



School Funding Interim Commission

64th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064

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KATYA GROVER, SECRETARY

AGENDA

School Funding Interim Commission

January 11-13, 2016

Room 102, State Capitol

Note: Agenda times are approximate. Some agenda items may require more or less time than indicated.

Monday, January 11

- 8:30 **Call to order, roll call** - Sen. Facey, Chair
- 8:35 **Administrative matters** - Pad McCracken, Commission Staff
- Budget update
 - Agenda review
- 8:45 **K-12 Education and Demographics: Trends and Projections** - Mary Craige, Census and Economic Information Center, Montana Dept. of Commerce
- 9:15 **Current School Funding Formula (cont'd from September)**
- Brief review of September school funding work session and overview of Guarantee Account - Pad McCracken and Rob Miller
 - Overview of district level funds, revenue sources, expenditures, accounting, flexibility - Denise Williams, MASBO
 - Fund balances and reserves - Rob Miller, LFD
 - Current equity status and variations in state funding per pupil - Rob Miller and Pad McCracken
 - Federal K-12 funding overview - Madalyn Quinlan, Ken Bailey, OPI
 - School funding legal background - Laura Sankey, Commission Staff Attorney
 - Other state approaches to district funds, reserves, and funding equity related to district size - Mike Griffith, Senior Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States
 - Public comment
 - Questions from the commission/discussion

- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 1:00 **Commission work session on School Facilities**
- Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
 - Funding for capital improvements overview - Denise Williams, MASBO
 - Review of 2008 School Facility Inventory - Joe Triem, LFD
 - Quality Schools Grant Program - Kelly Lynch, Community Development Division Administrator, Montana Department of Commerce
 - School Facility Entitlements (Debt Service GTB) - Pad McCracken and Rob Miller
 - School facility funding in other states, prioritization of projects - Mike Griffith
 - Public comment
 - Questions from the commission/discussion
- 3:00 **Recess for small group brainstorming on school facilities** (Rooms 102, 335, and 350) The commission will split into smaller groups with stakeholders and public welcome to join in addressing:
- What are the problems related to funding for school facilities?
 - What are the possible solutions to address these problems?
- 4:00 **Reconvene for report back and commission discussion of next steps**
- 5:00 **Recess for day**

Tuesday, January 12

- 8:30 **Commission work session on Recruitment and Retention**
- Presentation on school staffing difficulties - Dr. Richard Ingersoll, University of Pennsylvania (via videoconference)
 - Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
 - Current pathways to licensure - Dennis Parman, OPI
 - Flexibility in meeting accreditation standards - Dennis Parman, OPI
 - Salary information - Pad McCracken; Diane Fladmo, Director of Research and Bargaining, MEA-MFT
 - Health care benefits - Christi Sharp, President, Montana School Services Foundation; Diane Fladmo, MEA-MFT
 - State policies addressing recruitment and retention - Mike Griffith
 - Public comment
 - Commission discussion

- 10:30 **Recess for small group brainstorming on recruitment and retention**
(Rooms 102, 335, and 350) The commission will split into smaller groups with stakeholders and public welcome to join in addressing:
- What are the problems related to funding fo recruitment and retention?
 - What are the possible solutions to address these problems?
- 11:30 **Reconvene for report back and commission discussion of next steps**
- 12:30 **Lunch**
- 1:30 **Commission work session on district structure and boundaries**
- Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
 - Cooperative efforts between districts - Lance Melton, MTSBA; Kirk Miller, SAM; Dave Puyear, MREA
 - Regional Education Service Areas - Madalyn Quinlan, OPI
 - School district structure/reorganization in other states; effects of consolidation on costs and achievement - Mike Griffith
 - Public comment
 - Commission discussion
- 3:00 **Recess for small group brainstorming on district structure and boundaries** (Rooms 102, 335, and 350) The commission will split into smaller groups with stakeholders and public welcome to join in addressing:
- What are the problems related to district structure and boundaries?
 - What are the possible solutions to address these problems?
- 4:00 **Reconvene for report back and commission discussion of next steps**
- 5:00 **Recess for day**

Wednesday, January 13

- 8:00 **Commission work session on special education**
- Brief review of previously distributed materials; questions - Pad
 - Overview of current special education funding; role and funding of special education cooperatives; federal requirements and funding - Frank Podobnik, Special Education Division Administrator, OPI
 - Public comment
 - Commission discussion

- 9:50 **Break**
- 10:00 **Commission work session on technology**
- Report on broadband/district connectivity - Daniel Lloyd, Governor's Office of Economic Development; Andrew Kenny, EducationSuperHighway (via videoconference)
 - Montana Digital Academy update - Bob Currie, Director, Montana Digital Academy
 - Current technology funding - Rob Miller
 - Public comment
 - Commission discussion
- 11:45 **Lunch**
- 1:30 **Commission work session and discussion of next steps**
- Continued discussion of possible solutions and additional information needs
 - Schedule remaining meetings
 - Instructions to staff
 - Public comment
- 3:00 **Adjourn**

*Public comment provided in person to the commission is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a commission meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative Web site as part of the minutes log for the commission meeting.

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