



## **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

#### **NON-LEGISLATOR MEMBERS**

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

#### **COMMITTEE STAFF**

Rebecca Brown - Research Analyst  
Pad McCracken – Lead Staff  
Julia Pattin – Fiscal Staff  
Laura Sankey Keip – Legal Staff  
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

# **MINUTES LOG**

September 15, 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.

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)  
Sen. Becky Beard (R)  
Tom Burnett  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)  
Sen. Sara Novak (D)  
Martha Potter – Via Zoom  
Matt Schreiber  
Tim Tharp  
Sen. Sue Vinton (R) – Via Zoom  
Mike Waterman  
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Clayton Christian  
Rachel Green  
Supt. Susie Hedalen  
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:****STAFF PRESENT:**

Pad McCracken, Lead Staff  
Julia Pattin, Fiscal Staff  
Rebecca Brown, Research Analyst  
Laura Sankey Keip, Legal Staff  
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

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

08:03:41 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

**REVIEW AGENDA AND WORK PLAN; "ROADSHOWS" UPDATE**

08:06:00 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 1](#)  
[EXHIBIT 2](#)

08:10:57 Presiding Officer David Bedey

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE"**

08:11:48 Janice Case, Regional Director West, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)

08:11:59 Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, NCEE  
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

08:19:34 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy left the meeting.

**Questions and Discussion**

08:21:54 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

08:22:59 Nathan Driskell, NCEE

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

08:24:00 Janice Case, NCEE

08:29:58 Pad McCracken, LSD

08:30:28 Janice Case

**Breakout Session**

08:24:00 Janice Case

**Questions and Discussion**

08:40:13 Janice Case  
08:40:47 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
08:42:15 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
08:45:06 Janice Case  
08:45:46 Sen. Becky Beard  
08:48:41 Janice Case  
08:49:56 Sen. Sara Novak  
08:51:52 Janice Case  
08:52:03 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews  
08:53:28 Janice Case  
08:53:46 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
08:55:50 Janice Case

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

08:56:23 Nathan Driskell  
(See Exhibit 3)  
09:00:12 Janice Case  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Questions and Discussion**

09:03:58 Janice Case  
09:04:29 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz  
09:04:39 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
09:04:42 Commissioner Mike Waterman  
09:04:48 Pad McCracken  
09:04:52 Sen. Becky Beard  
09:04:56 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews  
09:05:26 Sen. Becky Beard  
09:05:32 Janice Case  
09:05:45 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
09:06:17 Janice Case  
09:06:32 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
09:06:58 Sen. Becky Beard  
09:07:18 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
09:07:34 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
09:09:21 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
09:09:52 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
(See Exhibit 3)

09:10:17 Nathan Driskell  
(See Exhibit 3)

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

09:10:27 Janice Case  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Breakout Session**

09:17:25 Janice Case

**Questions and Discussion**

09:32:10 Janice Case  
09:34:02 Sen. Becky Beard  
09:34:34 Janice Case  
09:34:50 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
09:35:52 Janice Case  
09:36:10 Commissioner Martha Potter  
09:38:02 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz  
09:39:49 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
09:43:35 Commissioner Tom Burnett  
09:44:23 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
09:45:33 Commissioner Tim Tharp  
09:48:56 Rep. Lee Deming  
09:51:08 Commissioner Mike Waterman  
09:51:59 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
09:53:02 Commissioner Martha Potter  
09:53:49 Janice Case  
09:55:25 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
  
09:55:38 **Recessed**  
10:09:23 **Reconvened**

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

10:09:28 Nathan Driskell  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Questions and Discussion**

10:18:46 Rep. Lee Deming  
10:19:08 Nathan Driskell  
10:19:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
10:19:54 Nathan Driskell

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

10:20:05 Nathan Driskell  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Questions and Discussion**

10:21:25 Rep. Lee Deming  
10:21:53 Nathan Driskell  
10:22:39 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
10:23:31 Nathan Driskell  
10:25:22 Sen. Becky Beard  
10:25:56 Nathan Driskell  
10:26:33 Sen. Sara Novak  
10:26:50 Nathan Driskell  
10:27:38 Commissioner Mike Waterman  
10:28:21 Nathan Driskell  
10:30:52 Commissioner Martha Potter  
10:31:24 Nathan Driskell  
10:32:07 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
10:32:42 Nathan Driskell

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

10:34:06 Nathan Driskell  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Questions and Discussion**

10:37:04 Commissioner Martha Potter  
10:37:26 Nathan Driskell  
10:40:24 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
10:40:47 Nathan Driskell  
10:41:42 Presiding Officer David Bedey

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

10:42:22 Nathan Driskell  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Questions and Discussion**

10:45:28 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz  
10:46:15 Nathan Driskell  
10:47:21 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

10:47:51 Janice Case  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Breakout Session**

10:52:26 Janice Case

**Questions and Discussion**

11:02:58 Janice Case  
11:03:55 Sen. Sara Novak  
11:05:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
11:06:44 Sen. Becky Beard  
11:08:16 Commissioner Tim Tharp  
11:09:16 Janice Case

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

11:10:09 Janice Case  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Questions and Discussion**

11:10:42 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
11:14:17 Janice Case  
11:14:51 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
11:15:57 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
11:16:59 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
11:18:26 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
11:19:59 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
11:21:34 Commissioner Martha Potter  
11:22:13 Commissioner Tim Tharp  
11:23:03 Sen. Sara Novak  
11:24:11 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
11:24:33 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
11:34:25 Commissioner Clayton Christian joined the meeting via Zoom.

**INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

11:25:06 Janice Case  
(See Exhibit 3)

**Questions and Discussion**

11:32:29 Sen. Sara Novak  
11:33:56 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
11:34:18 Superintendent Susie Hedalen joined the meeting.

11:34:52 **Recessed**

13:00:49 **Reconvened**

## **INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued**

13:01:11 Nathan Driskell  
(See Exhibit 3)

### **Breakout Session**

13:09:23 Janice Case  
(See Exhibit 3)

13:13:52 **Recessed**

14:07:26 **Reconvened**

### **Questions and Discussion**

14:07:39 Janice Case  
14:08:38 Superintendent Susie Hedalen  
14:13:42 Janice Case  
14:14:20 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz  
14:16:44 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews  
14:17:39 Sen. Becky Beard  
14:19:51 Sen. Sara Novak  
14:20:51 Commissioner Mike Waterman  
14:21:48 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
14:23:00 Commissioner Tim Tharp  
14:25:03 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
14:26:24 Janice Case  
14:27:02 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews  
14:28:07 Sen. Sara Novak  
14:29:27 Commissioner Tim Tharp  
14:31:37 Sen. Sara Novak  
14:32:27 Sen. Becky Beard  
14:33:02 Matt Bachand, Senior Designer, Policy, NCEE  
14:34:35 Janice Case

### **SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I**

14:36:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
14:37:01 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 4](#)  
14:38:16 Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
(See Exhibit 4)

### **Questions and Discussion**

14:54:57 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
14:56:12 Pad McCracken, LSD

14:58:54 Julia Pattin, LFD  
14:59:26 Pad McCracken

**SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued**

15:00:15 Pad McCracken  
(See Exhibit 4)

**Questions and Discussion**

15:10:18 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
15:10:41 Julia Pattin  
15:12:19 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
15:13:39 Julia Pattin  
15:14:22 Commissioner Tim Tharp  
15:15:00 Pad McCracken  
15:15:55 Julia Pattin  
15:16:56 Pad McCracken  
15:17:50 Commissioner Tim Tharp  
15:18:29 Julia Pattin  
15:19:18 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
15:20:39 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
15:25:12 Sen. Becky Beard  
15:28:11 Presiding Officer David Bedey

**SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued**

15:28:57 Julia Pattin  
(See Exhibit 4)

**Questions and Discussion**

15:31:28 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
15:31:41 Julia Pattin  
15:32:24 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
15:34:11 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
15:35:25 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews  
15:36:06 Commissioner Mike Waterman  
15:36:51 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
15:38:08 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
15:39:07 Julia Pattin

**SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued**

15:40:17 Pad McCracken



15:41:32 Julia Pattin  
(See Exhibit 4)  
[EXHIBIT 5](#)  
[EXHIBIT 6](#)

**Questions and Discussion**

15:57:16 Commissioner Mike Waterman  
15:57:26 Julia Pattin

**SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING I - Continued**

15:57:51 Julia Pattin  
(See Exhibit 4)

**Questions and Discussion**

15:59:24 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
15:59:32 Sen. Becky Beard  
16:00:13 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
16:00:50 Julia Pattin  
16:03:25 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
16:05:28 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
16:06:18 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz  
16:07:43 Pad McCracken  
16:09:20 Julia Pattin  
(See Exhibit 6 - go to page 3 of 8 and select Rosebud County in the "Slicer Options" box)  
16:10:40 Pad McCracken

**SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II**

16:11:13 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
[EXHIBIT 7](#)

**Questions and Discussion**

16:19:02 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews  
16:19:20 Sen. Becky Beard  
16:20:27 Pad McCracken, LSD  
[EXHIBIT 8](#)  
16:25:59 Sen. Forrest Mandeville  
16:28:09 Pad McCracken  
16:28:45 Sen. Sara Novak  
16:30:11 Pad McCracken  
16:30:52 Commissioner Mike Waterman  
16:31:21 Pad McCracken  
16:33:02 Commissioner Matt Schreiber  
16:35:02 Pad McCracken

16:37:01 Presiding Officer David Bedey  
16:39:50 Nathan Driskell

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

16:40:54 Kim Popham, Director of Public Policy, Montana Federation of Public Employees  
16:43:40 Teri Marasco  
16:48:51 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education  
16:51:43 Dean Jardee, President, Montana Parent Teacher Association

**NATIONAL CENTER ON EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY (NCEE) PREP FOR TUESDAY**

16:55:43 Janice Case, Regional Director West, NCEE

**RECESS UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

Recess: 17:03:54