



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
Jolanda Songer

COMMITTEE STAFF

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

PUBLIC MEMBERS

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

MINUTES LOG

June 04, 2025
Capitol Room 317 & Zoom
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.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. David Bedey, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Martha Potter, Public Member
Tom Burnett, Public Member
Matt Schreiber, Public Member
Tim Tharp, Public Member
Rachel Green, Public Member
Mike Waterman, Public Member

Clayton Christian, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Susie Hedalen, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director, Legislative Services Division

Rebecca Brown, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Services Division

Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney, Legislative Services Division

Ania Alduenda, Secretary, Legislative Services Division

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

13:34:09 Rep. David Bedey called the meeting to order at 13:34. The committee secretary took roll.

WELCOME AND PURPOSE OF SFIC

13:36:39 Rep. David Bedey
13:37:16 Mike Waterman, Executive Director, Business Operations, Bozeman School District 7
13:37:33 Rep. Eric Matthews
13:37:52 Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education, Montana University System
13:38:03 Rep. Lee Deming
13:38:12 Matt Schreiber
13:38:23 Rep. Brad Barker
13:38:38 Rep. Melissa Romano
13:38:58 Martha Potter, Superintendent, Savage School
13:39:24 Sen. Becky Beard
13:39:43 Susie Hedalen joined the meeting via zoom.
13:39:54 Rep. David Bedey
13:40:22 Sen. Sue Vinton
13:40:51 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
13:41:19 Tom Burnett
13:41:36 Sen. Sara Novak
13:42:13 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
13:42:55 Dr. Tim Tharp, Chairman, Board of Public Education
13:43:31 Rachel Green, Governor's Policy Director
13:43:53 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy

13:44:50 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
13:45:13 Susie Hedalen, Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction
13:45:33 Rep. David Bedey
13:45:44 Becca Brown, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
13:46:04 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, LSD
13:46:33 Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney, LSD
13:47:13 Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director, LSD
13:48:00 Ania Alduenda, Secretary, LSD
13:48:28 Rep. David Bedey
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
13:49:29 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 1)
13:56:02 Rep. David Bedey
(See Exhibit 1)

Committee Questions / Discussion

13:58:13 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
13:58:35 Rep. David Bedey
13:58:53 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy left the meeting.

BRIEF REVIEW OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS

13:58:55 Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
14:02:19 Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney, LSD
(See Exhibit 3)
14:04:08 Becca Brown, Research Analyst, LSD
[EXHIBIT 4](#)
14:08:45 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 2)
14:11:44 Laura Sankey Keip, LSD

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:12:42 Sen. Sue Vinton
14:13:04 Laura Sankey Keip

BRIEF REVIEW OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS - Continued

14:13:40 Pad McCracken
14:13:50 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, LSD
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:25:21 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
(See Exhibit 2)
14:26:05 Julia Pattin, LSD

BRIEF REVIEW OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS - Continued

14:27:02 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 2)
(See Exhibit 4)
(See Exhibit 5)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:37:53 Rep. David Bedey
14:39:39 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
14:39:54 Julia Pattin
14:42:00 Dr. Tim Tharp

BRIEF REVIEW OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS - Continued

14:42:58 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
[EXHIBIT 7](#)
(See Exhibit 2, page 19)
14:49:31 Julia Pattin
(See Exhibit 2)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:50:12 None

ADOPTION OF CURRENT 2023 INTERIM COMMITTEE RULES

14:50:20 Rep. David Bedey
14:50:50 Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

14:52:17 Sen. Sue Vinton
14:52:40 Pad McCracken, LSD

ADOPTION OF CURRENT 2023 INTERIM COMMITTEE RULES - Continued

14:53:02 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 8)
14:56:50 Rep. David Bedey

Motion

14:57:00 Rep. Eric Matthews moved to adopt the current 2023 interim committee rules with Pad McCracken's recommendations.
14:57:35 Pad McCracken
14:57:46 Rep. Eric Matthews

Discussion on the Motion

14:57:56 None

Vote

14:58:10 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

COMMISSION ROADMAP

14:58:13 Rep. David Bedey

14:58:27 Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 9](#)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:03:14 Rep. Eric Matthews
(See Exhibit 9)

15:03:48 Rep. David Bedey

15:04:18 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:05:02 Pad McCracken, LSD

15:05:49 Rep. David Bedey

15:06:13 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:06:56 Mike Waterman

15:07:12 Pad McCracken

15:08:06 Rep. David Bedey

COMMISSION ROADMAP - Continued

15:09:00 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
(See Exhibit 1)

Committee Questions / Discussion

15:11:54 Rep. David Bedey
(See Exhibit 1)

15:12:37 Sen. Sue Vinton

15:15:32 Rep. Eric Matthews

15:15:41 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

15:17:05 Rep. David Bedey

15:18:37 Sen. Sara Novak

15:19:16 Rep. David Bedey

15:20:34 Rachel Green

15:21:26 Rep. David Bedey

15:22:12 Rep. Eric Matthews

15:23:35 Sen. Becky Beard

15:25:15 Martha Potter

15:27:25 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

15:29:23 Sen. Sara Novak

15:30:39 Martha Potter

15:31:00 Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney, LSD
(See Exhibit 1)

15:31:54	Rep. David Bedey
15:35:45	Matt Schreiber
15:36:19	Rep. David Bedey
15:38:47	Mike Waterman
15:39:33	Rep. David Bedey
15:40:16	Rep. Melissa Romano
15:40:47	Rep. David Bedey
15:41:23	Sen. Forrest Mandeville
15:41:44	Pad McCracken
15:42:07	Rep. David Bedey
15:43:56	Dr. Tim Tharp (See Exhibit 10)
15:44:29	Rep. David Bedey
15:44:39	Rep. Eric Matthews

COMMISSION ROADMAP - Continued

15:45:29	Pad McCracken (See Exhibit 1) (See Exhibit 10)
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Committee Questions / Discussion

15:49:33	Rep. David Bedey
15:50:52	Sen. Sue Vinton
15:53:04	Rep. David Bedey
15:54:55	Tom Burnett (See Exhibit 1)
15:56:05	Rep. David Bedey
15:57:12	Martha Potter
15:58:02	Rep. David Bedey
16:00:00	Pad McCracken
16:01:18	Rep. David Bedey
16:01:40	Sen. Sue Vinton
16:01:55	Rep. David Bedey

COMMISSION ROADMAP - Continued

16:03:15	Janice Case, Regional Director, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
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Committee Questions / Discussion

16:08:12	Martha Potter
16:08:31	Janice Case
16:10:22	Sen. Becky Beard
16:11:48	Rep. David Bedey

COMMISSION ROADMAP - Continued

16:12:07 Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration (DOA)

Committee Questions / Discussion

16:12:27 Sen. Sue Vinton
16:13:53 Misty Ann Giles, DOA
16:15:55 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
16:16:50 Director Misty Ann Giles
16:18:20 Rep. David Bedey
16:18:35 Director Misty Ann Giles
16:19:31 Sen. Sue Vinton
16:19:42 Misty Ann Giles
16:20:03 Rep. David Bedey
16:21:12 Matt Schreiber
16:21:39 Janice Case
16:24:09 Dr. Tim Tharp

Motion

16:26:26 Dr. Tim Tharp moved to approve sole source procurement working with NCEE contingent on HB 2 and other necessary provisions.

Discussion on the Motion

16:26:56 Matt Schreiber
16:27:15 Rep. David Bedey

Vote

16:28:33 Carried 16 – 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Becky Beard, Rep. Lee Deming, Sen. Sue Vinton, and Tom Burnett voting ‘no’.

16:30:40 **Recessed**

16:40:44 **Reconvened**

EDUNOMICS WORKSHOP REFLECTIONS

16:40:50 Rep. David Bedey
16:41:18 Matt Schreiber

SELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

16:42:04 Rep. David Bedey
16:42:24 Rep. Brad Barker nominated Rep. David Bedey to be Presiding Officer.

Discussion on the Motion

16:42:37 Rep. David Bedey

Motion

16:42:45 Tom Burnett nominated Rep. Sue Vinton to be Presiding Officer.

Discussion on the Motion

16:43:00 Rep. David Bedey

Vote

16:43:51 Carried 14 – 6 by roll call vote with Sen. Becky Beard, Rep. Lee Deming, Sen. Forrest Mandeville, Rep. Sue Vinton, Tom Burnett, and Matt Schreiber voting for Rep. Sue Vinton to be Presiding Officer; Rep. David Bedey, Rep. Eric Matthews, Rep. Brad Barker, Sen. Sara Novak, Sen. Jacinda Morigeau, Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz, Rep. Melissa Romano, Martha Potter, Dr. Tim Tharp, Rachel Green, Mike Waterman, and Clayton Christian voting for Rep. David Bedey to be Presiding Officer. Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy by proxy.

Motion

16:45:58 Sen. Sara Novak nominated Rep. Eric Matthews to be Vice Presiding Officer.

16:46:06 Sen. Sue Vinton nominated Sen. Sara Novak to be Vice Presiding Officer.

Discussion on the Motion

16:46:37 Susie Hedalen

16:47:00 Sen. Sara Novak

16:47:34 Rep. Matthews is Vice Presiding Officer without contest.

16:47:46 Tom Burnett
(See Exhibit 8)

PUBLIC COMMENT WITHIN SFIC'S JURISDICTION

16:48:37 Tamara Fisher Alley, Polson

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

16:52:48 Carrie Jones, Helena

16:54:58 Rep. Lee Deming

16:55:11 Carrie Jones

16:55:22 Sarah Froehlke, Zero to Five Montana

16:55:55 Gary Lusin, Bozeman

17:03:51 Moffie Funk

17:05:11 Kevin Nelson

17:08:56 Kim Popham, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

17:10:45 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana

17:13:25 Shelley Turner, Executive Director, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)

17:16:19 Robert Story, Montana Taxpayers Association

COMPENSATION BASICS

17:21:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey

17:22:05 Angie Carter, Financial Office Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)

17:23:16 Maia Zelenak, Senior Accountant, LSD
(See Exhibit 13)

Committee Questions / Discussion

17:28:23 Vice Presiding Officer, Eric Matthews
17:28:45 Maia Zelenak, LSD
17:29:10 Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director, LSD
17:29:28 Angie Carter, LSD

NEXT STEPS

17:30:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Finalize Next Meeting Date

17:30:18 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Committee Questions / Discussion

17:30:58 Pad McCracken, Deputy Research Director, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
17:31:14 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Additional Background Information and Resources

17:33:56 Presiding Officer David Bedey
17:34:02 Martha Potter
17:34:15 Presiding Officer David Bedey
17:35:06 Sen. Sue Vinton
17:35:32 Presiding Officer David Bedey
17:36:04 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
17:36:24 Pad McCracken, LSD
17:37:03 Julie Pattin
17:37:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey
17:38:03 Rep. Melissa Romano
17:38:22 Pad McCracken
17:38:55 Presiding Officer David Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:39:09