

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDUCATION

January 13, 1977  
8:00 A. M.  
Room 132  
State Capitol Building

Subject: Advisory Council for  
Vocational Education,  
OSPI

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carroll South. The following members were present:

Sen. Matt Himsl  
Sen. Larry Fasbender  
Rep. Oscar Kvaalen  
Rep. Jack Moore

Rep. Ora Halvorson was excused from the meeting.

Also present in the meeting were staff members, Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst, and John Krutar, Budget Analyst.

The first half of the meeting was devoted to discussion with members from the Advisory Council for Vocational Education and the second half of the meeting with staff members from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Chairman Carroll South welcomed the following persons to the meeting:

Bill Ball, Executive Director of the Advisory Council.  
Joe Lotts, Chairman of the Advisory Council.  
Pat Kelly, member.

Mr. Ball gave a brief review of the Council, how it was created, the appointments which had been made by the Governor and the function of the Committee. The Council is to include 20 persons under new federal legislation effective October, 1977. One function of the Council is to advise the State Board of Education on policy matters pursuant to public law in terms of a lay person's viewpoint. The Council is formed to evaluate services and the activities involved in all institutions of learning--not just the universities, secondary vocational technical and all institutions of learning. Their evaluations and recommendations are made to the Board of Public Education.

The Council presented a fact sheet to the Committee showing the appropriations of funds that they have had in the past, how the funds were used and what general fund monies were reverted. The Executive Director pointed out that council members donate approximately four thousand man-hours to the work of the council in addition to their regular vocations. They felt that their accomplishments

had saved a considerable amount of dollars. They cited an example in 1974 when the Council had supported a plan of legislation to license private profit vocational educational schools throughout the state. The Council tries to be involved with all people and schools throughout the state. They do not limit themselves to the Board of Education but spend considerable time and effort in talking to people outside the field of education as well as those who are directly involved. The Council meets sixteen times each year--eight regular meetings and eight special meetings. They also hold one public meeting each year.

There was considerable discussion regarding the amount of money which is received from federal funding (\$50,000) each year. The federal government requires that the membership be brought up to include twenty persons. There are nineteen on the Board of Education at the present time. Representation has not been adequate in most states but the Council feels that Montana has succeeded in keeping a strong membership although it will be required to have at least one more person involved.

The Executive Director itemized and broke down the budget as it is now expended. Thirty percent of the budget at this time involves travel. Because of the size of the state and the necessity to cover it, a large amount of their funds are spent for travel. For example, a meeting in Helena can be expected to cost about \$1200 while a meeting outside of Helena costs about \$1800. If the council must limit their budget to \$50,000, they feel that it will sharply and seriously curtail their activities. They would like to have a budget of \$75,000 and feel that if they had that amount of money they could reach more schools and be involved in the evaluation of more programs within the school system.

Harriet Meloy, State Board of Education, was present and spoke on behalf of the Advisory Committee. She said that the Board had come to rely heavily on the findings and evaluations of the Advisory Committee and that the Board needs the help of the Committee in order to make their recommendations. She also stated that without the work of the Advisory Committee, it would be necessary to seek the help of professional consultants which would result in the need for additional funding. She also mentioned that the Advisory Committee provides in-service training to members of the Board of Education as well as providing much needed information. She recommended to the Committee that the Advisory Board's request for additional funding be considered.

Representative Gunderson also testified briefly on behalf of the Advisory Committee, praising them for the work they had done in evaluating programs and courses being offered within the school system. He likened them to being "watch dogs" and said that the work they were doing was very much needed. He felt their program should be expanded, if possible.

Chairman South asked if the Advisory Committee had been receiving a full \$50,000 from federal funding and if the federal government was recommending that any more monies be used for this work. Also he asked if the Committee expected to receive additional funding for the next year from the federal government.

The Executive Director said that they had been receiving full funding from the federal government of \$50,000. Based on past experiences he would hesitate to say when they could expect to receive additional funding.

Chairman South also asked if the Committee would be able to operate on a budget of \$75,000 if the membership reached the required twenty in number. The Director replied that he felt that they could if they carried on the same program as in the past. He said that they would like to add a research person to their staff since much of the members' time is spent in research. If such a person could be hired it would free members of the committee for other work, they said.

Representative Moore asked if the Committee did receive an additional \$25,000 for the budget, would they plan to expand their program. Mr. Ball answered in the affirmative.

Representative Kvaalen questioned the need for sixteen meetings each year. The committee was also asked what new programs they envisioned for the coming year. The Director answered that the Committee would plan mainly to expand evaluation programs to include more schools and more programs within the schools. The Committee was asked if they felt that their work was duplicated by other groups. The Director replied that the Committee tries not to become involved with programs in which it is obvious that there is work being done by persons from other agencies.

Chairman South thanked members of the Advisory Committee for coming and told them that the Committee would take their request under advisement.

The Legislative Committee recessed for ten minutes and met again at 9:45 A. M. At that time Chairman South welcomed and introduced Mr. Bob Stockton from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. He was accompanied by Mr. Bill Byers, Manager of Accounting and Budgeting. They distributed to members copies of the proposed budget from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in which there was an itemized breakdown of programs and their funding sources for fiscal 1978 and 1979.

The five regional service centers located at Glendive, Billings, Belgrade, Missoula and Conrad were discussed. These centers employ 84 persons on a full-time basis to aid in vocational education within the rural areas. Each site serves a designated area with technical assistance, audiologists, visual testing and aids, and aptitude and placement testing. There was some discussion concerning the need for this number of people to be involved in this type of work. It was asked how many persons they serve in the rural areas. Mr. Stockton and Mr. Byers defended the need for this size staff. They said that they did not know how many people were actually being served and in which areas they lived. They had no such report with them today but that they could supply that information if desired of them. There is a regional Advisory Committee Council in each area. Staffing policy has been determined by this Committee.

Mr. Byers explained the items on the budget sheet which they had distributed. A discussion followed regarding the items under

General Fund, Earmarked Revenue and the Revolving Fund. There was a discussion of programs which are started with federal funds and gradually shifted to the General Fund. Specifically discussed was the Indian Education Program #224 which was 100% federally funded in fiscal 1976, 75% in fiscal 1977 and 50% in fiscal 1978 and fiscal 1979. Indirect cost reimbursements for the Administrative Services Program was discussed. General Fund was used for the Administration Service Program in fiscal 1976 while Revolving Funds were carried into fiscal 1977.

Chairman South thanked the staff from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for coming and told them that the Committee will take their request under advisement.

Chairman South announced that the following meetings would be held:

January 14 - Montana Arts Council, Room 132, 8:00 a. m.  
School for Deaf & Blind, Room 132, 9:00 a. m.

No further business was to be discussed. The meeting was adjourned until tomorrow, January 14 at 8:00 a. m.

  
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CARROLL V. SOUTH, CHAIRMAN

  
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Betsy Clark, Secretary