



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

Non-Legislator Members

Commissioner 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

November 13, 2025
Day 1 - 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)
Tom Burnett
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rachel Green
Supt. Susie Hedalen
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Sen. Sue Vinton (R) – Via Zoom
Mike Waterman

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Clayton Christian
Martha Potter
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
Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**VISITORS' LIST** ([Attachment 2](#))**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

08:01:39 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

REVIEW AGENDA AND UPDATED WORK PLAN

08:03:13 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE)**Overview**

08:06:49 Janice Case, Regional Director West, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

Breakout Session

08:10:52 Janice Case, NCEE
08:11:51 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer - Policy, NCEE
08:11:52 Commissioner Martha Potter joined the meeting via Zoom.
08:11:53 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting via Zoom.

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:19:57 Janice Case, NCEE
08:20:17 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
08:21:04 Rep. Brad Barker
08:22:10 Commissioner Tim Tharp

08:22:29 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:23:18 Sen. Becky Beard
08:24:51 Janice Case, NCEE

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER
ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) – Continued
Roadshow Recap – Analysis and Insights**

08:25:20 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 2)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:30:32 Commissioner Tom Burnett
08:30:38 Matt Bachand, NCEE
08:31:16 Janice Case, NCEE

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER
ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) – Continued
Roadshow Recap – Analysis and Insights – Continued**

08:32:16 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 2)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:34:27 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:34:55 Vice Presiding Officer Matthews left the meeting.
08:35:51 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 2)
08:38:54 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:39:50 Commissioner Martha Potter
08:40:36 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:41:25 Janice Case, NCEE
08:42:09 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:43:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER
ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) – Continued
Roadshow Recap – Analysis and Insights – Continued**

08:46:09 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:49:27 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:50:25 Matt Bachand, NCEE

08:51:51 Sen. Sara Novak
08:54:43 Janice Case, NCEE
08:55:40 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:57:02 Janice Case, NCEE

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER
ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) – Continued
Roadshow Recap – Analysis and Insights – Continued**

08:59:57 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:01:07 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:02:05 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER
ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) – Continued
Roadshow Recap – Analysis and Insights – Continued**

09:03:50 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:05:51 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
09:06:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey
[EXHIBIT 3](#)
09:07:37 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:08:32 Supt. Susie Hedalen
09:09:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER
ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) – Continued
Roadshow Recap – Analysis and Insights – Continued**

09:09:51 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:11:06 Commissioner Tom Burnett
09:11:18 Matt Bachand, NCEE

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - NATIONAL CENTER
ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) – Continued
Roadshow Recap – Analysis and Insights – Continued**

09:13:14 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:19:22 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:21:01 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:21:27 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Breakout Session

09:22:26 Janice Case, NCEE
09:23:10 Sen. Becky Beard left the meeting.

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:29:21 Janice Case, NCEE
09:30:30 Commissioner Tom Burnett
09:30:46 Rep. Brad Barker
09:31:11 Sen. Sue Vinton
09:31:37 Rep. Melissa Romano
09:33:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:36:02 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
09:38:10 Supt. Susie Hedalen
09:40:05 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:41:58 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:42:02 Janice Case, NCEE

GRADUATE PROFILE OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS - OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI)

09:43:13 Julie Murgel, Chief Operating Officer, OPI
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:48:43 Commissioner Tom Burnett
09:48:54 Julie Murgel, OPI
09:49:55 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:50:41 Julie Murgel, OPI
09:52:11 Supt. Susie Hedalen
09:54:12 Commissioner Tim Tharp

GRADUATE PROFILE OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS – OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI) - Continued

09:57:14 Crystal Andrews, Senior Manager of Accreditation and Licensure, OPI
(See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:59:03 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
09:59:24 Crystal Andrews, OPI
10:00:26 Commissioner Mike Waterman
10:00:39 Crystal Andrews, OPI

GRADUATE PROFILE OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS – OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI) - Continued

10:01:35 Crystal Andrews, OPI
(See Exhibit 4)
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
10:10:20 Crystal Smith, OPI
(See Exhibit 4)
10:15:03 Julie Murgel, OPI
(See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

10:19:03 Commissioner Tom Burnett
10:19:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
10:20:53 Julie Murgel, OPI
10:22:36 Rep. Lee Deming
10:23:10 Commissioner Tim Tharp
10:24:44 Sen. Sara Novak
10:25:16 Commissioner Mike Waterman
10:26:37 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:26:56 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
10:27:54 Supt. Susie Hedalen

10:31:18 **Recessed**

10:46:20 **Reconvened**

10:32:02 Rachel Green left the meeting.

STUDENT PANELISTS: LOOKING IN: MONTANA GRADUATE PROFILES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Introductions

10:47:05 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer - Policy, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
10:48:29 Dalton Howser, Student, Flathead High School, Kalispell
10:49:27 Nikita Kiner, Student, Savage High School, Savage
10:50:14 Bridger Muri, Student, Custer County High School, Miles City

Moderated Q & A Session with Students

10:50:28 Matt Bachand, NCEE - Moderator
10:51:47 Dalton Howser, Kalispell
10:53:11 Nikita Kiner, Savage, MT
10:54:17 Bridger Muri, Miles City
10:54:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:55:21 Dalton Howser, Kalispell
10:56:20 Nikita Kiner, Savage
10:56:54 Bridger Muri, Miles City
10:58:14 Matt Bachand, NCEE
10:58:23 Dalton Howser, Kalispell
10:59:16 Nikita Kiner, Savage
10:59:52 Bridger Muri, Miles City

Commission Questions for the Student Panel

11:00:30 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:00:41 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:01:38 Dalton Howser, Kalispell

Moderated Q & A Session with Students - Continued

11:03:06 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:03:54 Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:04:56 Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:05:41 Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:07:26 Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:07:51 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:08:31 Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:09:10 Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:10:02 Nikita Kiner, Savage

Commission Questions for the Student Panel - Continued

11:10:51 Commissioner Mike Waterman
11:11:28 Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:12:03 Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:13:07 Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:13:55 Sen. Sue Vinton
11:14:18 Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:15:59 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:16:27 Sen. Sue Vinton
11:16:49 Nikita Kiner, Savage

11:17:23	Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:18:08	Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:18:58	Commissioner Tom Burnett
11:20:11	Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:20:43	Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:21:05	Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:22:04	Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:23:30	Janice Case, NCEE
11:24:37	Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:25:58	Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:26:29	Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:27:17	Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:27:54	Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:28:49	Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:29:32	Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:30:24	Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
11:31:22	Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:32:15	Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:33:08	Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:34:18	Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:34:51	Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:35:32	Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:37:22	Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:38:51	Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:39:23	Dalton Howser, Kalispell
11:39:58	Bridger Muri, Miles City
11:40:13	Nikita Kiner, Savage
11:40:32	Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:40:48	Commissioner Tim Tharp
11:42:21	Presiding Officer David Bedey

Breakout Session

11:43:17	Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:50:36	Supt. Susie Hedalen left the meeting.

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:52:06	Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:52:31	Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
11:53:27	Sen. Forrest Mandeville
11:54:24	Rep. Melissa Romano

11:55:07 Commissioner Tom Burnett
11:55:39 Sen. Sara Novak
11:56:23 Rep. Lee Deming
11:57:35 Commissioner Tim Tharp
11:59:31 Presiding Officer David Bedey
12:01:17 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
12:02:18 Commissioner Tim Tharp
12:03:13 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Public Comment

12:04:13 Tom Cubbage, Great Falls
12:08:17 Jane Shawn, Union President, Helena Education Association
12:12:04 Scott Chook, President, Missoula Education Association
12:19:22 Anna Shchemelinin
12:21:59 Gary Lusin, Bozeman School Board
12:27:06 Jinnifer Mariman, Kalispel Public School Trustee

12:32:11 **Recessed**

13:31:47 **Reconvened**

13:31:47 Rachel Green joined the meeting.

Public Comment - Continued

13:32:12 Arlene Walker-Andrews, Missoula County Public School Trustee

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - Continued

13:37:32 Janice Case, NCEE
([See Exhibit 2](#))

Breakout Session

13:48:29 Janice Case, NCEE
13:49:37 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:50:09 Sen. Becky Beard rejoined the meeting.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - Continued

14:00:08 Janice Case, NCEE
14:01:05 Matt Bachand, NCEE
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

Breakout Session

14:03:38 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:29:30 Janice Case, NCEE
14:31:05 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:32:11 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:34:39 Sen. Sara Novak
14:35:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:37:05 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:38:17 Sen. Becky Beard
14:38:49 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:39:03 Commissioner Mike Waterman

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - Continued

14:39:35 Janice Case, NCEE
14:40:06 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 2)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:43:41 Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:44:09 Janice Case, NCEE
14:45:16 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:46:58 Commissioner Mike Waterman
14:47:15 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:48:35 Janice Case, NCEE
14:49:03 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:49:47 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:50:40 Janice Case, NCEE
14:51:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:51:54 Janice Case, NCEE
14:52:27 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:53:05 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:53:47 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:54:11 Susie Hedalen rejoined the meeting.
14:54:19 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:56:24 Janice Case, NCEE
14:56:55 Sen. Becky Beard
14:57:52 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:59:18 Commissioner Martha Potter
15:00:35 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:02:36 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:03:51 Matt Bachand, NCEE

15:06:04 Janice Case, NCEE
15:06:54 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:07:17 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:09:33 Janice Case, NCEE

Breakout Session

15:10:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:12:31 Janice Case, NCEE

[EXHIBIT 7](#)

TEACHER PANEL: HOW DO WE ENSURE HIGH CAPACITY, FORWARD-LOOKING EDUCATORS FOR MONTANA'S STUDENTS?

Introductions

15:31:51 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer - Policy, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)

Moderated Q & A Session with Teachers

15:34:28 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:34:46 Jake Warner, Helena High School, Helena
15:36:02 Catherine Matthews, Hyalite Elementary School, Bozeman
15:37:17 Linda Rost, Baker Public Schools, Baker
15:40:07 Dawn Sievers, Power Public Schools, Power
15:42:39 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:42:55 Catherine Matthews, Bozeman
15:44:59 Linda Rost, Baker
15:48:07 Dawn Sievers, Power
15:52:39 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:53:15 Jake Warner, Helena
15:57:03 Catherine Matthews, Bozeman
15:59:27 Dawn Sievers, Power
16:02:16 Linda Rost, Baker
16:07:07 Catherine Matthews, Bozeman
16:10:58 Jake Warner, Helena
16:12:04 Matt Bachand, NCEE
16:12:55 Catherine Matthews, Bozeman
16:13:36 Linda Rost, Baker
16:14:46 Dawn Sievers, Power
16:15:51 Jake Warner, Helena

Commission Questions for the Teacher Panel

16:17:12 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

16:18:13 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:19:38 Sen. Sue Vinton
 16:20:10 Jake Warner, Helena
 16:22:38 Linda Rost, Baker
 16:24:07 Dawn Sievers, Power
 16:25:11 Sen. Becky Beard
 16:26:06 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 16:28:25 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
 16:28:51 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
 16:30:21 Jake Warner, Helena
 16:32:32 Catherine Matthews, Bozeman
 16:35:30 Dawn Sievers, Power
 16:38:28 Linda Rost, Baker
 16:41:27 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 16:41:48 Catherine Matthews, Bozeman
 16:42:17 Dawn Sievers, Power
 16:43:13 Linda Rost, Baker

Commission Questions / Discussion

16:43:51 Commissioner Tim Tharp
 16:44:22 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
 16:45:46 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
 16:46:29 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:46:53 Sen. Sara Novak
 16:50:00 Sen. Sue Vinton
 16:51:12 Commissioner Martha Potter
 16:53:28 Janice Case, NCEE

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF THE DAY

16:54:47 Terry Marasco
 EXHIBIT 8 (his public comment) ###waiting on exhibit
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
 16:59:12 Molly Schmidt
 17:01:52 Jen Mooney, Helena
 17:04:49 Felecia King, Bozeman
 17:09:46 Severena Samuelson
 17:12:57 Kim Popham, Director of Public Policy and Research, Montana Federation of Public Employees
[EXHIBIT 10](#)

17:16:12 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education
[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Breakout Session

17:21:21 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 7)

Commission Questions / Discussion

17:54:12 Matt Bachand, NCEE
17:55:45 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
17:55:53 Matt Bachand, NCEE
17:56:13 Janice Case, NCEE
17:58:37 Presiding Officer David Bedey
17:59:20 Sen. Becky Beard

RECESS UNTIL FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025

Recess: 17:59:36