



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
Rebecca Brown - Research Analyst
Laura Sankey Keip – Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

October 14, 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) – Via Zoom
Tom Burnett
Clayton Christian – Via Zoom
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Rachel Green
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Martha Potter – Via Zoom
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Sen. Sue Vinton (R) – Via Zoom
Mike Waterman

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Supt. Susie Hedalen
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

MEMBERS ABSENT:**STAFF PRESENT:**

Pad McCracken, Lead Staff
Julia Pattin, Fiscal Staff
Kate Johnson, Fiscal Staff
Rebecca Brown, Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

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

08:01:56 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

REVIEW HOUSE BILL 153 AND "PHASE I" REQUIREMENTS

08:03:21 Presiding Officer David Bedey

[EXHIBIT 1](#)

08:06:39 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 1)

08:09:49 Kate Johnson, Fiscal Staff, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

REVIEW AGENDA, WORK PLAN, AND PHASE II APPROACH

08:10:57 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Attachment 1)

[EXHIBIT 2](#)

[EXHIBIT 3](#)

08:21:49 Presiding Officer David Bedey

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II

08:24:02 Janice Case, Regional Director West, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)

[EXHIBIT 4](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:33:23 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:33:58 Janice Case, NCEE

08:34:06 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:34:27 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

08:35:02 Janice Case, NCEE

08:36:13 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
08:37:16 Commissioner Martha Potter
08:38:17 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
08:39:45 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:40:09 Sen. Sue Vinton
08:41:10 Sen. Sara Novak
08:43:42 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:45:06 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
08:46:37 Commissioner Tim Tharp
08:48:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

08:49:35 Janice Case, NCEE
08:50:29 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer - Policy, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:57:00 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:57:11 Matt Bachand, NCEE
08:57:45 Janice Case, NCEE
08:58:14 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:00:02 Commissioner Mike Waterman
09:00:24 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:00:36 Janice Case, NCEE
09:00:57 Matt Bachand, NCEE

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

09:01:23 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

09:03:52 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:19:01 Rep. Brad Barker
09:19:37 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
09:21:16 Rep. Melissa Romano
09:23:02 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
09:24:13 Sen. Sara Novak
09:25:40 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:27:06 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz

09:29:44 Janice Case, NCEE
 09:33:02 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:33:39 Janice Case, NCEE
 09:34:18 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 (See Exhibit 4)
 09:34:48 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:35:21 Janice Case, NCEE
 09:35:39 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 09:36:15 Commissioner Tim Tharp
 09:38:03 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:39:46 Janice Case, NCEE

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

09:40:05 Janice Case, NCEE
 (See Exhibit 4)
 09:43:07 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:43:26 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
 09:44:06 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
 09:44:59 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
 09:45:43 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:46:23 Sen. Sara Novak
 09:50:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:50:36 Commissioner Martha Potter
 09:54:44 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 09:55:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

09:56:32 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 (See Exhibit 4)
 09:57:06 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:57:19 Janice Case, NCEE
 09:57:48 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 (See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

10:00:45 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

10:17:33 Rep. Lee Deming
 10:19:29 Rep. Brad Barker
 10:23:56 Rep. Melissa Romano

10:25:20 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
10:27:01 Commissioner Mike Waterman
10:27:54 Commissioner Martha Potter
10:31:44 Janice Case, NCEE

Public Comment

10:32:41 Terry Marasco, Whitefish
10:36:42 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education
10:39:04 Kim Popham, Director of Public Policy and Research, Montana Federation of Public Employees
10:42:12 Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana
10:46:44 Dean Jardee, President, Montana Parent Teachers Association
10:49:36 Nathan Zito, Former Board Chair, Elder Grove

10:51:48 **Recess**

11:02:29 **Reconvened**

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

11:02:37 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
11:06:34 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

11:16:17 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:17:41 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

11:23:56 Commissioner Tim Tharp
11:25:40 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:28:07 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:29:06 Janice Case, NCEE
11:31:04 Sen. Sara Novak
11:34:09 Commissioner Mike Waterman
11:36:08 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
11:38:32 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:39:53 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
11:41:03 Commissioner Tim Tharp
11:43:12 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:44:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:47:15 Commissioner Martha Potter
11:49:38 Commissioner Mike Waterman

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

11:50:22 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Public Comment

11:53:03 Tom Facey, Missoula

11:57:02 Commissioner Clayton Christian left the meeting via Zoom.

11:57:02 Sen. Sue Vinton left the meeting via Zoom.

11:57:02 **Recessed**

13:02:28 **Reconvened**

13:02:28 Sen. Becky Beard joined the meeting via Zoom.

PRACTITIONER PANEL #1

13:02:46 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer - Policy, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)

13:05:48 Liz Deshner, School Psychologist, Belgrade School District

13:06:55 Sen. Sue Vinton rejoined the meeting via Zoom.

13:07:00 Matt Lewis, Principal, Fergus High School, Lewistown

13:08:02 Lance Edward, English Teacher, Billings West High School

13:09:18 Kelly Kinsey, Assistant Superintendent, Lockwood School District

13:09:43 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:10:08 Drea O'Donnell, Superintendent, Shepherd Public Schools

13:10:57 Matt Bachand, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:11:10 Commissioner Mike Waterman

13:11:38 Matt Lewis, Fergus High School, Lewistown

13:12:35 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

13:13:27 Commissioner Mike Waterman

13:14:02 Matt Lewis, Fergus High School

13:15:28 Liz Deshner, Belgrade School District

PRACTITIONER PANEL #1 - Continued

13:16:47 Matt Bachand, NCEE

13:17:13 Valerie Pachl, Special Education Teacher, Custer County High School

13:18:23 Lance Edward, Billings West High school

13:19:39 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools

13:20:26 Matt Lewis, Fergus High School, Lewistown

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:22:24 Presiding Officer David Bedey

13:23:27 Liz Deshner, Belgrade School District

13:24:52 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools

PRACTITIONER PANEL #1 - Continued

13:25:31 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:26:08 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools
13:26:52 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:27:26 Matt Lewis, Fergus High School, Lewistown
13:28:29 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools
13:29:31 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:30:17 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools
13:31:01 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:31:22 Liz Deshner, Belgrade School District

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:32:34 Sen. Sue Vinton
13:32:55 Liz Deshner, Belgrade School District
13:33:35 Sen. Sue Vinton
13:33:56 Drea O'Connell, Shepherd Public Schools
13:34:19 Sen. Sara Novak
13:35:08 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:37:11 Matt Lewis, Fergus High School, Lewistown
13:38:54 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
13:39:24 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools
13:40:26 Kelly Kinsey, Lockwood School District

PRACTITIONER PANEL #1 - Continued

13:41:02 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:41:53 Matt Lewis, Fergus High School, Lewistown
13:42:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:43:16 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools
13:44:15 Valerie Pacht, Custer County High School
13:45:33 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:46:58 Lance Edward, Billings West High School
13:47:52 Matt Lewis, Fergus High School, Lewistown
13:49:53 Liz Deshner, Belgrade School District

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:51:55 Sen. Becky Beard
13:52:47 Commissioner Tim Tharp
13:54:05 Sen. Sara Novak

PRACTITIONER PANEL #1 - Continued

13:55:02 Matt Bachand, NCEE
13:55:29 Valerie Pachl, Custer County High School
13:56:11 Kelly Kinsey, Lockwood School District
13:56:43 Lance Edward, Billings West High School

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:58:03 Commissioner Mike Waterman
13:59:12 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:00:12 Sen. Sara Novak
14:00:47 Matt Bachand, NCEE
14:01:14 Kelly Kinsey, Lockwood School District
14:01:45 Drea O'Donnell, Shepherd Public Schools
14:02:18 Valerie Pachl, Custer County High School
14:03:28 Liz Deshner, Belgrade School District
14:04:54 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:07:06 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

PRACTITIONER PANEL #1 - Continued**Breakout Session**

14:07:54 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
14:08:58 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:18:24 Janice Case, NCEE
14:19:03 Rep. Brad Barker
14:21:21 Rep. Lee Deming
14:22:39 Rep. Melissa Romano
14:24:30 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:25:31 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:26:52 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:27:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:28:56 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:29:27 Rep. Melissa Romano
14:30:27 Janice Case, NCEE

PRACTITIONER PANEL #1 - Continued

14:31:12 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
14:32:42 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

14:38:43 Matt Bachand, NCEE
[EXHIBIT 5](#)
14:40:13 Janice Case, NCEE
15:03:03 Sen. Beard left the meeting via Zoom.

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:13:14 Janice Case, NCEE
15:14:36 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:15:32 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
15:16:32 Janice Case, NCEE
15:16:48 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:17:43 Sen. Sara Novak
15:18:36 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:18:51 Rep. Brad Barker
15:20:13 Commissioner Tim Tharp
15:21:37 Commissioner Mike Waterman
15:22:19 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:22:53 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
15:23:59 Commissioner Tom Burnett
15:24:53 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:25:44 Sen. Sue Vinton left the meeting via Zoom.
15:26:23 Rep. Brad Barker
15:27:42 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
15:28:19 Commissioner Tim Tharp
15:29:08 Commissioner Mike Waterman
15:30:10 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:30:32 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:31:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:33:03 Janice Case, NCEE

Public Comment

15:34:21 Sarah Froehlke, Policy Analyst, Zero to Five Montana

15:36:55 **Recessed**

15:47:11 **Reconvened**

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I

- 15:47:37 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Staff, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
- 15:53:28 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 6)

Commission Questions / Discussion

- 15:55:08 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
- 15:55:32 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 15:56:11 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
- 15:56:13 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 15:57:57 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
- 15:58:07 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 16:00:49 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
- 16:01:05 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 16:01:17 Julia Pattin, LFD
- 16:01:31 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 16:01:51 Presiding Officer David Bedey
- 16:02:02 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
- 16:02:58 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 16:03:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued

- 16:04:12 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 6)
- 16:04:36 Kate Johnson, Fiscal Analyst, LFD
(See Exhibit 6)

Commission Questions / Discussion

- 16:06:31 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
- 16:06:38 Kate Johnson, LFD
- 16:07:00 Julia Pattin, LFD
- 16:09:18 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
- 16:09:50 Julia Pattin, LFD
- 16:10:15 Presiding Officer David Bedey
- 16:11:34 Commissioner Mike Waterman
- 16:11:50 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 16:12:09 Presiding Officer David Bedey
- 16:12:25 Pad McCracken, LSD
- 16:13:10 Sen. Sara Novak
- 16:13:20 Julia Pattin, LFD

16:13:28 Commissioner Tom Burnett
16:13:34 Julia Pattin, LFD

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued

16:14:02 Kate Johnson, LFD
(See Exhibit 6)
16:16:53 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 6)

Commission Questions / Discussion

16:18:19 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
16:19:13 Pad McCracken, LSD
16:20:04 Julia Pattin, LFD
16:20:22 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:20:33 Julia Pattin, LFD
16:20:51 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
16:21:13 Julia Pattin, LFD

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued

16:22:05 Kate Johnson, LFD
(See Exhibit 6)

Commission Question / Discussion

16:24:27 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:25:10 Kate Johnson, LFD
16:25:30 Julia Pattin, LFD

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued

16:27:14 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 6)

Commission Questions / Discussion

16:32:31 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:33:52 Julia Pattin, LFD
16:34:32 Presiding Officer David Bedey

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued

16:35:37 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 6)
16:36:06 Pad McCracken
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

16:46:58 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:47:51 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:48:20 Rep. Brad Barker
16:48:42 Presiding Officer David Bedey

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued

16:48:51 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 7)
16:53:03 Presiding Officer David Bedey

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY OTHER TOPIC WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION

16:53:47 Nathan Zito, Former Board Chair, Elder Grove

Commission Questions / Discussion

16:55:36 Commissioner Mike Waterman
16:55:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey

RECESS UNTIL WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025

Recess: 16:55:59