

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
52nd LEGISLATURE - 1st SPECIAL SESSION**

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Chet Blaylock, on January 13, 1992,
at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Senator Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)
Senator Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)
Senator Robert Brown (R)
Senator Bill Farrell (R)
Senator H.W. Hammond (R)
Senator Dennis Nathe (R)
Senator Dick Pinsoneault (D)
Senator Mignon Waterman (D)
Senator Bill Yellowtail (D)
Representative Ted Schye (D),
House Education Chairman
Representative Ervin Davis (D),
House Education Vice Chairman
Representative Steve Benedict (R)
Representative Ernest Bergsagel (R)
Representative Robert Clark (R)
Representative Vicki Cocchiarella (D)
Representative Fritz Daily (D)
Representative Gary Feland (R)
Representative Gary Forrester (D)
Representative Bob Gervais (D)
Representative Sonny Hanson (R)
Representative Scott McCulloch (D)
Representative Richard Simpkins (R)
Representative Norm Wallin (R)

Members Excused: Representative Tom Kilpatrick (D),
Representative Bea McCarthy (D), Representative Dan
Harrington (D), Representative Barry "Spook" Stang (D).

Staff Present: Eddy McClure (Legislative Council)
Andrea Merrill

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Announcements/Discussion: None.

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 5

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Senator Chet Blaylock asked Eddy McClure, Legislative Council, to explain an error on Page 3, Line 3. Ms. McClure told the Committee it should have read "Department of Administration" not the "Board of Investments".

Senator Blaylock told the Committee the 'whereas clauses' explain the situation which led to the Montana Supreme Court's decision that all bonds issued up until July 1, 1991, were valid. This, by implication, left those issued after that in an uncertain state. They cannot get an opinion on school bonds at this point because of inaction in the Legislature and Supreme Court decision. He explained Senate Bill 5 would make the bonds acceptable.

Senator Blaylock commented about discussion which has taken place about the amount of vote needed. After discussions with bond counsel and other counsel, he has concluded there is only a need for a majority vote. He told the Committee bond counsel has stated they would 'like, for a comfort factor, to have two-thirds'. Senator Blaylock expressed his desire not to place figures such as three-quarters or two-thirds into Senate Bill 5 because the implication would be the money is being "given" to those school districts. He explained this is a "loan and a loan only to be repaid".

Proponents' Testimony:

Representative Paula Darko spoke in support of Senate Bill 5. She told the Committee she serves on the Joint Interim Committee on school funding and feels a responsibility to assist the school districts.

Nancy Keenan, Superintendent of Public Instruction told the Committee about those things the bill "did not do". It does not affect the bond rating, does not put the state in further deficit, does not go on forever, and does not solve the capital outlay problems which need to be addressed. She explained it does provide an opportunity for school districts to take advantage of the lowest interest rate in the last decade to build badly needed facilities. She told the Committee this bill would not only save the taxpayer money but would enhance the state revenue picture by building \$25 million plus of school building puts people to work.

Bob Marks of the Department of Administration and representing the Governor's Office spoke in support of SB 5. He

explained amendments which had been proposed (SB000503.AEM).

Representative Royal Johnson spoke in support of SB 5. He explained a proposed amendment (SB000501.AEM). He told the Committee it did not change the purpose of Senate Bill 5 with the amendment which would remove Section 5.

Charles Strand of the East Side Elementary School in Livingston told the Committee a bond levy is coming up next week. He urged passage of SB 5 and commented "the safety and welfare of our students are at stake".

Jackie Boshka, Principal of the West Glacier School, School District #8 in Flathead County spoke in favor of Senate Bill 5 from prepared testimony (Exhibit #1).

Dustin Hill, Superintendent of Schools in Scobey told the Committee he was testifying on behalf of Plentywood Schools at the request of Superintendent Doug Walsh at Plentywood. After a fire in September of 1990 the Plentywood Schools have been unable to rebuild because of the inability to sell bonds. The Plentywood students are being housed in a roller-skating rink, the Courthouse and a meeting house in Wildwood Park.

Robert L. Anderson, Executive Director of the Montana School Boards Association presented written testimony (Exhibit #2).

Ken Dunham manager of the Montana Contractors Association which is composed of 350 members (contractors, redi-mix firms, suppliers, and sub-contractors to the industry). He told the Committee the construction industry is looking forward to a "busy 1992". He explained contractors need the "lead time" to plan to years construction work on schools. He urged support of Senate Bill 5.

Bob Klein, Superintendent of Schools, Clancy School District #1 spoke from prepared testimony (Exhibit #3).

Sherrie Smith, a trustee from the Clancy School District spoke from prepared testimony (Exhibit #4).

Kathryn Shaefer, Chair of R.E.A.C.H. spoke in support of Senate Bill 5 from prepared testimony (Exhibit #5).

Gary B. Carlson, CPA and Board Chair of Clancy Elementary spoke from prepared testimony (Exhibit #6). Mr. Carlson asked those individuals from Clancy who were in favor of the Senate Bill 5 and in attendance to stand.

Kathy Pattee, Principal of Monforton Schools, west of Bozeman spoke in from prepared testimony (Exhibit #7).

John McNeil, Chair of the Montana Rural Education Association told the Committee Senate Bill 5 was a workable

solution for the short term.

Representative Mary Ellen Connelly asked for an amendment on Page 2, Line 13 following "program" to insert "West Glacier, whose school was also destroyed by fire".

Representative Norm Wallin, District 78 asked to be added to the list of proponents.

Dave Lewis, Executive Director of the State Board of Investments spoke in support of SB 5 and told the Committee "they could work with the bill as written".

Representative Linda Nelson spoke in support of Senate Bill 5 because of the great need in Plentywood.

Bill Adamo with the business services for Livingston Schools spoke in support of Senate Bill 5.

Opponents' Testimony:

None.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Farrell asked Dave Lewis if "he could live with the bill as is", but if Representative Royal Johnson's proposed amendment was adopted it "would be great". Mr. Lewis stated that was correct. He explained they had \$50 million of authority in the existing statute, they have used \$18 million and approximately \$7 million more is needed for this year.

Representative Simpkins asked Dave Lewis if Section 5 were removed does it require a two-thirds vote by the Legislature to accomplish this. Mr. Lewis stated he did not believe it would require any super majority vote.

Senator Nathe referred to the order in which the funds are listed on Page 8 and Page 9 is the order. He asked Mr. Lewis if the listing of the funds dictate the position at which the money comes off? Mr. Lewis stated he did not believe it does; the flow of funds is addressed in Section 3.

Senator Hammond asked Mr. Lewis if all bonds were written that when the interest rates drop they can be repurchased and sold at a lower rate. Mr. Lewis explained in most cases there is a five-year call protection in which the bond buyer knows he is going to have that bond for five years and if the rates drop after five years that bond might be called but normally at a premium. He pointed to Page 6, Line 6. He deferred to Eddy McClure.

Ms. Eddy McClure told the Committee when the Board of Investments short term plan came up the Board of Investments was

going to "require" the districts to refinance. Under Senate Bill 5 it will be required "if they can".

Senator Hammond asked if this would have any effect on bond markets in the future. Mr. Lewis explained after a conversation with DA Davidson this language was permissive enough and would not be a problem.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Blaylock closed on Senate Bill 5.

Representative Schye, Chair of the House Education Committee explained the House Committee would have separate executive action on Senate Bill 5.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 5

Discussion:

Senator Blaylock asked Representative Johnson to clarify his proposed amendment. He asked if Section 5 is removed what will happen in effect in \$25 million more will be put into that municipal fund. Representative Johnson stated that was not correct. He explained it creates another fund called the "coal severance tax bond fund". There would be \$25 million for school bonds specifically set up for that situation. The \$50 million is specifically set up for interface loans and Montana Municipal Finance Authority.

Senator Brown asked Nancy Keenan to explain the "buckets" with the charts. Ms. Keenan explained the Coal Severance Tax Trust Fund had inside it "buckets": The coal severance tax water bond "bucket", the clean coal "bucket", the coal severance in-state investment "bucket", and the income "bucket". She explained what is being proposed is to add another "bucket", called the school bond "bucket". When the water one meets all its needs it will flow out into the school bond "bucket" which will flow out and runs into another bucket, etc. It all stays within there. She explained what Representative Johnson is saying is there is another "pie" of money with the Board of Investments (\$25 million) which was going to be taken out and put into the coal severance tax process. She stated that money is not needed.

Senator Brown asked Ms. Keenan and Representative Johnson if the Big Sky Dividend and/or the Treasure State Endowment would be affected if this were done. Representative Johnson it may be effected.

Ms. Keenan explained the Big Sky Dividend or the Treasure State Endowment would add more "buckets". She stated the

difference is "timing". If Senate Bill 5 passes its "bucket" would get filled first and would be off the books by the time the Big Sky Dividend or the Treasure State Endowment would pass.

Senator Pinsoneault Nancy Keenan asked what determines the flow and what is the capacity of the new "bucket". Superintendent Keenan explained the outside capacity is about \$2.8 million because any given year that debt has to be paid on a bond that total could be about \$2.8 million. The Department of Administration manages the flow into the "buckets".

Senator Fritz asked Nancy Keenan asked how much of the coal tax trust fund is encumbered by these "buckets". Superintendent Keenan deferred the question the Dave Lewis. He told the Committee the first "bucket" (water bonds) takes out about one-half million dollars a year. There is approximately \$20 million coming in. The water bond holders get "first call" and take out one-half million, the rest is poured into the school bond "bucket" which takes (worse case) \$2.5 million a year and the rest is poured in the trust. There are only two "buckets". If the Big Sky Dividend or the Treasure State Endowment were added they would be "down stream" of the bond holders.

Senator Blaylock stated both the Big Sky Dividend or the Treasure State Endowment would be set up for infrastructure. He stated there would be nothing fittingly called infrastructure than building of schools.

Senator Waterman asked Superintendent Keenan if the water bonds requires the three-fourths vote. Superintendent Keenan explained that is true but this is not the same as the water bond, it is almost "mirrors" the clean coal technology which is a simple majority. School bonding is drafted similarly to clean coal technology.

Senator Nathe pointed out the water bond is spending money.

Senator Pinsoneault asked Superintendent Keenan if while the "bucket" is filling up it is hoped there will be no law suits. Superintendent Keenan stated that is correct. She explained if there is a law suit the state of Montana (the \$2.8 million "bucket") is going to have to pay the outstanding bonds until the court case is resolved. If there is not law suit the money flows.

Senator Blaylock asked the Clancy School superintendent how much money they had in their reserves. The question was deferred to Jim Gillett, Chairman of Finance for the Clancy Schools. Mr. Gillett explained there is no debt service reserve because they have not sold their bonds.

Senator Yellowtail stated if Section 5 were removed it would be better to have a three-quarter vote requirement.

Senator Blaylock stated there has been concern. He explained the coal tax monies are loaned all the time for such things as housing bonds. When federal securities are bought it is a loan. He stated this is a loan.

Senator Blaylock asked Mr. Lewis to comment. Mr. Lewis explained the bill is drafted so the money which goes to the district is a loan, it is not a debt of the state or an expenditure of the trust.

Amendments, Discussion, and Votes:

Senator Nathe moved the adoption of amendment SB000501.AEM.

Senator Yellowtail asked if there was a three-fourth vote required on the Big Sky Dividend.

Senator Yellowtail made a substitute motion to adopt the amendment with appropriate language be inserted to include a three-fourth vote by the Legislature be required.

Senator Yellowtail's motion to adopt the amendment (SB000501.AEM) with insertions CARRIED in a Roll Call Vote: Five (5) Senators voting YEA (Senator Pineseault, Senator Waterman, Senator Yellowtail, Senator Fritz, and Senator Blaylock), Four (4) Senator voting NAY (Senator Bob Brown, Senator Farrell, Senator Hammond, and Senator Nathe).

Senator Pineseault moved to adopt amendment #1 and #2 of SB000503.AEM. Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Pineseault moved to adopt amendment #4, #5, #6, and #7 of SB000503.AEM. Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Yellowtail moved to insert on Line 17 after the period after the word "loan", "Repayment must begin no later than January 1, 1994, and must be repaid in full within 10 years from the date the first loan is issued." to amendment #3 of SB000503.AEM and adopt the same. Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Bob Brown moved to strike, on Page 2, Line 10 "whose school was" and insert "and West Glacier Schools which were". Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Senator Fritz moved to adopt amendment SB000502.AEM. Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation and Votes:

Senator Waterman moved to DO PASS AS AMENDED Senate Bill 5. Motion CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 9:15 p.m.

Chet Blaylock

SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, Chairman
Linda Casey

LINDA CASEY, Secretary

CB/11c

ROLL CALLJoint Education COMMITTEEDATE 1/13/92LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Bob Brown	X		
Senator Wm. Farrell	X		
Senator Swede Hammond	X		
Senator Dennis Nathe	X		
Senator Dick Pinsoneault	X		
Senator Mignon Waterman	X		
Senator Bill Yellowtail	X		
Senator Chet Blaylock Chair	X		
Senator Harry Fritz, Vice Chair	X		
Rep. Ted Schye, House Chair	X		
Rep. Ervin Davis, House Vice Chair	X		
Rep. Steve Benedict	X		
Rep. Ernest Bergsagel	X		
Rep. Robert Clark	X XXXX		

Each day attach to minutes.

ROLL CALL

Joint Education COMMITTEE

DATE 1/13/92

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Vicki Cocchiarella	X		
Rep. Fritz Daily	X		
Rep. Alvin Ellis			
Rep. Gary Feland	X		
Rep. Gary Forrester	X		
Rep. Bob Gervais	X		
Rep. Sonny Hanson	X		
Rep. Dan Harrington			
Rep. Tom Kilpatrick			X
Rep. Bea McCarthy			
Rep. Scott McCullouch	X		
Rep. Richard Simpkins	X		
Rep. Spook Stang			
Rep. Norm Wallin	X		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 2
January 14, 1992

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Education and Cultural Resources having had under consideration Senate Bill No. 5 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that Senate Bill No. 5 be amended and as so amended do pass:

1. Title, line 12.

Following: "DISTRICTS;"

Insert: "REQUIRING A THREE-FOURTHS VOTE OF EACH HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR APPROVAL;"

Following: "17-5-704,"

Strike: "17-5-1608,"

2. Page 2, line 10.

Following: "Plentywood"

Strike: ", whose school was"

Insert: "and West Glacier, whose schools were"

3. Page 3, lines 2 and 3.

Following: "The"

Strike: "board of investments"

Insert: "department of administration"

4. Page 5, line 2.

Following: "district"

Strike: "for"

Insert: "equal to"

5. Page 6, line 5.

Following: line 4

Strike: "state loans"

Insert: "the state"

6. Page 6, line 17.

Following: "loan."

Insert: "Repayment must begin no later than January 1, 1994, and the loan must be repaid in full within 10 years from the date the first loan is issued to a school district."

7. Page 6, line 19.

Following: "revenue"

Insert: "and assets"

8. Page 6, line 21.

Following: "district."

Insert: "The obligation of the school district to pay bondholders is senior to its obligation to repay the state loan."

9. Page 9, line 8.

Following: "(a)"

Strike: "Beginning July 1, 1992,"

Insert: "On [the effective date of this act]"

10. Page 10, line 7.

Following: "July 1,"

Strike: "1998"

Insert: "1997"

11. Pages 10 and 11.

Following: line 23 on page 10

Strike: section 5 in its entirety

Renumber: subsequent sections

12. Page 11.

Following: line 25

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 7. Requirement for three-fourths vote. Because [this act] appropriates money from the permanent coal severance tax fund, a vote of three-fourths of each house of the legislature is required for approval of [this act]."

Signed:

Chet Blaylock

Chet Blaylock, Chairman

M 1-14-92
Amd. Coord.

EB 1-14-92
Sec. of Senate

ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE EDUCATION

Date 11/13/92 Bill No. SB 5 Time 8:55 pm

NAME	YES	NO
Brown, B.		X
Farrell		X
Hammond		X
Natthe		X
Pinsonneault	X	
Waterman	X	
Yellowtail	X	
Fritz	X	
Blaylock	X	

LINDA CASEY
Secretary

CHET BLAYLOCK
Chairman

Motion: Yellowtail substitute motion to adopt
amendments SB 5 with language
inserted requiring 3/4 Vote.

DO PASS
motion adopted

SCHOOL DISTRICT #8, FLATHEAD COUNTY

P.O. Box 308

West Glacier, MT 59936

January 13, 1992

To: Legislators

From: Jackie Boshka, Principal

Re: Statement on the School Bond Problem

Our district passed a bond election on December 17, 1991, for the purpose of adding on to the existing West Glacier Elementary School. The board has been working on the plan with a building committee and the architect for over a year now. In fact, the planning has been ongoing since the fire in 1986 which completely destroyed the school. It has involved many people representing various interest groups in our district. It was a very **comprehensive effort** with the goal of having a plan that met the **basic needs of the students** which would be supported by our taxpayers.

We have worked very hard to keep the cost of this project at a level which we felt would allow us to be **accountable to our taxpayers**. Our district is **ready to go** as soon as we are able to sell the bonds. Our plans are done, our taxpayers support our need, and we are ready to seek bids for construction. It has been our goal to begin construction when the snow melts and to have the addition ready for students in the fall of 1992. We feel very strongly that it is the legislature's responsibility to provide a means for our school to be able to sell our bonds for the twenty year term at a competitive rate. To hold up this project would add an estimated 25% (over \$100,000) to the cost. We cannot afford any delay in this matter.

Interest rates are good now, there is no way to predict what they will be if we have to reissue the bonds again in two years. We have worked very hard to keep our costs to the minimum. We have acted responsibly. We urge you to do whatever is possible to see that a program will be available to us within the next few months which will allow us to sell our bonds now for the entire 20 year term.

The proposed addition has been planned since the original building burned in 1986. We are teaching special education students in an upstairs storage room which is **neither equitable nor barrier free**. The upstairs storage room has **no fire escape** and we break fire codes when we teach primary students in it. Whenever we go over 20 students in our K-4 multigrade classrooms we must apply for an **alternative standard for accreditation**. Last year we exceeded the limit in one classroom by 4 students. This year all the classrooms have 19 students. We expect to exceed accreditation limits by next year and could even do so this year if new students enter. The small group instructional space will allow us to break classes into grade level groups to work with an aide or another teacher. We are **required to teach physical education** but have no space to do that. We have no space to gather together in large groups or for music, drama, or creative movement. We cannot put on performances for parents and community and assemblies are difficult. We eat lunch in the kindergarten room and in classrooms. It is **not a sanitary** arrangement. We believe our needs are critical.

Senate Education
(Joint)

1/13/92 SB5



One South Montana Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601
Telephone: 406/442-2180
FAX 406/442-2194

Robert L. Anderson, Executive Director

MONTANA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

DATE: January 13, 1992
TO: Senate and House Education Committees
FROM: Robert L. Anderson, Executive Director, MSBA
RE: Testimony on SB5

Mr. Chairmen, Members of the Senate and House Education Committees:

The Montana School Boards Association appears in strong support of SB5. Not being able to sell school bonds has put Montana school districts in an impossible situation. Conducting school in roller rinks and condemned buildings and not meeting accreditation standards cannot be allowed to continue.

This bill is an acceptable interim solution that will allow schools to sell bonds until January 1, 1993, at which time the next legislature must address equalization of capital outlay for schools. The State is protected by this bill because there is no state debt incurred. A fund is established from which schools can borrow to meet bond payments in the event a court order prohibits them from making the payment by declaring the debt service levy invalid (because it has not been equalized). Other limitations also protect the state, such as a cap on total bond issues eligible of \$25 million, a cap of \$6 million per district, and the requirement that 75% of the amount of the bonds be used to replace a destroyed building, correct building deficiencies affecting health and safety of students, or correct deficiencies in meeting current accreditation standards.

While the money to make the loans comes from the half of the coal severance tax that goes into the permanent coal trust, the trust will not be broken because the loan will be repaid. As a practical matter, loans may never even be necessary.

Please recommend a do pass on SB5.

Senate Education
(Joint)
1/13/92 SB5
EXHIBIT #2

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 13th day of JANUARY, 1991.

Name: BOB KLEIN

Address: GRUBER Estates, Clancy

Telephone Number: 933-8640

Representing whom?

CLANCY SCHOOL DIST No.1

Appearing on which proposal?

SB5

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

CLANCY NEEDS TO REPLACE ANTIQUATED FACILITIES WHICH
HAVE SERIOUS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE VIOLATIONS. THESE
VIOLATIONS PROHIBIT CLANCY FROM MAINTAINING REGULAR
ACCREDITATION AND THREATEN THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Senate Education
1/13/92 (Joint)

SB5

#2

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherrie Smith. I am a Trustee of the Clancy School District and have two daughters who are in 2nd and 5th grade at Clancy School. I speak to you tonight as both a parent and a school district trustee.

As a parent each of us tries to do the best job we can to protect our children - to control all the things we can to make sure they don't get hurt.

As a Trustee each of us tries to do the best job we can to make wise use of taxpayer dollars and protect all the children of our district.

And I expect that as a legislator each of you tries to do the best job you can to make wise use of taxpayer dollars and protect all the children in Montana.

With these thoughts in mind please understand that it is imperative that this bill be passed so that our school and all those schools who find themselves in a position similar to ours can take needed action to protect and provide a quality education for their children.

The three categories this bill addresses are school districts whose buildings have been destroyed, those who have health and safety violations, and those who have problems with current accreditation standards.

For us--what health and safety violations mean, is that we have closed our lunch room because the threat of fire and the likelihood of injury was so high. We have decreased the risk but we are still housing 120+ children in a building where there is the potential of a life threatening situation. As a Board we have a responsibility to make sure our facilities are safe for all children and as a parent I want my kids out of there.

As a district we have 1) spent two years developing a building plan, 2) passed a bond election by an overwhelming majority, and 3) authorized our project architect to prepare construction documents. We want to break ground this spring (3-4) months from now, and the only thing holding us back - preventing us from correcting the threat to the safety of our children - is that we can't sell our school bonds!

So...I ask you to take the action required to make sure Senate Bill 5 passes...and in so doing know that you are taking a step toward insuring a safe education for all the children of Montana.

Thank you.

Senate Education
(Joint)

1/13/92 SB5
EV LIRIT #4

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee;

My name is Kathryn Schaefer. I am the chairperson for R.E.A.C.H., which stands for "Reaching to Educate All Clancy Households". I have a 10 year old daughter attending Clancy Grade School.

A few weeks ago most of you received a letter highlighting R.E.A.C.H.'s concerns.

R.E.A.C.H. was organized to not only help pass the bond issue held in Clancy School District last October, but also to inform the public as to the needs that the Clancy School faces.

After polling most of Clancy School District residents last spring, sending follow up information, holding many home meetings, and conducting school tours, we found very little opposition and tremendous support for a bond election to allow us to replace the portions of our campus which are unsafe for our students. This was due to the fact that Clancy School District residents realized the unsafe and overcrowded facilities at Clancy School.

It would be helpful, I know, if each of you were able to see first hand the conditions our students and teachers must deal with on a daily basis. However, in lieu of that, I would hope the 2 to 1 vote in favor of our bond issue and that over 50% of our voters showed up to the polls on a Wednesday in October with only this issue on the ballot, points to the fact that the residents of our school district have shown how concerned they are for the welfare of the children, and the importance of a safe learning environment.

In conclusion, I would urge you to do the same and vote yes on Senate Bill #5.

Senate Education
(Joint)

4/13/92 SB5

EXHIBIT # 5

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 13 day of JANUARY, 1991²

Name: MARY B CARLSON

Address: Box XX Mountainview
Clancy MT 59634

Telephone Number: 933-5528 (H) 442-3540

Representing whom?
Clancy School District

Appearing on which proposal?
SENATE BILL 5

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:
Support with proposed corrections
+ Amendments proposed, presented.

IF you require additional information
from our district during your
deliberations, please feel
free to call.



6001 MONFORTON SCHOOL ROAD • BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715 • PHONE (406) 586-15

TO: Joint House and Senate Education Committee

FROM: Kathy Pattee, Principal *Kathy Pattee*

RE: Senator Blaylock's Bill

DATE: January 13, 1992

My name is Kathy Pattee. I am the Principal of Monforton School, a rural school west of Bozeman. I am representing the Monforton Board of Trustees, District #27 of Gallatin County.

I am here today to speak in support of Senator Blaylock's legislation that will allow school districts in the State of Montana with voter approval to sell bonds for building projects.

As a District we have worked very hard to meet the needs of our expanding population. Our building committee consists of staff members, trustees, an administrator and community members, those with and without students in our school.

On September 13, 1991 Monforton School District #27 passed a \$728,000.00 bond issue. When we went to our voters for approval, we received an overwhelming vote of confidence. (59% of our voters voted with 293 voting yes and 191 voting no.) The approved funds will allow us to expand our facility by three (3) classrooms, a music room, a gymnasium (multipurpose room), a library and office space. Our school is currently being used 100% of the time and we do not have adequate space to meet Montana Accreditation Standards.

We are desperately in need of a centralized library for our K-8 population and additional classroom space for our students. This fall our population reached an all time high of 221 students. We are finding that we have 26-30 students in some of our classrooms. Because of these large numbers it has become necessary for us to split classes. Even if we felt we could keep the students together, thus violating state accreditation standards, many of the classrooms we are using were built for 15-20 students and are too small for the current enrollment.

In order for us to accomplish our plans it is imperative that we be allowed to proceed. Our architects originally felt that we would be ready to break ground in early March. This has now been moved back to May because of the funding delays. Once we start construction we will need to have three (3) classrooms ready by the first day of the 1992-93 school year in order to have ample room for all of our students.

Please take action that will allow us to sell our bonds and meet the wishes of our voters. It is important that our District Trustees be good fiscal managers of the taxpayer's dollar. If we are to wait for an extended period of time to sell our bonds, bond market interest rates may increase and cost our taxpayers more.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Senate Education
(Joint)
1/13/92 SB 5
EXHIBIT #7*

DATE

11/3/42

COMMITTEE ON

Education Joint House + Senate

SB 5

PAGE 1

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Bruce A. Thomas	Clancy School	5	X	
Sandy Rizzo	Clancy School	5	X	
Daren Miller	Clancy School	5	X	
Debra & Mark	Clancy School	5	✓	
Danell Miller	Clancy School	5	✓	
John Miller	SAVAGE Schools	5	X	
Just Hill	Scobey Schools	5	X	
Kathy Pa Lee	Montforton Sch.	5	X	
Larry Blossom	Clancy	5	X	
Mike Harris	Clancy	S.B. 5	✓	
Bruce W. Moerer	ASBA	SB 5	✓	
Karen Menno	DofA	SB 5	✓	
Jackie Boshta	West Glacien	5	✓	
Margaret Schurde	West Glacien	5	✓	
Doree Harris	Clancy	5	✓	
Sherie Smith	Clancy	5	X	
Kathryn Schaefer	Clancy	5	X	
Bob Klein	Clancy	5	X	
Larry B Carlson	Clancy	5	X	
Pat Melby	Unaffiliated School Coalition	5	X	
Charles Strand	Livingston	5	✓	
Bill Adamo	LIVINGSTON Schools	5	X	
Terry Mingo	MT Fed of Teachers	5	X	
Bob Mark	Gov Office / DofA		X	
Ken Dunham	Mont. Contractors' Assor.	5	✓	
Naomi Miller	Clancy School	5	X	

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

WITNESS STATEMENT

To be completed by a person testifying or a person who wants their testimony entered into the record.

Dated this 12th day of January, 1997.

Name: Kathy Pattee

Address: 1601 Montforton School Rd
Bozeman MT 59715

Telephone Number: 586-1557

Representing whom?

Montforton School

Appearing on which proposal?

SB5 - Senator Blaylock

Do you: Support? Amend? Oppose?

Comments:

See attachment