriated funds several years ago and wanted to know if it could be used for this data base in question. Ms. Silverthorne said that funding has been used for AIMs (a unique identifier). The committee discussed the AIMs system, an identifier between student and teacher.

### **Motion**

- 02:54:57 Rep. McClafferty made a motion to present the K-20 draft shared policy goals and objectives to the full ELG committee. The motion **passed**. Sen. Peterson voted aye by proxy.
- 02:57:46 Christina Davis from the Children's Defense Fund, Great Falls, introduced herself and explained that the Children's Defense Fund is a non-profit organization, and said she is a conduit between Montana and Washington D.C.
- 03:00:08 Claudette Morton, Director of the Montana Small School Alliance, thanked the committee for everything they do. She talked about AYP measures that show if schools are succeeding or failing. She said that AYP measures a small amount of reading and mathematics on a one time only basis regarding graduation rates and absenteeism. She talked about local control at the school board level and who decides what the goals are for the students at that specific school.
- 03:04:48 Chair Lake gave instruction to staff. The subcommittee will meet on June 9, and start at 10 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

- 03:05:58 Chair Lake adjourned the subcommittee at 4:39 p.m.

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