



SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION

69th Montana Legislature

HOUSE MEMBERS

Brad Barker
David Bedey
Lee Deming
Eric Matthews
Luke Muszkiewicz
Melissa Romano

SENATE MEMBERS

Becky Beard
Forrest Mandeville
Jacinda Morigeau
Sara Novak
Sue Vinton
Jonathan Windy Boy

NON-LEGISLATOR MEMBERS

Tom Burnett
Clayton Christian
Rachel Green
Susie Hedalen
Martha Potter
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Mike Waterman

COMMITTEE STAFF

Pad McCracken – Lead Staff
Julia Pattin - Fiscal Staff
Laura Sankey Keip – Legal Staff
Katharine Johnson - Fiscal Staff
Rebecca Brown - Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

December 15, 2025

Zoom Only

Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. David Bedey, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Tom Burnett
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rachel Green
Susie Hedalen
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)
Martha Potter
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)
Mike Waterman

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)

Clayton Christian
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Pad McCracken, Lead Staff
Julia Pattin, Fiscal Staff
Laura Sankey Keip, Legal Staff
Katharine Johnson, Fiscal Staff
Rebecca Brown, Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA [\(Attachment 1\)](#)

VISITORS' LIST (Not available, Zoom only)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

08:00:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. The committee secretary took roll.
08:01:01 Rep. Brad Barker joined the meeting via Zoom.
08:01:02 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting via Zoom.
08:01:03 Sen. Sara Novak joined the meeting via Zoom.

REVIEW AGENDA AND WORK PLAN

08:03:01 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

PHASE II PLANNING

Cost Study Options Memo

08:04:30 Presiding Officer David Bedey
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Motion

08:07:35 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews moved to proceed with the procurement process as laid out in the memo by Pad McCracken.
(See Exhibit 2)

Discussion on the Motion

08:07:50 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:09:30 Commissioner Martha Potter
08:10:01 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:12:59 Rep. Lee Deming
08:13:37 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:15:30 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

Vote

08:17:00 Carried 19 - 1 by voice vote with Commissioner Tom Burnett voting no.

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORK GROUP (IEEWG)

08:19:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

08:20:46 Janice Case, Regional Director West, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:23:36 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:23:53 Rep. Melissa Romano

08:24:09 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

08:24:19 Janice Case, NCEE

08:25:05 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:25:46 Janice Case, NCEE

Breakout Session

08:29:06 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:33:51 Commissioner Tom Burnett

08:34:18 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

08:34:43 Commissioner Martha Potter

08:35:15 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

08:35:30 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:36:10 Commissioner Rachel Green

08:36:25 Sen. Sue Vinton

08:36:50 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

08:37:31 Commissioner Mike Waterman

08:38:02 Janice Case, NCEE

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE IEEWG - Continued

08:38:37 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer, Policy, NCEE

(See Exhibit 4)

08:44:14 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:44:36 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

08:45:31 Matt Bachand, NCEE

08:45:48 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

08:46:14 Janice Case, NCEE
08:46:20 Matt Bachand, NCEE
08:46:31 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:47:38 Matt Bachand, NCEE
08:48:55 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:50:12 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:50:50 Matt Bachand, NCEE
08:51:06 Janice Case, NCEE

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE IEEWG - Continued

08:51:20 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

08:53:07 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 3 and 4)
08:56:13 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 3)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:57:05 Sen. Sara Novak
08:57:14 Matt Bachand, NCEE
08:57:33 Janice Case, NCEE
08:57:49 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:58:02 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Transform Teaching

09:09:07 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
09:12:00 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:12:53 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
09:13:48 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:14:11 Janice Case, NCEE
09:15:17 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
09:16:24 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:17:36 Janice Case, NCEE
09:19:12 Commissioner Tom Burnett
09:20:35 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:23:30 Presiding Officer David Bedey

09:25:46 Sen. Sara Novak
 09:27:15 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:29:39 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:31:37 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
 09:32:41 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:33:16 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 09:34:29 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:34:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:35:19 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:37:37 Commissioner Brad Barker
 09:38:32 Janice Case, NCEE
 09:39:48 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:41:08 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:41:26 Janice Case, NCEE
 09:42:08 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:42:42 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:45:09 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:45:19 Commissioner Mike Waterman

Early Childhood, Early Learning

09:46:35 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 (See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:55:58 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:59:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:01:03 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
 10:02:32 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:02:46 Sen. Sue Vinton
 10:03:24 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:03:36 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 10:05:22 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:06:26 Sen. Sara Novak
 10:08:11 Sen. Sue Vinton
 10:09:17 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:09:48 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 10:11:19 Commissioner Tom Burnett
 10:12:24 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:13:28 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

Learner Centered Design

10:15:10 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
10:24:16 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
10:24:49 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

10:26:02 Commissioner Tim Tharp
10:28:18 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:29:25 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:32:14 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:32:27 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
10:35:13 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:36:19 Commissioner Tim Tharp
10:37:45 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:39:32 Janice Case, NCEE
10:40:05 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:42:11 Janice Case, NCEE
10:43:17 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:44:20 Commissioner Mike Waterman
10:45:33 Janice Case, NCEE
10:47:31 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
10:50:18 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Pathways

10:52:40 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:02:25 Sen. Sara Novak
11:05:08 Commissioner Rachel Green
11:05:59 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:06:41 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:08:34 Sen. Sara Novak
11:11:00 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:11:49 Commissioner Forrest Mandeville
11:12:37 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:13:37 Janice Case, NCEE
11:15:06 Presiding Officer David Bedey

PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT REPORT

11:15:35 Grace Decker, Montana Advocates for Children, Montana Budget & Policy Center
11:18:11 Jenny Walsh, School Board Trustee, Missoula
11:22:20 Alex Dubois, Policy & Engagement Director, Zero to Five Montana
11:24:55 Kim Popham, Public Policy and Research Director, Montana Federation of Public Employees
11:28:15 Shana Berry Brown, Teacher
11:32:47 Gary Lusin, School Board Trustee, Bozeman

11:42:24 **Recessed**
12:30:31 **Reconvened**

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE IEEWG - Continued

12:30:36 Janice Case, NCEE

Systems Design

12:31:04 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
12:40:51 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

12:47:00 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
12:50:31 Matt Bachand, NCEE
12:52:23 Presiding Officer David Bedey
12:54:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
12:55:59 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
12:59:10 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
13:01:11 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
13:02:36 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:02:59 Janice Case, NCEE
13:08:26 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:10:30 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:12:14 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:13:49 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
13:14:57 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:15:36 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:18:49 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:19:56 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:23:10 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:24:17 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
13:25:03 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:25:28 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:27:07 Sen. Sara Novak
13:28:51 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:29:17 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
(See Exhibit 3)
13:30:07 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:30:43 Supt. Susie Hedalen
13:33:46 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:35:51 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Setting the Context Outline & Thought Exchange

13:37:08 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
13:44:02 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:53:32 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

Implementation Plan Development

13:56:28 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
14:01:57 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:02:58 Commissioner Tim Tharp
14:03:26 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:03:39 Sen. Sara Novak
14:04:34 Janice Case, NCEE

Other Discussion Topics

14:05:26 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
14:06:32 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:12:47 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:13:33 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:14:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:14:57 Matt Bachand, NCEE

14:18:28 Supt. Susie Hedalen
14:20:09 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

Reflections

14:21:35 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:26:39 Rep. Lee Deming
14:27:06 Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:27:27 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
14:27:44 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
14:28:11 Janice Case, NCEE
14:28:26 Commissioner Mike Waterman
14:29:01 Janice Case, NCEE
14:29:34 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:29:49 Janice Case, NCEE
14:30:10 Presiding Officer David Bedey

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT

14:30:30 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana
14:33:00 Moffie Funk

WRAP UP

Plan for January 13, 2026, Meeting

14:34:53 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:35:13 Presiding Officer David Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:35:39