



## Education and Local Government Interim Committee

---

### 62nd Montana Legislature

#### SENATE MEMBERS

GARY BRANAE--Vice Chair  
TOM FACEY  
BOB HAWKS  
LLEW JONES  
BOB LAKE  
FREDERICK (ERIC) MOORE

#### HOUSE MEMBERS

ELSIE ARNTZEN--Chair  
KRISTIN HANSEN  
EDITH (EDIE) MCCLAFFERTY  
ROBERT MEHLHOFF  
JEAN PRICE  
MATTHEW ROSENDALE

#### COMMITTEE STAFF

LEANNE KURTZ, Lead Staff  
DANIEL WHYTE, Staff Attorney  
CLAUDIA (CJ) JOHNSON, Secretary

# MINUTES

March 22 & 23, 2012  
Room 102

Capitol Bldg.  
Helena, MT

Please note: These minutes provide abbreviated information about committee discussion, public testimony, action taken, and other activities. To the left of each section in these minutes is a time designation indicating the approximate amount of time in hours, minutes, and seconds that has elapsed since the start of the meeting. This 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 <http://leg.mt.gov>. On the left-side menu of the home page, select *Committees*, then *Interim*. Once on the page for *Interim Committees*, scroll down to the appropriate committee. The written minutes summary, along with the audio and video recordings, are listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. You must have Real Player to listen to the audio recording or to view the video.

Hard copies of the exhibits for this meeting are available upon request. Legislative Council policy requires a charge of 15 cents a page for copies of the document.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

REP. ELSIE ARNTZEN, Chair  
SEN. GARY BRANAE, Vice Chair

SEN. TOM FACEY  
SEN. BOB HAWKS  
SEN. LLEW JONES  
SEN. BOB LAKE  
SEN. FREDERICK (ERIC) MOORE

REP. KRISTIN HANSEN  
REP. EDITH (EDIE) MCCLAFFERTY  
REP. ROBERT MEHLHOFF  
REP. JEAN PRICE  
REP. MATTHEW ROSENDALE

### **STAFF PRESENT**

LEANNE KURTZ, Lead Staff  
DANIEL WHYTE, Staff Attorney  
CLAUDIA (CJ) JOHNSON, Secretary

## Visitors/Agenda

Visitors' list, [Attachment #1](#).  
Agenda, [Attachment #2](#).

## COMMITTEE ACTION

The Education and Local Government Interim committee approved the following motions:

- 1) to accept the January 22 & 23, 2012 minutes.
- 2) to have staff draft a bill that will remove the Student Loan Advisory Council and MCA sections that refer to the Council.
- 3) to add the MUS strategic affordability plan Objective 1.3.1 (Exhibit 5)
- 4) to review 2 LFD cost analyses:
  - a) Common Core State Standards; and
  - b) Chapter 55 Accreditation Standards;
- 5) accept Option #2-funds from the Legislative Council to assist with the last two committee meetings, (Exhibit 15) or
- 6) accept Option #5 if Option #2 is rejected. (Exhibit 15)

## CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- 00:00:00 Rep. Arntzen called the committee to order at 8:31a.m. The secretary called roll. [Attachment #3](#)
- 00:00:48 Rep. Rosendale made a motion to approve the January 22 and 23, 2012 ELG minutes. The motion **passed** by voice vote.
- 00:01:05 Leanne Kurtz, LSD Staff, reviewed the ELG agenda (Attachment #2) and the committee's work plan.

## AGENDA

### **Educational Opportunities for Military Children, state compact**

#### **Compact overview, reasons for state adoption:**

- 00:03:26 Rep. Price introduced the panel members:
- **Jacline Harriman, State Liaison, Western Region: Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy.**
  - **Rick Masters, Special Counsel for Interstate Compacts and legal consultant to the National Center for Interstate Compacts, Council of State Governments (CSG).**
  - **Norman Arflak, Brig. Gen. (ret.), Executive Director, Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, CSG.**
- 00:03:41 Ms. Harriman talked about her duties and working with military children. A handout titled "Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military

Children", was distributed and provides background information summarizing the compact. [Exhibit 1](#)

00:07:41 Brig. General (ret) Norman E. Arflack had a PowerPoint showing major issues regarding the Children's Compact Commission. (Exhibit 1) He discussed school enrollment, extracurricular participation, graduation, exit exams, and coordination between states and the military. Brig. Gen. Arflack talked about a budgetary item of \$2,000 to cover expenses for a representative from Montana to attend the CSG national conference.

00:23:38 Mr. Masters talked about the details of the compact and explained how it works.

### Committee comments and questions

The committee discussed expansion of the compact; how the organization plays a role by providing services for military spouses and children; the role of the compact in the school system; how Montana can bring this issue to the National Conference; and, how students transfer schools from one state to another state.

00:25:26 Sen. Jones  
00:27:41 Sen. Hawks  
00:29:34 Brig. Gen. Arflack  
00:30:57 Mr. Masters  
00:33:19 Sen. Lake  
00:42:05 Sen. Facey

### Public Comment

00:53:32 **Dr. Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent of the Great Falls High Schools**, said she is available for any questions the committee members may have. She talked about how Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls is a good example of why the compact is needed, and explained how the base is a fixture in Montana. She said the compact is readily available to assist military families when they move from state to state.

### Committee comments and questions

The committee talked about how school courses are handled between various states, the transition of military families from one military base to another, and how the compact program will benefit those families.

00:56:53 Rep. Mehlhoff  
00:59:32 Rep. Arntzen  
01:00:41 Col . Angela South, Malmstrom Air Force Base  
01:05:51 Sen. Jones

01:07:44 **Tom Moore, Superintendent of Secondary Schools**, explained how records such as a grade point average are different between schools.

01:11:53 **Sen. Ed Buttery, Montana Legislature**, said he sits on several boards, one being the Citizens for Montana's Military. He explained why the compact program is listed on the top of the military's agenda. Sen. Buttery introduced Mike Flarety, Chairman of a group called Employers for Guard and Reserve. He

talked about drafting several bills based on North Dakota law, but his draft bill will adapt to Montana's law and schools.

01:14:32 **Lara Durant, President of the PTA in Great Falls**, gave an example of her child who has special needs and how the Great Falls schools have been so incredible. She said the compact program has a huge impact on the lives of all military children.

01:20:14 **Mike Flarety, State Chair for the Support Guard in Montana**, talked about the military "Title 10" program, and its effect on the schools.

01:21:31 **Steve Meloy, Montana School Boards Association**, said he is representing Bob Vogel, Montana School Board Association, and gave an update of the association's recognition of the Great Falls school districts. He said the association's major concern is local control, and he would like to reduce the requirements of regulation on the school districts.

01:23:53 **Dawn Behl, School Liaison Officer, Malmstrom Air Force Base**, said she works with Dr. Crawley, Great Falls superintendent, and school staff. She talked about assisting families who move to the Air Force base, and how she connects them with the appropriate services.

#### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed drafting a bill that would implement the compact in Montana.

01:24:58 Rep. Price

01:25:41 Sen. Lake

01:27:44 Brig. Gen. Arflak

01:36:32 Rep. Rosendale

01:37:24 Ms. Durant

01:39:28 **Break**

01:53:26 Rep. Arntzen called the committee back to order.

#### **The Role of Libraries in Education**

- **Judy Hart, Government Affairs Chair, Montana Library Association (MLA)**
- **Jennie Stapp, Montana State Librarian**

01:54:39 Ms. Hart introduced Annette Gilbert, MLA, and Jennie Stapp, State Librarian. Ms. Hart gave an overview of the library, its role in education, and resources available to every person in Montana. She talked about a program called E-Content that is available throughout Montana, and how the state libraries assist with resumes, graduate preparation, and how libraries are digitizing their resources. Ms. Hart explained a program called "Library to Go". She distributed a handout showing the available resources. [Exhibit 2](#)

#### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed the resources available through the libraries; homeschoolers

involvement with libraries; and ABSCO-a statewide data base paid for by the coal tax through the state and library budgets.

02:04:02 Sen. Hawks

02:07:05 Sen. Facey

02:08:10 Jennie Stapp

## **HB 142 Compliance: Student Loan Advisory Council (2-15-1520, MCA)**

### **Role and future of the Council**

- **Bruce Marks, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education;**
- **Ron Muffick, Student Loan Advisory Council**

02:15:12 Ms. Kurtz explained this issue is a continuation of a previous agenda item the members had requested more information about.

02:15:33 Mr. Marks gave an overview of his duties, the Council, and how the demand of student loans has grown significantly.

02:19:14 Mr. Muffick gave an overview of his duties and involvement with the Student Loan Advisory Council. He distributed a copy of section 20-26-1104 that explains the Council's existence. **Exhibit 3** He talked about the Board of Regents' Affordability Task Force and issues that will be discussed at the next Regents' meeting.

02:27:00 Mr. Marks asked the committee to discontinue the Student Loan Advisory Council. He explained there is no cost to this and it is no longer relevant. He said lenders are not participating in the program.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee talked about school loans such as origination loans, student guaranteed loans, and loans that are part federal and part state. The committee discussed the direction of the council, and eliminating the Student Loan Advisory Council. The committee requested that the regents report on the Affordability Task Force at the next ELG meeting.

02:28:19 Rep. Hansen

02:31:35 Sen. Lake

02:32:45 Mr. Muffick

02:34:49 Rep. Arntzen

### **Discussion**

02:35:35 Ms. Kurtz talked about HB 142, which requires the committee to make a determination on the relevancy of the advisory councils. She said the committee will be finalizing the review of the advisory councils at the next ELG meeting. The recommendation by Mr. Marks to discontinue the Student Loan Advisory Council requires a motion so staff can draft a bill to dissolve the council and repeal sections of the code (MCA) that refer to it.

### **Motion**

02:37:07 Sen. Facey made a motion for staff to draft a bill to remove the Student Loan

Advisory Council and repeal MCA sections that refer to the council. The motion **passed** unanimously by voice vote.

#### **Teachers' Retirement System status**

- **Dave Senn, Executive Director, Teachers' Retirement System (TRS)**

02:39:43 Mr. Senn distributed a handout showing how the TRS shortfall came about, and explained how the shortfall can be corrected. [Exhibit 4](#)

#### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed teachers' willingness to participate in TRS; the increase in retirement contribution, and the cost of a TRS software program used by actuaries in other states.

03:01:44 Rep. Rosendale

03:01:46 Mr. Senn

03:06:23 Rep. Hansen

#### **Use of Extracurricular School Funds**

- **Dan Whyte, Staff Attorney**

03:07:52 Mr. Whyte explained the statutory limits on the use of interest earned from extracurricular activity funds. He talked about a letter he had written to Steven D. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations of the Bozeman public schools, in response to a letter he received from Mr. Johnson who requested a change in the statute regarding the use of interest earned from the activity funds. [Exhibit 5](#) Mr. Whyte explained an AG opinion that directed the funds be used for specific purposes, but the funds could be used for administrative costs and possibly other uses.

#### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee talked about funds from interest accrued from schools' extracurricular accounts and whether local school boards should be in control of the funds; whether leftover funds can be placed in a flex account and used the next school year; how current law requires extracurricular funds be used for specific purposes; and proposed legislation regarding the interest funds for other uses in the upcoming legislature.

03:13:33 Sen. Lake

03:15:23 Mr. Whyte

03:17:16 Sen. Hawks

03:20:46 Rep. Arntzen

#### **Committee budget discussion**

03:21:49 Ms. Kurtz gave an overview of the committee's budget and the dollar amount needed for the two remaining meetings.

03:23:40 **Susan Fox, Executive Director, Legislative Services Division and the Legislative Council**, provided information about the role of the Legislative Council in assisting committees with emerging funds when a budget falls short of finishing interim meetings.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed its financial situation and the pros and cons of meeting dates to balance the funds.

03:24:00 Rep. Arntzen  
03:24:37 Ms. Fox  
03:25:57 Rep. Hansen  
03:27:11 Sen. Lake  
03:27:54 Rep. Rosendale  
03:29:21 Rep. Arntzen  
03:29:47 Sen. Jones

03:31:10 Ms. Kurtz informed the committee that most of the items on the work plan have been addressed, and said they can finish the work plan on the final meeting date. She confirmed that the committee must be finished with its work by September 15, 2012.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed items to be on the next meeting agenda.

03:34:10 Sen. Hawks  
03:34:39 Sen. Lake  
03:35:42 Rep. Mehlhoff  
03:36:50 Rep. Arntzen

03:37:11 Ms. Fox asked the committee to bring her budget ideas before the end of the interim so she can present the budget to the Council for the next interim.

### **Lunch**

03:39:16 Lunch

04:34:15 Rep. Arntzen called the committee meeting back to order.

### **Litigation Review**

- **Dan White, LSD Staff Attorney**

04:34:41 Mr. Whyte gave an overview of the Columbia Falls School vs. the State of Montana lawsuit regarding the K-12 funding. He briefed the committee on the lawsuit stating that the court found that the Montana Legislature did not fund the schools appropriately. He distributed a handout showing the history of legal challenges of public school funding. [Exhibit 6](#)

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee talked about relevant factors of school funding and its impact; the Board of Public Education's involvement; the lawsuit, and why it happened.

04:42:04 Sen. Jones  
04:44:42 Rep. Rosendale  
04:45:14 Sen. Facey  
04:47:27 Mr. Whyte  
04:53:37 Rep. Hansen  
04:55:13 Sen. Hawks

05:10:31 Sen. Moore  
05:18:16 Jim Standaert  
05:25:25 Sen. Jones

**Committee break for ceremony commemorating the unveiling of the Francis Bardanouve plaque in the Capitol's East Wing**

05:30:10 **Break**

**Committee comments and questions**

The committee continued its discussion regarding Mr. Whyte's earlier presentation and questioned the separation of powers between the state and schools. The committee talked about the Board of Regents and the Board of Public Education being under the purview of the Governor's office, and surplus and inflation of funds.

06:00:44 Sen. Moore  
06:03:09 Sen. Lake  
06:03:24 Mr. Whyte  
06:04:50 Sen. Hawks  
06:05:53 Sen. Facey  
06:06:45 Rep. Arntzen

**K-12 Finance Training**

- **Jim Standaert, Senior Fiscal Analyst, LFD**

06:08:24 Mr. Standaert presented a PowerPoint updating the committee on the history of funding for Montana schools. He talked about the debt service fund and the retirement fund. [Exhibit 7](#)

**Committee comments and questions**

**The committee discussed the debt service.**

06:16:12 Rep. Arntzen  
06:17:28 Sen. Facey  
06:18:24 Rep. Hansen  
06:20:21 Sen. Moore  
06:30:36 Mr. Standaert  
06:44:03 Sen. Jones  
06:50:52 Sen. Facey

**Funds that comprise budgets**

- **Barb Smith, Statewide Fiscal Policy Analyst, LFD**

07:17:35 Ms. Smith distributed a handout and explained the district funds authorized and restricted in the Montana Code Annotated. [Exhibit 8](#) She presented a PowerPoint showing the appropriation of funds, and explained how the transfer of funds work. [Exhibit 9](#)

**Public comment - None**



### **HJR 39 - Subdivision for lease or rent study**

- **Helena Thigpen, Staff Attorney, LSD**
- **Kelly Casillas, Administrator, Community Development Division, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Department of Commerce**

08:00:59 Ms. Thigpen gave an overview of the AG Opinion that recaps Opinion #5 . She distributed a handout that explains the Opinion. [Exhibit 10](#)

08:07:38 Ms. Casillas updated the committee on the stakeholders working group and the criteria the group has worked on regarding subdivision for rent or lease requirements. She gave an overview of the agreement and discussed the definitions the work group agreed to.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed environmental circumstances and the five options used for rent and lease of subdivisions; the exemptions explained in HB 629; and a timeframe for the stakeholders to report to the committee.

08:15:02 Ms. Casillas  
08:15:34 Sen. Hawks  
08:16:56 Sen. Lake  
08:25:26 Rep. McClafferty  
08:28:36 Sen. Facey

### **Recess**

08:29:49 Rep. Arntzen recessed the committee at 5:01 p.m.

**Friday, March 23, 2012**

### **Reconvene**

**Visitors list, [Attachment #1](#).**  
**Agenda, [Attachment #2](#).**

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

### **Reconvene**

00:00:01 Rep. Arntzen called the committee back to order at 8:00 a.m. The secretary called roll. [Attachment #3](#).

00:06:54 Ms. Kurtz gave an update of the committee's agenda ([Attachment #2](#)).

### **AGENDA**

#### **Indian School Board Caucus - Montana School Boards Association**

- **James DeHerrera, Poplar, school board member**
- **Iris Kill Eagle, Dodson School District**

- 00:07:15 Mr. DeHerrera gave an overview of his duties and involvement with the tribal schools.
- 00:07:26 Ms. Kill Eagle talked about the Dodson school, its graduation rate, and her concerns about budget cuts in the arts and music. She discussed how the 4-day school week is working. She feels that absenteeism and tardiness are down because of this, and stated that teachers are also going to the students' homes for parent/teacher conferences.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee talked about the Dodson school participation in the digital academy, assistance with funds for the arts and music, an increase in the school's graduation rate, how students are being provided with a good education, and the school's extracurricular activities.

- 00:08:11 Sen. Branae  
00:09:13 Sen. Hawks  
00:11:22 Rep. Mehlhoff  
00:15:03 Rep. Arntzen

- 00:16:14 **Leonard Bends, Trustee, Lodge Grass Public School Board, and Sundance Chief of the Crow Nation**, talked about the challenges of the Crow Nation and the issues they deal with in the Lodge Grass school. He said they have high unemployment on the reservation, and high absenteeism and tardiness in the classroom. [Exhibit 1](#)

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee talked about how tribes can assist a student to be successful; alternative schools vs public schools; bullying; and adult education classes.

- 00:29:25 Sen. Lake  
00:35:44 Rep. Price  
00:44:10 Sen. Hawks  
00:47:53 Sen. Facey  
00:51:19 Sen. Moore

- 00:54:03 Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association, talked about the Indian School Board Caucus. He discussed a visit he made to Eastern Montana and his observation of the oil fields and its impact on schools and housing. Mr. Vogel addressed the 4-day school week that was changed approximately 5 to 6 years ago, and said that it is not the number of days, but the number of hours that are counted.

- 00:58:38 Break

### **Shared Policy Goals review**

## **K-20 - Graduation data, National Student Clearinghouse data, course coding system/transferability**

- **Madalyn Quinlan, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)**
- **Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)**

- 01:21:47 Ms. Quinlan reported on OPI's progress on the data regarding the 2011 four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate. **Exhibit 2** She explained that every state is now using this graduation rate, and how the data will assist OPI in calculating graduation rates. Ms. Quinlan announced that 22 schools have received Graduation Matters grants through the Phyllis Washington Foundation. **Exhibit 3** Ms. Quinlan distributed a handout showing how OPI is continuing to build on its statewide longitudinal data system for P-20, a tool to assist in mapping K-12 Course Code for local school districts. **Exhibit 4** Ms. Quinlan explained the K-12 shared policy goals, its performance monitoring report, and an update of OPI's objectives and accountability measures of the shared policy goals. **Exhibit 5**
- 01:48:11 Mr. Trevor updated the committee on OCHE's strategic plan changes. He distributed and explained a handout on postsecondary affordability. **Exhibit 6** He asked the committee to approve this objective to present to the Commissioner of Higher Education.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed the strategic plan and questioned Mr. Trevor about the Commissioner of Higher Education's efforts in creating jobs and keeping graduates in Montana.

- 01:55:14 Rep. Arntzen  
01:58:38 Sen. Lake  
01:59:56 Rep. Rosendale  
02:00:39 Rep. Mehlhoff  
02:02:09 Sen. Moore  
02:04:35 Rep. Arntzen  
02:06:16 Sen. Jones  
02:07:58 Sen. Facey  
02:08:41 Mr. Trevor  
02:09:17 Sen. Hawks  
02:11:42 Rep. Hansen

### **Motion**

- 02:15:49 Sen. Facey made a motion to adopt objective 1.3.1 of the Montana University System's strategic plan on affordability (Exhibit 5), which will decrease the average loan amounts and the percentage of students

borrowing.

02:20:31 Ms. Kurtz clarified the motion of the shared policy goal agreement.

### **Vote**

02:22:14 The motion to amend the MUS shared policy goal by adding objective 1.3.1 to the strategic plan **passed** by voice vote with Sen. Moore voting no.

### **Montana University System (MUS) - System Initiatives**

- **Clayton Christian, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)**

02:23:07 Commissioner Christian gave an overview of the MUS system initiatives. He distributed a handout explaining the system initiatives such as ideas, concepts and funding. [Exhibit 7](#)

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed higher education classes on-line and distance learning, dual credits, a scholarship program, accelerated degree programs such as Pathways, how to figure a funding formula, and a 1.5 mill levy to assist each of the Montana higher education institutions.

02:35:08 Rep. Hansen

02:37:05 Commissioner Christians

02:47:31 Sen. Facey

02:48:48 Sen. Lake

02:52:18 Rep. Price

02:53:33 Rep. Mehlhoff

03:02:53 Sen. Hawks

03:07:45 Sen. Lake

03:12:48 Sen. Jones

03:18:33 Rep. Arntzen, Sen. Hawks, and Ms. Kurtz talked about getting ideas together to draft a bill to push ahead for the 1.5 mill levy that will be inclusive of all 2-year programs. Sen. Hawks was appointed to gather information to submit for staff to draft a bill regarding the 1.5 mill levy and its effect on the general fund.

03:23:13 Working lunch.

03:40:46 Rep. Arntzen called the committee to order.

### **Funding Common Core**

- **Amy Carlson, Director, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, and the panel**

## members

- 03:42:13 Ms. Carlson gave an overview of a process in place for a cost analysis on the impact of Common Core Standards for math and language arts to prepare staff and committee for the upcoming legislative session. [Exhibit 8](#) She talked about a definition of accreditation standards and said the committee may want to find a resolution about how to set cost estimates.

## Committee comments and questions

The committee asked questions of Ms. Carlson about the process of estimating funding for common core standards.

03:46:35 Rep. Arntzen

03:47:19 Rep. Mehlhoff

- 03:51:00 Cheryl Crawley, Superintendent of Great Falls school districts, talked about the Great Falls schools comparing common core expenses to estimates of the districts budgets, and adopting a rigorous curriculum of high standards for the schools. Dr. Crawley talked about a pilot program that was started with stimulus funds for Title I and special education students and how they have been able to continue funding the program with grants. [Exhibit 9](#)

- 04:02:45 Ruth Uecker, Assistant Superintendent of Great Falls schools discussed school district budgets, and gave an overview of how the Great Falls schools adopt curriculum and provide the required resources. [Exhibit 10](#)

- 04:11:09 Linda Reksten, Superintendent of Butte Schools, gave an overview of the Butte school system. She talked about common core, performance tasks, a pilot program called "My Access" from OPI - an artificial intelligence scoring of students writing, and how it profiles and gives feedback for teachers.

## Committee comments and questions

The committee talked about schools budget cuts that will affect text books, staffing positions, and resources. They discussed declining enrollment in high schools and an increase in elementary schools; assessment tests; and focusing on K-12 and not just common core.

04:18:58 Rep. Mehlhoff

04:23:28 Sen. Lake

04:25:23 Rep. McClafferty

04:26:46 John Cech, Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education for 2-year Colleges

04:28:35 Rep. Hansen

04:30:20 Sen. Facey

04:32:02 Rep. McClafferty

- 04:32:30 Dennis Parman, OPI  
 04:36:11 Rep. Hansen  
 04:51:51 Rep. Arntzen  
 04:56:21 Sen. Hawks
- 04:57:30 A handout was distributed from Barbara Rush, a retired teacher from the Helena public schools, that contained comments about Common Core Standards. [Exhibit 11](#)
- 05:00:10 Bob Vogel, Montana School Board Association, distributed a handout from Lance L. Melton, Executive Director of MTSBA, and Dave Puyear, Executive Director, MREA, which address Mr. Melton and Mr. Puyear's concerns of the Legislative Fiscal Division's estimating the fiscal impact of the accreditation standards of the Board of Public Education. [Exhibit 12](#)  
 He urged the committee to reject the 1% threshold as the amount that a school district can "readily absorb" without additional funding.
- 05:06:34 Marco Ferro, MEA/MFT, said that MEA/MFT represents teachers that will be teaching Common Core courses. He talked about attending an Education International Summit in NYC where he heard teachers from around the world talk about how they are investing in education. He encouraged the members to think of this as an opportunity to invest in education at a time when Montana has the money to invest.
- 05:08:57 Pete Donovan, Board of Public Education (BPE), said he is available to answer any questions the committee may have. He said Dr. Parman has already explained everything and he didn't have any more to add.
- 05:09:24 Ms. Kurtz summarized where the committee can go from here with the Common Core standards. She said there are 3 issues:  
 1) does the committee want to request a fiscal analysis from LFD to work on cost estimates for Chapter 55 Accreditation Standards?  
 2) does the committee want staff to work on options defining what the word "substantial" means such as guidelines for LFD to use in its analysis? and  
 3) does the committee want to ask LFD to refine their analysis of costs of implementing Common Core?
- Ms. Kurtz informed the committee that LFD can have a cost analysis done on accreditation standards and the refinement core by the September timeframe. She said the word "substantial" is in 20-7-101, MCA, and the question is - does this section need to be changed to make the process work better.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed how to prepare for the 2013 legislative session; to consider language and the impact of accreditation standards to move forward for the upcoming session; and the implementation of the law that will take effect on July 1, 2013.

05:13:22 Sen. Hawks  
05:15:16 Rep. Hansen  
05:17:02 Sen. Lake  
05:19:29 Sen. Jones  
05:21:26 Rep. Arntzen  
05:22:38 Mr. Whyte  
05:23:24 Ms. Carlson  
05:25:47 Rep. Mehlhoff

### **Motion**

05:27:20 Rep. Mehlhoff made a motion to: 1) revisit Common Core and have LFD report to the committee in June and finalize it in September; and 2) ask LFD to conduct a cost analysis of Chapter 55 Accreditation Standards and work with each school to determine what the need is and have LFD report at the committee's June meeting with a final analysis by September.

05:29:07 Rep. Mehlhoff asked Ms. Carlson to confirm the motion. Ms. Carlson confirmed that the committee would revisit Common Core at ELG's June meeting and finalize at the ELG September meeting.

### **Discussion**

05:29:28 Sen. Hawks gave his thoughts on the implication of the motion.

05:30:52 Rep. Hansen said she is concerned about LFD not having the information on Chapter 55 completed by September 2012.

05:33:04 Sen. Moore and Mr. Whyte discussed using e-mail to keep the information public.

### **Vote**

05:35:50 The motion **passed** unanimously by voice vote.

### **Chapter 55 Task Force**

- **Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent of OPI, and representing the Digital Academy**

05:37:08 Mr. Parman distributed a handout reviewing Chapter 55 Standards of Accreditation Joint Task Force. He updated the committee on the

progress of the Task Force's meeting on February 2012. [Exhibit 13](#)

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee talked about authority and representation of the joint task force; the accreditation process; professional development; and reference checks on teachers.

05:49:01 Rep. Hansen  
05:53:20 Rep. McClafferty  
06:01:21 Mr. Parman  
06:02:50 Rep. Arntzen

### **Review of June Meeting and Instructions to staff**

06:03:49 Ms. Kurtz reported on the committee's budget. She distributed a handout showing options for the committee to review and determine how they want to hold and fund the final meetings. [Exhibit 14](#) With the budget constraints, Ms. Kurtz may need to approach the Legislative Council to request extra funds to finalize the committee meetings.

### **Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed Ms. Kurtz's options about which option will be best to hold the last two committee meetings.

06:08:23 Sen. Branae

### **Request**

06:10:57 Ms. Kurtz asked that a motion be made to direct her to request funding from the Legislative Council for the meetings that the committee wishes to schedule.

### **Motion**

06:11:26 Sen. Lake made the motion to request the funds from the Legislative Council.

### **Discussion**

06:11:57 Sen. Moore  
06:12:39 Rep. Mehlhoff  
06:13:52 Rep. Rosendale  
06:14:26 Rep. Arntzen

### **Withdraw/Motion**

06:15:43 Sen. Lake said the subdivision recommendation is coming up and will be intense. He withdrew his motion and made a motion to go with option #2 - 2 additional meetings: one 1-day; and one 2-days.

### **Discussion**



06:18:23 Sen. Hawks  
06:18:41 Rep. Mehlhoff  
06:19:35 Ms. Kurtz  
06:20:40 Rep. Price  
06:21:35 Ms. Kurtz

**Motion**

06:22:52 Roll call vote was taken. The motion **passed** 7-5 with Representatives Rosendale, Hansen, Arntzen, and Senators Moore and Jones voting no. [Exhibit 15](#)

06:24:34 Ms. Kurtz said if the Council denies the funds there is enough money for one 2-day meeting. She said the committee meets next on June 18, 2012.

**Committee comments and questions**

The committee discussed other options if the Legislative Council rejects option #2.

06:26:07 Rep. Rosendale

**Motion**

06:28:51 Sen. Lake made a motion that if the Legislative Council rejects option #2 than go with option #5 - which is: one additional in-person meeting; and one meeting via conference call. The motion **passed** unanimously by voice vote.

06:32:05 Ms. Kurtz will send an e-mail to the committee regarding the five proposals for the subdivision bills, the OPI survey, and the reports on the 1.5 mills for education authored by Eddy McClure, former LSD staff attorney.

06:35:04 Rep. Arntzen adjourned the Education and Local Government interim committee at 3:00 p.m.

CI0206 3080coxa.