

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

January 14, 1977

8:00 A. M.

Room 132

State Capitol Building

Subject: Montana Arts Council

Montana School for Deaf/Blind

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carroll South with the following members present:

Sen. Matt Himsl

Sen. Larry Fasbender

Rep. Oscar S. Kvaalen

Rep. Jack Moore

Rep. Ora Halvorson

Chairman Carroll South called the meeting to order and welcomed Mr. Dave Nelson, Budget Analyst, and Jo-Anne Mussulman, Grants Officer, from the Montana Arts Council.

Mr. Nelson expressed appreciation to Judy Rippingale for her time and expertise in reviewing their budget. He presented to members of committee a study summary, A Study of the Poetry and Visual Arts Components of the Artists in Schools Program which is attached. The Montana Arts Council consists of a 15-member council appointed by the Governor. It has a staff of four which includes an Executive Director, Administrative Assistant, Program Director, and Clerk-Typist. It receives guidelines and direction from the State Board of Education. There is a national membership throughout the fifty states and a regional arts program made up of ten western states.

The funding program of the Montana Arts Council is based on a Federal-State partnership. They are able to receive federal matching funds using state legislative appropriation as a yardstick of measurement. Whatever the states appropriate in funding is matched by the federal government. A history of budget and financial support through General Fund is also included in the study attached. Also included is the summary of a survey taken in the western states of interested citizens and their thoughts and responses regarding the financial support, attendance at events, participation of citizens and schools, and importance of arts to their communities. Included is a listing of events in each community and the amount of money spent on each event.

The Arts Council is asking for state appropriation of \$10,000 to match with federal funding of the same amount to set up a program of guidance for those persons who are working with crafts in their homes which they expect to market. Some of the money would be spent in salary and the travel expenses of a person "well schooled in the concept of good design" who could go into the homes of these people and give guidance on craft projects so that they would be

saleable. Mr. Nelson expressed concern and spoke of the need for the development of this type of program which could be similar to a program which is in use at this time in the state of Minnesota.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a. m.

After a short recess Chairman South welcomed Mr. Floyd McDowell, Montana School for Deaf and Blind located in Great Falls, Montana, and asked him to make his budget presentation and requests. Mr. McDowell introduced his Business Manager, Ed Walters. He apologized for being late in submitting his budget and thanked Judy Rippingale and John Krutar for their help and consideration in reviewing the budget he had submitted. He handed each member of the committee an outline of the history of the school together with a copy of the proposed budget.

Mr. McDowell explained to the committee that the history of the school insofar as whom they serve has changed considerably and it is going to change more in the coming years. State and federal laws governing special education and the sociological changes in education that have gone on in our society have caused this change and we must respond to these changes.

He said that fifteen years ago the school was quite isolated and they served 90-100 children and supplied their needs of personal care, housing, medical care as well as needs of education while they were away from their homes. There were live-in situations by teachers who were given board, room and salary. These people had complete care of children on almost a 24-hour basis just as a parent would. These children who were physically handicapped were away from home for longer periods of time. Then the practice of "mainstreaming" children into the community began and at one time the population of the school was reduced to 42 children who were physically handicapped. Today the school actually has 138 in residence and it serves 314 children total school and community. Children have been moved back into the public school system whenever it is possible to do so, but in order for this to succeed those children must have some back-up in specialized materials, recordings, visiting teachers, etc., This must be done in order for these children to stay in the public school and receive an education there. Since children are not in segregated classes but are using their own materials, it is necessary for itinerant teachers to act as a back-up to the regular teacher. The population of the school is increasing and will continue because the school now serves not only the blind/deaf child who needs an education but also the mentally retarded child with a similar handicap.


Representative Moore asked how many children the school served one year ago and Mr. McDowell replied 291. There has been an increase of 23 children.

The original request for budget was \$1,607,969 in 1978 and \$1,695,704 in 1979. The budget was \$1,215,252 in 1976. There was an actual saving of \$94,000.00 general fund money. This amount of money was saved by cutting down on capital, not filling some needed positions and in operational costs. A supplement of \$21,000.00 is being asked. When the school was audited by the Federal Labor Division they were told that they could expect to owe former employees between thirty and forty thousand dollars in back pay for overtime. The school expects that there will be some employees who will seek recovery of this overtime money.

A tape was made of this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a. m.


CARROLL SOUTH, CHAIRMAN


Betsy Clark, Secretary