



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 16, 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)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Tom Burnett
Clayton Christian – Via Zoom
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Supt. Susie Hedalen
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)
Martha Potter
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Sen. Sue Vinton (R) – Via Zoom
Mike Waterman

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Rachel Green
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (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**

08:01:50 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE"

08:02:37 Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
[\(See Exhibit 3\)](#)

Questions and Discussion

08:06:55 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:08:38 Sen. Forrest Mandeville
08:08:58 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:09:04 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
08:09:57 Presiding Officer David Bedey

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued

08:10:23 Nathan Driskell, NCEE
(See Exhibit 3)

Breakout Session

08:13:17 Janice Case, Regional Director West, NCEE

Questions and Discussion

08:26:00 Janice Case, NCEE
08:26:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:26:36 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:26:37 Janice Case
08:27:01 Sen. Becky Beard

08:28:11	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:29:24	Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:29:55	Commissioner Tim Tharp
08:34:01	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
08:35:03	Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:36:15	Commissioner Tom Burnett
08:37:15	Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:39:03	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
08:40:12	Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:40:28	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
08:42:07	Commissioner Martha Potter
08:44:48	Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
08:46:36	Janice Case
08:52:24	Commissioner Mike Waterman
08:54:43	Commissioner Tim Tharp
08:55:41	Sen. Becky Beard
08:56:31	Presiding Officer David Bedey
08:58:09	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
09:00:02	Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:01:54	Commissioner Matt Schreiber

PUBLIC COMMENT

09:02:50	None
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INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued

09:03:31	Nathan Driskell (See Exhibit 3)
09:09:29	Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy joined the meeting via Zoom.

Breakout Session

09:15:08	Janice Case (See Exhibit 3)
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Questions and Discussion

09:26:19	Janice Case
09:27:57	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
09:28:54	Janice Case
09:32:41	Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:32:56	Sen. Becky Beard <u>EXHIBIT 9</u>
09:34:36	Janice Case
09:36:20	Presiding Officer David Bedey
09:38:32	Nathan Driskell

09:40:02 Sen. Becky Beard
 09:40:17 Nathan Driskell
 09:40:30 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
 09:41:40 Nathan Driskell
 09:43:22 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:44:10 Rep. Lee Deming
 09:45:45 Superintendent Susie Hedalen
 09:47:49 Sen. Becky Beard
 09:48:35 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:49:39 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
 09:51:17 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 09:52:31 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:55:16 Commissioner Tim Tharp
 09:56:22 Janice Case
 09:56:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 09:58:44 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 10:02:07 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 10:04:03 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
 10:04:32 Presiding Officer David Bedey
 10:06:16 Sen. Becky Beard
 10:07:00 Presiding Officer David Bedey

 10:07:33 **Recessed**
 10:19:57 **Reconvened**

 10:20:02 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy left the meeting via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

10:20:36 Terry Marasco
 10:23:28 Gary Lusin, Bozeman
 10:30:13 Dean Jardee, Montana Parent Teacher Association
 10:33:33 Jamie Marshall, Chair, Kid's Education Yes, Great Falls
 10:35:18 Rep. Lee Deming left the meeting.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN ECUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued

10:35:50 Nathan Driskell
 (See Exhibit 3)

Questions and Discussion

10:45:13 Sen. Becky Beard
 10:47:25 Commissioner Mike Waterman
 10:47:39 Presiding Officer David Bedey

10:53:19 Superintendent Susie Hedalen
10:58:02 Commissioner Martha Potter
10:58:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey
10:59:19 Superintendent Susie Hedalen
11:00:06 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
11:01:29 Commissioner Tim Tharp

[EXHIBIT 10](#)

11:03:20 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:04:49 Superintendent Susie Hedalen
11:06:09 Presiding Officer David Bedey

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued

11:07:23 Janice Case
(See Exhibit 3)

Questions and Discussion

11:12:39 Pad McCracken, LSD

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued

11:14:14 Nathan Driskell
(See Exhibit 3)
11:16:20 Janice Case

Questions and Discussion

11:16:47 Sen. Becky Beard
11:18:10 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:22:44 Commissioner Tom Burnett
11:23:37 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:25:33 Janice Case
11:26:41 Presiding Officer David Bedey
11:27:55 Superintendent Susie Hedalen
11:30:17 Janice Case

PUBLIC COMMENT

11:32:12 Terry Marasco, Whitefish
11:33:50 Gary Lusin, Bozeman

Questions and Discussion

11:35:15 Sen. Luke Muszkiewicz
11:35:41 Pad McCracken

11:36:10 **Recessed**

13:02:35 **Reconvened**

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN ECUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued

13:02:45 Janice Case

[EXHIBIT 11](#)

Breakout Session

13:14:14 Janice Case

Questions and Discussion

13:19:12 Janice Case
13:19:44 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
13:20:18 Commissioner Tim Tharp
13:21:37 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
13:22:25 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:23:23 Commissioner Martha Potter
13:23:52 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:25:03 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:25:34 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
13:26:46 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:27:33 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:28:18 Presiding Officer David Bedey
13:28:50 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
13:29:23 Sen. Becky Beard
13:31:06 Commissioner Tim Tharp
13:32:56 Rep. Lee Deming
13:33:48 Janice Case

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN ECUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued

13:37:01 Nathan Driskell
(See Exhibit 3)

Questions and Discussion

13:40:47 Commissioner Tom Burnett
13:41:37 Nathan Driskell

Breakout Session

13:43:40 Janice Case

Questions and Discussion

14:05:01 Janice Case
14:05:47 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:06:14 Commissioner Tim Tharp
14:06:27 Commissioner Mike Waterman
14:06:42 Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:07:06 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:07:21 Sen. Becky Beard

14:08:07	Commissioner Martha Potter
14:09:25	Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:09:44	Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:09:54	Sen. Becky Beard
14:10:28	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:10:55	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
14:11:29	Rep. Lee Deming
14:12:02	Commissioner Mike Waterman
14:12:10	Commissioner Tim Tharp
14:12:24	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:12:44	Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:13:38	Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:13:47	Sen. Becky Beard
14:13:52	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:14:08	Janice Case
14:14:25	Commissioner Martha Potter
14:15:54	Janice Case
14:16:16	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:16:49	Commissioner Matt Schreiber

Breakout Session

14:17:19	Janice Case
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Questions and Discussion

14:34:23	Janice Case
14:34:39	Rep. Lee Deming
14:35:45	Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:36:26	Sen. Sue Vinton
14:37:04	Commissioner Mike Waterman
14:37:22	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
14:37:40	Commissioner Tim Tharp
14:37:51	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:38:29	Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:40:37	Commissioner Tom Burnett
14:41:41	Sen. Becky Beard
14:42:51	Commissioner Martha Potter
14:44:30	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:45:28	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
14:46:16	Rep. Lee Deming
14:46:56	Commissioner Mike Waterman

14:48:33	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
14:49:50	Rep. Lee Deming
14:49:56	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
14:50:34	Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:51:19	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:53:56	Commissioner Mike Waterman
14:54:42	Presiding Officer David Bedey
14:57:08	Commissioner Martha Potter
14:59:22	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
15:01:29	Sen. Becky Beard
15:03:30	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:04:36	Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:06:39	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
15:07:33	Commissioner Martha Potter
15:08:12	Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:10:38	Sen. Becky Beard
15:11:38	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:12:32	Janice Case
15:12:44	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews

PUBLIC COMMENT

15:14:01	Bob Jones
15:21:40	Dean Jardee, Montana Parent Teacher Association
15:25:08	Gary Lusin, Bozeman

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN ECUCATION "DEEP DIVE" - Continued Breakout Session

15:26:43	Janice Case
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Questions and Discussion

15:37:24	Janice Case (See Exhibit 3)
15:43:30	Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:43:34	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:43:42	Janice Case
15:44:06	Pad McCracken
15:44:26	Janice Case
15:44:42	Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:44:47	Janice Case
15:46:00	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:46:28	Janice Case

15:46:44	Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
15:47:49	Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:48:31	Sen. Sue Vinton
15:49:21	Commissioner Tom Burnett
15:49:54	Rep. Lee Deming
15:50:32	Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:52:19	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
15:53:29	Commissioner Martha Potter
15:53:56	Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:54:13	Nathan Driskell
15:54:24	Janice Case
15:55:03	Commissioner Tom Burnett
15:55:47	Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
15:56:27	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
15:57:58	Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:00:05	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
16:01:02	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:02:21	Commissioner Tom Burnett
16:03:15	Sen. Sue Vinton
16:05:04	Commissioner Mike Waterman
16:05:57	Janice Case
16:06:40	Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:08:19	Pad McCracken
16:10:14	Janice Case
16:11:32	Commissioner Tim Tharp
16:12:49	Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:13:51	Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:14:41	Superintendent Susie Hedalen
16:15:23	Janice Case
16:17:11	Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:19:40	Janice Case

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II

16:20:18 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

[EXHIBIT 12](#)

[\(See Exhibit 6\)](#)

Questions and Discussion

16:30:10 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

16:30:44 Presiding Officer David Bedey

16:34:14 Commissioner Tim Tharp
16:35:22 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:35:54 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:36:21 Commissioner Mike Waterman
16:37:09 Superintendent Susie Hedalen

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

16:37:46 Pad McCracken, LSD
(See Exhibit 11)

Questions and Discussion

16:39:23 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:40:33 Commissioner Mike Waterman
16:40:58 Superintendent Susie Hedalen
16:41:40 Commissioner Mike Waterman
16:41:53 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:42:07 Commissioner Matt Schreiber

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

16:42:37 Pad McCracken
(See Exhibit 11)

Questions and Discussion

16:44:00 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews
16:44:07 Pad McCracken

SCHOOL FUNDING TRAINING II - Continued

16:44:31 Pad McCracken

Questions and Discussion

16:53:16 Presiding Officer David Bedey

PUBLIC COMMENT

16:55:33 Lisa Verlanic Fowler
16:59:06 Moffie Funk
17:01:45 Kim Popham, Montana Federation of Public Employees

COMMISSION WORK SESSION

17:06:32 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 13](#)

Questions and Discussion

17:11:58 Presiding Officer David Bedey
17:13:41 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
17:14:41 Presiding Officer David Bedey

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:18:27