



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 15, 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.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. David Bedey, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Tom Burnett – Via Zoom
Clayton Christian – Via Zoom
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
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
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)
Rep. Brad Barker

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rachel Green
Supt. Susie Hedalen

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**

08:02:34 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued**Breakout Session**

08:03:48 Janice Case, Regional Director West, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
[\(See Exhibit 4\)](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:18:26 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:18:41 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:22:36 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer - Policy, NCEE
08:23:24 Janice Case, NCEE
08:24:18 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:24:29 Sen. Becky Beard
08:27:42 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:28:29 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:29:22 Janice Case, NCEE
08:31:14 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
08:31:48 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:34:51 Sen. Sara Novak
08:35:28 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:35:49 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:36:50 Commissioner Martha Potter

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

08:40:07 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
[EXHIBIT 8](#)

08:43:27 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
(See Exhibit 8)

Commission Questions / Discussion

08:48:23 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
08:49:06 Sen. Becky Beard
08:49:42 Matt Bachand, NCEE
08:50:47 Janice Case, NCEE
08:51:22 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:54:54 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:56:36 Sen. Sara Novak
08:58:14 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy
08:59:22 Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:00:28 Janice Case, NCEE

PRACTITIONER PANEL #2

09:01:33 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
09:04:40 Corey Clark, Superintendent, Geraldine Public Schools
09:07:05 Heather Hoyer, Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools
09:10:50 Krystal Zentner, Trustee, Bridger Public Schools
09:11:27 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy left the meeting.
09:13:12 Rebekah Rhoades, Business Manager/School Clerk, Lewistown Public Schools
09:15:47 Sue Corrigan, Trustee, Kalispell Public Schools
09:18:09 Matt Bachand, NCEE
09:19:12 Heather Hoyer, Great Falls Public Schools
09:21:18 Corey Clark, Geraldine Public Schools
09:25:54 Sue Corrigan, Kalispell Public Schools

Commission Questions / Discussion

09:28:47 Sen. Becky Beard
09:29:10 Sue Corrigan, Kalispell Public Schools
09:29:22 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
09:30:50 Heather Hoyer, Great Falls Public Schools
09:33:51 Rebekah Rhoades, Lewistown Public Schools
09:35:52 Krystal Zentner, Bridger Public Schools
09:37:28 Commissioner Mike Waterman
09:38:44 Sue Corrigan, Kalispell Public Schools
09:40:38 Rebekah Rhoades, Lewistown Public Schools
09:41:58 Heather Hoyer, Great Falls Public Schools
09:43:36 Corey Clark, Geraldine Public Schools

09:46:37 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:48:26 Heather Hoyer, Great Falls Public Schools
 09:51:10 Commissioner Tim Tharp
 09:52:43 Corey Clark, Geraldine Public Schools
 09:53:58 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 09:54:34 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:55:30 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:59:31 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:00:42 Corey Clark, Geraldine Public Schools
 10:01:48 Sue Corrigan, Kalispell Public Schools
 10:03:25 Rebekah Rhoades, Lewistown Public Schools
 10:04:32 Commissioner Martha Potter
 10:05:13 Heather Hoyer, Great Falls Public Schools
 10:06:12 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:06:33 Krystal Zentner, Bridger Public Schools
 10:06:58 Rebekah Rhoades, Lewistown Public Schools
 10:07:43 Heather Hoyer, Great Falls Public Schools
 10:08:44 Sue Corrigan, Kalispell Public Schools
[EXHIBIT 9](#)
 10:09:29 Corey Clark, Geraldine Public Schools
 10:10:51 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 10:11:06 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Public Comment

10:11:29 None

10:12:04 **Recessed**

10:23:53 **Reconvened**

PRACTITIONER PANEL #2 - Continued

10:24:28 Janice Case, NCEE

Commission Question / Discussion

10:27:04 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
 10:27:59 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 10:28:47 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
 10:29:30 Rep. Melissa Romano
 10:30:19 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 10:31:41 Sen. Becky Beard
 10:33:09 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 10:36:27 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 10:37:15 Commissioner Martha Potter

10:39:57 Commissioner Mike Waterman
10:41:48 Sen. Sue Vinton

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

10:43:00 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)
10:44:13 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 4)

Breakout Session

10:48:03 Janice Case, NCEE
11:16:06 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau left the meeting.

Commission Question / Discussion

11:33:24 Janice Case, NCEE
11:34:49 Commissioner Mike Waterman
11:35:13 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:35:25 Commissioner Mike Waterman
11:38:05 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
11:38:48 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:39:58 Commissioner Tim Tharp
11:41:37 Matt Bachand, NCEE
11:43:12 Janice Case, NCEE
11:44:45 Sen. Becky Beard
11:46:04 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:46:50 Janice Case, NCEE

Public Comment

11:47:52 Moffie Funk
11:50:30 Jenny Walsh, Trustee, Missoula

11:54:43 **Recessed**

13:02:46 **Reconvened**

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II

13:03:09 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Staff, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
[EXHIBIT 10](#)
13:06:15 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:11:55 Sen. Sue Vinton
13:12:47 Sen. Sara Novak
13:14:08 Commissioner Tim Tharp

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

13:14:28 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 9)
13:15:43 Pad McCracken, LSD
13:16:08 Sen. Sara Novak
13:16:23 Pad McCracken, LSD
13:20:59 Julia Pattin, LFD

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:23:50 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:24:33 Pad McCracken, LSD

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

13:25:47 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:27:19 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
13:27:34 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:28:21 Pad McCracken, LSD
13:29:29 Sen. Sara Novak

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

13:31:06 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 9)
13:32:41 Pad McCracken, LSD
[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Commission Questions / Discussion

13:33:59 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
13:34:23 Pad McCracken, LSD
13:34:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:35:20 Sen. Sara Novak
13:36:19 Presiding Officer David Bedey

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

13:36:48 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Question / Discussion

13:42:21 Commissioner Tim Tharp
13:43:22 Pad McCracken, LSD
13:44:04 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:44:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

13:44:56 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 9)
13:47:27 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Question / Discussion

13:48:25 Commissioner Mike Waterman
13:48:58 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:52:12 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:52:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

13:53:06 Julia Pattin, LFD
(See Exhibit 9)
13:57:41 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 9)

14:01:40 **Recessed**
14:12:38 **Reconvened**

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

14:12:54 Janice Case, NCEE
14:13:53 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Question / Discussion

14:24:36 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:24:38 Janice Case, NCEE
14:25:17 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:25:42 Janice Case, NCEE
14:28:03 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:28:24 Sen. Sara Novak
14:28:49 Janice Case, NCEE

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

14:29:18 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Question / Discussion

14:31:50 Rep. Lee Deming
14:32:02 Matt Bachand, NCEE

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

14:32:46 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 9)
14:34:17 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Question / Discussion

14:35:39 Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:36:40 Sen. Sara Novak
14:37:47 Commissioner Martha Potter
14:40:34 Sen. Becky Beard

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

14:40:57 Matt Bachand, NCEE
(See Exhibit 9)
14:43:20 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Questions / Discussion

14:56:39 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
14:58:29 Janice Case, NCEE
15:00:07 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:01:13 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:03:35 Sen. Becky Beard
15:05:33 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:05:57 Janice Case, NCEE
15:06:59 Sen. Sara Novak
15:10:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:11:40 Sen. Sara Novak
15:12:23 Matt Bachand, NCEE
15:13:05 Rep. Melissa Romano
15:14:07 Janice Case, NCEE
15:14:18 Commissioner Tim Tharp
15:16:39 Rep. Melissa Romano
15:18:00 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:19:56 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
15:20:47 Janice Case, NCEE

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

15:21:06 Janice Case, NCEE
(See Exhibit 9)

Commission Questions / Discussion

15:24:07 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

15:24:34 Janice Case, NCEE
 15:25:06 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 15:25:27 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
 15:26:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 15:26:41 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 15:27:13 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 15:28:01 Commissioner Tim Tharp
 15:29:39 Matt Bachand, NCEE
 15:30:12 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 15:31:22 Sen. Becky Beard
 15:31:59 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 15:32:11 Commissioner Tim Tharp
 15:32:23 Janice Case, NCEE

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP II - Continued

15:35:20 Janice Case, NCEE
 (See Exhibit 9)
 15:36:22 Matt Bachand, NCEE

FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT OF THE MEETING

15:37:01 Terry Marasco
 15:40:02 Gary Lusin
[EXHIBIT 12](#)
 15:53:52 Dean Jardee, Montana Parent-Teacher Association

COMMISSION WORK SESSION

15:56:17 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[\(See Exhibit 2\)](#)
[\(See Exhibit 3\)](#)
 15:57:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 15:59:00 Pad McCracken, LSD
 16:02:15 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:02:40 Sen. Becky Beard

 16:03:21 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 16:04:53 Pad McCracken, LSD

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:05:34