



# Quality Schools Interim Committee

## 59th Montana Legislature

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### HOUSE MEMBERS

MONICA LINDEEN--Chair  
WILLIAM GLASER  
HOLLY RASER  
PAT WAGMAN

### SENATE MEMBERS

ROBERT STORY--Vice Chair  
DAVE LEWIS  
DON RYAN  
JON TESTER

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

LINDA MCCULLOCH  
KIRK MILLER  
DAVID EWER

### COMMITTEE STAFF

CONNIE ERICKSON, Research Analyst  
CHRIS LOHSE, Research Analyst  
EDDYE MCCLURE, Staff Attorney  
FONG HOM, Secretary

# MINUTES

Please Note: These minutes provide an outline of committee discussion and testimony accompanied by audio recording.

June 6, 2005

Room 102, Capitol Building  
Helena, Montana

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

REP. MONICA LINDEEN, Chair  
SEN. ROBERT STORY, Vice Chair

LINDA MCCULLOCH  
KIRK MILLER

SEN. DAVE LEWIS  
SEN. DON RYAN - Excused Absent  
SEN. JON TESTER - Excused Absent

REP. WILLIAM GLASER  
REP. HOLLY RASER  
REP. PAT WAGMAN

## **STAFF PRESENT**

CONNIE ERICKSON, Research Analyst  
CHRIS LOHSE, Research Analyst  
EDDYE MCCLURE, Staff Attorney  
FONG HOM, Secretary

## **Visitors**

Visitors' list (Attachment 2)

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

- Approved Ivan Small as third education representative on working group
- Asked RC Wood & Associates to provide time line and delineation of responsibilities to the Committee
- Instructed staff to simplify the contract for the teacher salary market analysis and offer the contract to both the Montana University System and RC Wood & Associates
- Instructed staff to set up a conference call for the Committee to award the contract

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

00:00:07 Call to order by Chair Lindeen. Roll Call by the Committee Secretary (Attachment 1). Senator Tester and Senator Ryan were absent but had submitted proxies to the Chair.

### **Selection of Third Education Representative**

00:01:31 The Committee discussed the appointment of a third education representative. Rep. Glaser made a motion to increase the number of education liaisons from two to three and appoint Mr. Small as the third liaison.

Sen. Story asked how the study process is working with the education representatives.

Chair Lindeen asked for a voice vote on the **motion to accept the recommendation of Ivan Small as the third representative from the education community** to serve on the staff. It was approved unanimously with Sen. Tester and Sen. Ryan voting by proxy.

### **Role of Education Representatives**

Chair Lindeen clarified the role of the education representatives.

### **MEETING WITH R C WOOD & ASSOCIATES**

00:11:58 Chair Lindeen welcomed three members of RC Wood & Associates: Dr. Don Robson, Dr. Merle Farrier, and Steve Smith.

00:17:40 Steve Smith presented an overview of the study design proposed by RC Wood & Associates.

### Questions from the Committee

- 00:25:51 Linda McCulloch asked the three members of the RC Wood & Associates to tell the Committee how they plan to conduct the study.
- 00:36:58 Sen. Story asked how RC Wood would tie the definition of quality schools into their needs assessment.
- 00:46:46 Rep. Wagman asked, based on the data that they will be collecting, how are they going to differentiate between how schools spend their money and their costs for delivering services. How they will determine what true cost is from what the schools actually are spending.
- 00:53:10 David Ewer, Budget Director, said that the Legislature has defined "quality" and that the needs assessment would be gathering data driven by the quality definition. Mr. Ewer asked if they would contemplate an index that might be a cost for a rural part of Montana versus an urban part of Montana.
- 01:11:10 Mr. Ewer would like to know what RC Wood is expecting from the State as far as staff, resources, questions, data, etc.
- 01:20:28 Chair Lindeen would like the consultants and staff to present to the Committee at the next meeting a work plan and time line as far as when certain things would be completed, along with who is responsible for doing what.
- 01:22:07 Rep. Raser asked about the survey instruments the consultants would be using.
- 01:27:32 Superintendent McCulloch asked the consultants about experience working for the State of Montana, and about recruitment and retention of teachers.
- 01:38:51 Superintendent McCulloch asked Mr. Smith about his contract with the Taxpayers Association.
- 01:48:39 Dr. Miller asked if they planned to use the results found in the Augenblick & Meyer study that was done three years ago.
- 02:03:12 Sen Story asked how RC Wood plans to cover the costs of another professional judgment study.

02:10:37 Chair Lindeen asked about the public input council.

02:12:36 Rep. Wagman asked about Indian Education for All and recruitment and retention of teachers.

### **INTERAGENCY CONTRACT AND MUS**

02:44:32 Sen. Story asked about negotiating the final contract.

02:47:51 Eddy McClure, staff attorney, talked about the interagency contract with the University System for a qualified teacher and staff competitive compensation market analysis. (Exhibit 1)

02:55:35 The Committee discussed whether to issue a contract with the University System or offer RC Wood the opportunity to do the study.

### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

#### Consolidation of School District Funds

03:34:10 Eddy McClure talked about the consolidation of school district funds as mandated by SB 152.

#### Other Issues and Agenda Items

03:35:57 Connie Erickson asked Committee members how they would like to receive meeting notices and information. She also asked about agenda items for June 28.

AGENDA ITEMS that the Committee members would like to be put on the next meeting should be given to Ms. Erickson. Chair Lindeen would like to get a draft agenda to her and Sen. Story as soon as possible. Sen. Story told the Committee that there are other things that need to be done other than the contract issue. Need to determine what the needs and costs are; determine the distribution mechanism; finish the business from the Joint Committee.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

03:47:55 JACK COPPS, Executive Director of Montana Quality Education Coalition.

03:52:59 REP. CAROL JUNEAU distributed a memo to the Committee "Educational

Needs Assessment and the Needs of American Indian Student" (Exhibit 2).

04:05:46 REP. NORMA BIXBY, Montana Indian Education Association, distributed a report "Recommendation for Educational Needs Assessment, Questions relating to Indian Education for all Montanans" for the Interim Committee to study (Exhibit 3).

04:20:16 ROD SVEE, Superintendent of Billings Schools, passed out a document "SB 152 - facilities and distance learning technologies associated with meeting the accreditation standards (Exhibit 4).

ADJOURN

04:28:54 REP. WAGMAN moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

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