



SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

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

HOUSE MEMBERS

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

PUBLIC MEMBERS

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

COMMITTEE STAFF

Rebecca Brown - Research Analyst
Pad McCracken - Deputy Research Director
Julia Pattin - Fiscal Analyst
Laura Sankey Keip - Attorney
Ania Alduenda - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

June 23, 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)
Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Tom Burnett, Public Member
Clayton Christian, Public Member
Matt Schreiber, Public Member
Susie Hedalen, Public Member
Mike Waterman, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)

Martha Potter, Public Member
Tim Tharp, Public Member
Rachel Green, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director
Rebecca Brown, Research Analyst
Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst
Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney
Ania Alduenda, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST (Zoom Only)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

13:01:27 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. The committee secretary took roll.
13:03:33 Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Sen. Jacinda Morigeau, and Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting via zoom.

REVIEW AND ADOPT PROPOSED REVISED RULES AND PROCEDURES

13:03:34 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:04:24 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

Motion

13:09:11 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews moved to adopt the revised Rules and Procedures as presented by Pad McCracken.

Vote

13:09:27 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (IEEWG)
FACILITATION PROCUREMENT UPDATE**

13:09:40 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:11:24 Rep. Lee Deming
13:11:39 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:14:26 Sen. Becky Beard
13:14:59 Sen. Sue Vinton
13:15:22 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:16:38 Rep. Lee Deming
13:16:54 Presiding Officer David Bedey

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (IEEWG) MEMBERSHIP

13:19:03 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:19:19 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:22:08 Sen. Sara Novak left the meeting.
13:22:09 Matt Schreiber
13:22:45 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:23:47 Tom Burnett
13:23:57 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:26:34 Rep. Brad Barker
13:27:13 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:27:54 Sen. Becky Beard
13:28:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:30:10 Sen. Sue Vinton
13:31:00 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:32:15 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
13:32:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Motion

13:34:21 Tom Burnett moved to invite a parent advocacy group member to work with the commission and rely only on commission members to represent teachers, administrators, business officers, and trustees.

Discussion on the Motion

13:35:00 Rep. Melissa Romano
13:35:58 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
13:36:06 Matt Schreiber
13:36:42 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau

Vote

13:37:38 Carried 13 – 7 by roll call vote with Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews, Sen. Jacinda Morigeau, Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz, Sen. Sara Novak, Rep. Melissa Romano, Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy, and Rachel Green voting ‘no’. Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz, Sen. Sara Novak, and Rachel Green by proxy.

Public Comment

13:40:10 Julie Merritt, Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:41:16 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:41:34 Rep. Lee Deming
13:42:18 Julie Merritt, Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education

13:43:21 Sen. Becky Beard
13:43:45 Julie Merritt
13:45:02 Presiding Officer David Bedey

COMMISSION WORK PLAN, CALENDAR, AND BUDGET

13:45:57 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:46:11 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:52:54 Matt Schreiber
13:55:06 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:58:11 Sen. Becky Beard
13:59:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Revisit Work Plan

14:01:03 Pad McCracken, LSD
14:01:20 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Budget Considerations and Meeting Cost Estimates

14:02:07 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Public Comment

14:03:28 None

SCHOOL FUNDING WORK SESSION

Unpacking Per-Pupil Expenditures (PPE)

14:03:58 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:05:06 Becca Brown, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:05:18 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, LSD
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:12:15 Tom Burnett
14:12:34 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:12:51 Pad McCracken, LSD

Unpacking Per-Pupil Expenditures (PPE) - Continued

14:13:17 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:17:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:17:58 Pad McCracken

Unpacking Per-Pupil Expenditures (PPE) - Continued

14:18:19 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 4)
14:28:18 Becca Brown, LSD
(See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:40:13 Mike Waterman
14:41:43 Pad McCracken
14:42:38 Matt Schreiber
14:43:11 Pad McCracken
14:43:49 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
14:44:16 Pad McCracken
14:44:23 Becca Brown
14:45:51 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:45:57 Pad McCracken

Commission Webpage and Resources

14:46:10 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

School Funding Dashboards Walkthrough

14:48:30 Julia Pattin, LFD
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:59:50 Matt Schreiber
15:00:36 Julia Pattin
15:02:05 Pad McCracken

School Funding Dashboards Walkthrough - Continued

15:05:01 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 5)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:15:02 Matt Schreiber
15:15:36 Julia Pattin

School Funding Dashboards Walkthrough - Continued

15:17:54 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 5)
15:21:33 Presiding Officer David Bedey

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANY TOPIC UNDER SFIC'S JURISDICTION**Written Public Comments ([Attachment 2](#))**

15:22:03 Julie Merritt, Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education

15:23:19 Kim Popham, Director of Public Policy and Research, Montana Federation of
Public Employees
15:25:12 Rob Watson, School Administrators of Montana
(See Attachment 2)
15:26:53 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education

REVIEW PLANS FOR JULY 23-24 MEETING

15:27:46 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:28:44 Dr. Tim Tharp
15:28:57 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:29:54 Matt Schreiber
15:30:07 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:30:12 Pad McCracken
15:30:21 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:30:57 Sen. Sue Vinton
15:31:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:33:26