PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION
69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS	HOUSE MEMBERS	PUBLIC MEMBERS	COMMITTEE STAFF
Becky Beard	Brad Barker	Tom Burnett	Pad McCracken – Lead Staff
Forrest Mandeville	David Bedey	Clayton Christian	Julia Pattin - Fiscal Staff
Jacinda Morigeau	Lee Deming	Rachel Green	Laura Sankey Keip – Legal Staff
Sara Novak	Eric Matthews	Susie Hedalen	Katharine Johnson - Fiscal Staff
Sue Vinton	Luke Muszkiewicz	Martha Potter	Rebecca Brown – Research Staff
Jonathan Windy Boy	Melissa Romano	Matt Schreiber	Jolanda Songer - Secretary
		Tim Tharp	
		Mike Waterman	

MINUTES LOG

January 13, 2026
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)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Tom Burnett
Clayton Christian
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rachel Green
Susie Hedalen
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Martha Potter
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)
Mike Waterman

MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Rep. Brad Barker (R)
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 Staff
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST - Zoom Only

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
08:03:37 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

REVIEW AGENDA AND WORK PLAN
Advising Consultant RFP Update
08:05:26 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
EXHIBIT 1

Commission Questions / Discussion
08:06:48 None

February 11-12 Meeting Outline
08:06:58 Pad McCracken, LSD
EXHIBIT 2
EXHIBIT 3
08:10:21 Rep. Brad Barker joined the meeting via Zoom.

Commission Questions / Discussion
08:10:33 None

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP
08:10:52 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:12:05 Janice Case, Regional Director, West, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
EXHIBIT 4

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:20:51 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

08:21:58 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:23:12 Vice Chair Eric Matthews

08:23:57 Sen. Becky Beard

08:25:11 Sen. Sara Novak

08:25:50 Janice Case, NCEE

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP - Continued

08:27:19 Janice Case, NCEE

(See Exhibit 4)

08:32:42 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer, Policy, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:34:28 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:36:37 Presiding Officer David Bedey

08:38:21 Janice Case, NCEE

08:39:26 Commissioner Martha Potter

08:42:05 Janice Case, NCEE

08:42:19 Presiding Officer David Bedey

08:44:38 Commissioner Mike Waterman

08:45:42 Janice Case, NCEE

08:47:20 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

08:47:52 Janice Case, NCEE

08:48:07 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP - Continued

08:48:58 Janice Case, NCEE

(See Exhibit 4)

EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 6

08:51:39 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

Breakout Session

08:53:02 Matt Bachand, NCEE

(See Exhibit 4)

09:58:23 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:12:20 Sen. Becky Beard
09:13:20 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:14:47 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:17:32 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
09:19:22 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:21:04 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
09:22:08 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:24:54 Rep. Melissa Romano
09:26:26 Commissioner Mike Waterman
09:28:23 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:29:03 Commissioner Martha Potter
09:33:06 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:34:20 Commissioner Mike Waterman
09:36:43 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:39:01 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
09:41:21 Commissioner Mike Waterman
09:43:25 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:45:30 Sen. Sara Novak
09:47:29 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:48:17 Commissioner Martha Potter
09:48:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:50:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:52:57 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:55:15 Matt Bachand, NCEE

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP - Continued
Transform Teaching

09:56:01 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

09:58:07 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:58:23 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

10:11:19 Sen. Becky Beard
10:12:15 Janice Case, NCEE
10:12:20 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:12:35 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

10:13:57 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
10:14:32 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
10:15:33 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:15:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:16:53 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:19:08 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
10:21:51 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:22:51 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:25:02 Commissioner Tom Burnett
10:26:25 Sen. Sue Vinton
10:27:59 Sen. Sara Novak
10:30:07 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
10:31:24 Matt Bachand, NCEE

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP - Continued
Early Childhood, Early Learning
10:33:40 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session
10:35:53 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:35:51 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion
10:53:25 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:53:49 Commissioner Tom Burnett
10:54:24 Sen. Sue Vinton
10:54:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:55:34 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
10:56:36 Commissioner Mike Waterman
10:57:35 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:58:42 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:00:44 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:02:26 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:04:07 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
11:05:05 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:05:54 Sen. Sara Novak
11:07:40 Matt Bachand, NCEE

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP - Continued

Learner Centered Design

11:08:46 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

11:11:35 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:11:45 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:25:09 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:26:18 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
11:27:21 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:29:15 Commissioner Martha Potter
11:30:25 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:32:23 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:32:31 Commissioner Martha Potter
11:33:46 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:35:12 Janice Case, NCEE
11:35:27 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:37:51 Janice Case, NCEE
11:41:14 Commissioner Martha Potter
11:42:10 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:43:02 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:45:40 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:48:18 Rep. Lee Deming
11:49:07 Commissioner Mike Waterman
11:50:59 Janice Case, NCEE
11:53:42 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:54:55 Sen. Becky Beard
11:56:14 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:57:18 Commissioner Martha Potter
12:00:58 Presiding Officer David Bedey
12:02:43 Matt Bachand, NCEE
12:03:03 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
12:03:31 Presiding Officer David Bedey

PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT REPORT

12:04:19 Gary Lusin, Bozeman School Board
12:04:33 Commissioner Tim Tharp joined the meeting via Zoom.

12:12:02 Taylor Spieker, Teacher, Bozeman School District

12:19:26 Alex Dubois, Policy and Engagement Director, Zero to Five

12:22:24 **Recessed**

13:00:48 **Reconvened**

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP - Continued

Pathways

13:00:58 Matt Bachand, NCEE

(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

13:03:12 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:03:37 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:11:17 Sen. Sue Vinton

13:12:28 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:13:42 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

13:14:41 Matt Bachand, NCEE

COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF DRAFT REPORT OF THE INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP - Continued

Top Priority Discussion Topics

13:15:19 Matt Bachand, NCEE

(See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:16:28 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

13:16:49 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:17:58 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

13:19:14 Sen. Sue Vinton

13:19:37 Commissioner Martha Potter

13:19:59 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:20:51 Rep. Lee Deming

13:21:15 Commissioner Tom Burnett

13:21:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey

13:22:48 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

13:23:12 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:24:22 Commissioner Mike Waterman

13:25:59 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:27:11	Commissioner Martha Potter
13:29:20	Commissioner Mike Waterman
13:30:12	Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
13:31:01	Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:31:33	Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:32:00	Commissioner Martha Potter
13:33:01	Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:35:45	Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:36:51	Sen. Becky Beard
13:38:09	Commissioner Martha Potter
13:39:40	Commissioner Mike Waterman
13:41:53	Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:42:33	Commissioner Martha Potter
13:44:56	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:46:30	Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
13:47:30	Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:48:36	Commissioner Mike Waterman
13:48:46	Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:49:17	Commissioner Mike Waterman
13:51:17	Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:52:58	Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:54:48	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:55:56	Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:56:12	Sen. Sara Novak
13:57:52	Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:59:17	Janice Case, NCEE
13:59:33	Rep. Lee Deming
13:59:59	Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:01:25	Commissioner Martha Potter
14:02:01	Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:03:54	Janice Case, NCEE
14:04:24	Commissioner Martha Potter
14:05:42	Sen. Becky Beard
14:06:53	Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:07:05	Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
14:07:14	Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:07:43	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:08:53	Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:09:56	Commissioner Martha Potter
14:10:43	Matt Bachand, NCEE

14:12:03 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:13:32 Commissioner Tim Tharp
14:14:57 Supt. Susie Hedalen
14:16:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Motion

14:17:51 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews moved to accept the report with the vital edits suggested by the Presiding Officer and that committee staff works with NCEE to get the completed documents, so the committee can move to Phase II.
14:18:10 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

Discussion on the Motion

14:19:09 Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:19:46 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:22:09 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:23:42 Janice Case, NCEE
14:25:41 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:27:14 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:28:15 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:28:44 Sen. Becky Beard
14:29:47 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:31:15 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:32:16 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:33:24 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
14:33:52 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Motion

14:34:13 Commissioner Tom Burnett moved that the previous motion be amended to require the Chair to ensure the staff-prepared draft recognizes that the opinions in the report are not unanimous.
14:34:45 Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:35:08 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Discussion on the Motion

14:35:47 Supt. Susie Hedalen
14:36:28 Rep. Lee Deming
14:37:13 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:37:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:38:22 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

Vote on the Amendment

14:39:04 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion on the Motion
14:40:02 None

Vote on the Motion as Amended

15:40:43 Carried 14 - 6 by roll call vote with Supt. Susie Hedalen, Commr. Tim Tharp, Rep. Lee Deming, Sen. Becky Beard, Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Sen. Sue Vinton voting 'no'. Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Sen. Sue Vinton By Proxy

Motion
14:43:16 Rep. Lee Deming moved to record and incorporate concerns and objections in a standalone report.

Discussion on the Motion
14:44:24 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

14:44:40 Presiding Officer David Bedey

14:45:28 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

14:47:02 Superintendent Susie Hedalen

14:47:17 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

14:48:09 Commissioner Tom Burnett

14:49:03 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

14:50:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey

14:51:28 Commissioner Martha Potter

14:54:24 Commissioner Mike Waterman

Vote

14:55:32 Failed 13 - 7 by roll call vote with Commr. Tom Burnett, Commr. Rachel Green, Commr. Matt Schreiber, Rep. Lee Deming, Sen. Becky Beard, Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Sen. Sue Vinton voting 'yes'. Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Sen. Sue Vinton By Proxy

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT
14:58:34 Gary Lusin, Bozeman School Board

15:00:03 Kim Popham, Director, Policy and Research, Montana Federation for Public Employees

WRAP UP; PLAN FOR FEBRUARY 11-12 MEETING
15:03:02 Presiding Officer David Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:05:43