



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

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 14, 2025
Day 2 - 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.

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)
Tom Burnett
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Supt. Susie Hedalen
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Martha Potter – Via Zoom
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)
Mike Waterman

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Clayton Christian

Rachel Green
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (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 ([Attachment 2](#))

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

08:01:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - Continued

Review

08:02:17 Janice Case, Regional Director West, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
([See Exhibit 1](#))

Breakout Session

08:04:57 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 1)

08:07:46 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting.

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:13:04 Janice Case, NCEE
08:13:40 Commissioner Tim Tharp
08:15:25 Sen. Becky Beard
08:16:34 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:18:03 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:20:41 Supt. Susie Hedalen
08:21:21 Rep. Melissa Romana
08:22:43 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
08:23:58 Commissioner Mike Waterman
08:25:04 Commissioner Tom Burnett
08:25:53 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:27:21 Sen. Sara Novak

08:29:11 Presiding officer David Bedey
08:29:37 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:29:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:30:34 Sen. Becky Beard
08:31:26 Supt. Susie Hedalen
08:33:36 Presiding Officer David Bedey

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP III - Continued

08:35:28 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 1)
08:38:22 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer- Policy, NCEE
(See Exhibit 1)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:41:13 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:41:42 Janice Case, NCEE
08:43:33 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:46:13 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:48:29 Janice Case, NCEE
08:50:45 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:54:08 Commissioner Mike Waterman
(See Exhibit 1)
08:54:26 Janice Case, NCEE
08:55:18 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Breakout Session

Policy Crosswalk and Design

08:56:51 Janice Case, NCEE
08:57:09 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
09:14:55 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz joined the meeting.

Reports from Small Groups

11:31:59 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 1)

Report from the "Transform Teaching" Group

11:34:56 Julie Murgel, Chief Program Officer, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
11:38:33 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 1, Page 80)

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:39:49 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
11:40:00 Janice Case, NCEE

Small Group Huddle

11:40:12 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:46:25 Sen. Sara Novak
11:46:45 Janice Case, NCEE
11:47:00 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:47:21 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
11:47:44 Janice Case, NCEE

Report from the "Learner Centered Education" Group

11:48:14 Pad McCracken, LSD
[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Small Group Huddle

11:49:05 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:52:05 Janice Case, NCEE

Report from the "Early Learning" Group

11:52:29 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
11:52:55 Rob Watson, School Administration of Montana (SAM)
[EXHIBIT 14](#)

Small Group Huddle

11:54:58 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:59:41 Commissioner Tim Tharp
11:59:55 Rob Watson, SAM
12:01:13 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
12:02:12 Presiding Officer David Bedey
12:03:18 Matt Bachand, NCEE
12:04:10 Sen. Sara Novak
12:04:54 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

Report from the "Pathways and CTE" Group

12:05:33 Sen. Sara Novak

[EXHIBIT 15](#)

12:06:23 Janice Case, NCEE

Small Group Huddle

12:07:31 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

12:11:33 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

12:12:23 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Public Comment

12:14:19 Sarah Swanson, Commissioner, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI)

12:19:14 Matt Jensen, District 5 Superintendent, Kalispell Public Schools

12:22:18 Caitlin Jensen, Zero to Five Montana

12:23:47 Isak Petersen, Teacher, Missoula

12:29:40 **Recessed**

13:31:44 **Reconvened**

REPORT FROM SMALL GROUPS - Continued**Report from the "Transform Teaching" Group**

13:31:53 Janice Case, NCEE

13:33:18 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
(See Exhibit 12)

13:36:27 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:39:26 Commissioner Tom Burnett

13:40:15 Janice Case, NCEE

13:40:58 McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education

13:42:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

13:42:55 McCall Flynn, Board of Public Education

Report from the "Learner Centered Education" Group

13:45:00 Commissioner Tim Tharp
(See Exhibit 13)

13:46:12 Sen. Becky Beard

Report from the "Pathways and Career and Technical Education (CTE)" Group

13:47:35 Sen. Sara Novak
(See Exhibit 15)

Report from the "Early Learning" Group

13:50:30 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
(See Exhibit 14)
13:52:49 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:53:49 Sen. Sara Novak
13:55:04 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

Report from the "Transform Teaching" Group

13:55:42 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
(See Exhibit 12)
13:56:30 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:57:27 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:59:27 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

Report from the "Learner Centered Education" Group

14:00:58 Commissioner Tim Tharp
(See Exhibit 13)
14:02:19 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:03:23 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Report from the "Pathways and CTE" Group

14:04:12 Sen. Sara Novak
(See Exhibit 15)
14:06:43 Janice Case, NCEE
14:07:53 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:10:10 Supt. Susie Hedalen
14:12:49 Sen. Becky Beard

Report from the "Early Learning" Group

14:13:51 Commissioner Mike Waterman
(See Exhibit 14)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:15:25 Sen. Sara Novak
14:15:54 Supt. Susie Hedalen
14:17:40 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:18:32 Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:19:05 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
14:19:34 Sen. Sara Novak
14:21:38 Grace Decker, Montana Advocates for Children
14:23:22 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:23:37 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:25:22 Commissioner Tim Tharp
14:26:23 Janice Case, NCEE
14:27:45 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Small Group Huddle

14:27:57 Janice Case, NCEE

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT DIVISION UPDATE

14:33:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:34:31 Austin Powell, Senior Management and Program Analyst, Legislative Audit
Division (LAD)
[EXHIBIT 16](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:41:02 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
14:41:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:41:40 Supt. Susie Hedalen
14:46:28 Sen. Becky Beard
14:47:25 Commissioner Tim Tharp
14:48:13 Austin Powell, LAD
14:49:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey

REPORT FROM SMALL GROUPS - Continued**Report from the "Early Learning" Group**

14:52:56 Commissioner Mike Waterman
(The commissioner's microphone malfunctioned)
14:53:35 Sen. Sue Vinton

14:53:43 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:53:53 Commissioner Mike Waterman
(The commissioner restated his previous comments)
14:54:17 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:55:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:56:34 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:57:11 Rep. Lee Deming
14:57:23 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:57:48 Janice Case, NCEE
14:59:16 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:00:35 Sen. Becky Beard
15:00:41 Presiding Officer David Bedey

15:01:31 **Recessed**

15:11:00 **Reconvened**

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING

15:11:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:12:02 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Staff, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 17](#)
15:12:44 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 17)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:20:06 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:20:21 Julia Pattin, LFD
15:20:57 Commissioner Tim Tharp
15:21:23 Julia Pattin, LFD

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING - Continued

15:21:51 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 17)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:24:48 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:26:13 Commissioner Tom Burnett

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING - Continued

15:27:11 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 17)
15:29:09 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 17)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:33:47 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:34:55 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:35:05 Sen. Becky Beard
15:35:31 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:35:57 Julia Pattin, LFD

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING - Continued

15:36:59 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 17)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:38:01 Commissioner Mike Waterman

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING - Continued

15:39:49 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 17)
15:41:05 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 17)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:46:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:47:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:48:26 Commissioner Tom Burnett
15:48:35 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING - Continued

15:49:48 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 17)
15:54:17 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 17)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:57:25 Sen. Becky Beard
15:57:41 Julia Pattin, LFD
15:59:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING - Continued

16:00:23 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 17)
16:01:29 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 17)

Commission Questions / Discussion

16:05:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:06:55 Julia Pattin, LFD
16:09:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:12:17 Rep. Brad Barker
16:13:38 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
[EXHIBIT 18](#)
16:16:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:16:13 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:17:14 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:18:06 Rep. Brad Barker
16:19:06 Commissioner Mike Waterman
16:20:11 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:20:52 Presiding Officer David Bedey

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF THE MEETING

16:23:12 Grace Decker, Montana Advocates for Children
16:24:31 Kim Popham, Montana Federation of Public Employees
[EXHIBIT 19](#)
16:28:11 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana

COMMISSION WORK SESSION

16:33:30 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
16:32:34 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:35:31 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:38:11 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:41:01 Pad McCracken, LSD
16:43:16 Sen. Becky Beard
16:45:06 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
16:45:38 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:47:33 Sen Forrest Mandeville

16:49:21	Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:51:03	Commissioner Tim Tharp
16:51:56	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:53:04	Sen. Becky Beard
16:54:28	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
16:55:36	Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:57:25	Rep. Brad Barker
16:58:02	Pad McCracken, LSD
17:00:04	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
17:00:40	Presiding Officer David Bedey
17:02:57	Rep. Lee Deming
17:04:21	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
17:04:52	Pad McCracken, LSD
17:05:08	Presiding Officer David Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:05:59