

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

January 17, 1977

8:00 A. M.

Room 132

State Capitol Building

Subject: Library Commission

Reg. Service Centers

State Ad of Vo-Ed

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

Sen. Matt Himsl

Sen. Larry Fasbender

Rep. Jack K. Moore

Rep. Oscar Kvaalen

Rep. Ora J. Halvorson was excused from the meeting.

Also present were staff members, Judy Rippingale, Fiscal Analyst, and John Krutar, Budget Analyst. During the meeting the committee met with representatives from the State Library Commission, The Regional Service Center, and State Administration of Vocational-Education Council. A tape of each meeting was made and is available at the office of the fiscal analyst.

Mr. William Conklin, Chairman, State Library Commission was accompanied by the following persons who all testified:

Budd Gould, Representative, Handicapped

Phyllis Honka, Representative, Handicapped

Alma S. Jacobs, member

Earle C. Thompson, member

William Lefstrom, member

Martha Hussell, member

Mabel Watt, member

Mr. Conklin said that the State Library is very popular with the people of Montana. Each year it continues to grow in many areas and to serve more people. There has been quite a bit of emphasis in Congress on the fact that all federal monies are for development of libraries rather than maintenance of established units. It is through the use of federal funds that Montana has developed a library system. Mr. Conklin expressed concern of the danger of relying so heavily on federal funding and of using federal funding for services rendered to state agencies. Much of his testimony and the following discussion concerned this.

Senator Margaret Warden testified of the need for expansion using State appropriations with matching federal funds and not expecting a tax increase to supply the needed funds. She said that a one-mill levy was on the ballot and was not passed state-wide, however. Forty-one counties are now paying local money into federation headquarters to try to get some of the service that is hoped will come from federal funding.

There was discussion regarding the need for a full-time coordinator

of volunteer services for the program for the physically handicapped and blind. This position had been deleted from the budget. Representatives Gould and Honka testified regarding the importance of the program and the need for such a coordinator. John Fidarowitz who is the Head of Carroll College Library testified regarding the inflationary problems that they are now experiencing in the purchase of materials, books, etc.

Mrs. Martha Hussell, Advisor to the Council, testified regarding the state agencies who use the services of the State Library. She felt that the library may not be able to provide such services free of charge much longer.

There was a discussion regarding the need for and the omission from both budgets of an on-line terminal to plug into data banks of information which are available commercially throughout the U. S. About twenty thousand was requested for this service. It was turned down because that money has been turned back to state general fund. Information would be used primarily by state agencies.

Mr. Conklin said that his computations show that the legislative analyst's budget does not provide sufficient funds to match federal funds anticipated. The General Fund appropriation for 1978 is \$173,000; for 1979 it is \$180,000 and shows a decrease of in-state support of 66%. The state is obliged to put up 46% of the total budget from state funds to match federal and, he said, \$173,000 is not 46% of \$547,000. He said that \$254,000 in 1979 is needed in order to match the federal funds available. He asked that the analyst's budget be reverified. He said that this problem did not exist in the Governor's budget. He was concerned regarding this discrepancy and directed this to Judy Ripplingale. She responded by saying that when they were reviewing the federal match requirements there were no problems in FY 76. If, she said, federal requirements have changed since then, the committee would like to be provided with documentation that spells out exactly what the match requirement is for 1978 and 1979. There was discussion regarding the matching federal fund requirement here that has been taped in full.

There was discussion regarding the 26 full-time employees on staff. An increase of 1 and 1/2 have been requested. The possible loss of 1/2 FTE was discussed.

Chairman South said that he thought state agencies should be charged for services rendered. Mr. Conklin said that no fair charge has yet been decided. There was discussion regarding charge for services to state agencies. However, Mr. Conklin said that the university units provide information to the library free of charge also. He said that they are constantly providing local libraries with materials.

The Library commission also provides services to state institutions. There was discussion regarding WICHE fees, the budget assessments. The type of position, grades and hiring of employees was discussed. Chairman South asked if there was duplication in services to the blind such as those provided by the Montana School for Blind/Deaf.

Mr. Conklin said that there would be no duplication of services. There was discussion led by Rep. Moore regarding data terminals and what state agencies might be developing their own. The Dept. of Community Affairs supplies some data. There is a difference between their work of storage of information and that of the State Library which gives research data. There was discussion regarding services to University of Montana. Mr. Conklin said that the State Library receives far more aid from the University than they give in return. Chairman South asked if there were any written agreements with the University and Mr. Conklin said that there were not. Rep. Moore asked if the Library Commission intended to use general fund monies for the Library Federation. Mr. Conklin answered that that was not true. Rep. Moore asked if the Library Federation was a part of the State Library System. Mr. Conklin said that the Library Federation is independent. The only way they are is through the Inter-Library Loan network which is LSC Title III loan money. Rep. Moore asked how much money goes to the Library Federation through the network. Mr. Conklin said that \$84,000 is the current level of services and \$24,000 of increased cost.

Mr. Conklin said that state law requires the State Library Commission to expand services and into areas but they are not appropriating adequate funding to do so. There was also some discussion regarding out-of-state travel specifically a trip to San Francisco that was \$783.00 which was double the expense of most trips. Chairman South asked if that amount was a mistake. Mr. Conklin said that it was correct. It was a Commission member who made the trip and the meeting lasted a week. There is one annual meeting.

At the same meeting the members of committee met with the Regional Services Committee from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, who explained their function as being a delivery system to provide special education services in small isolated districts. Larry Holmquist, Director of Special Education, then presented his budget to the committee. The Regional Service Center staff has 84 persons. They feel they are not duplicating work done by Montana School for Blind/Deaf because they are not serving persons handicapped in that capacity but rather those students who need special education but are not necessarily physically handicapped. These districts have too few students to provide a specific education teacher of their own. They have a coordinator to supervise staff in each region. He explained the offices of staff, their functions, materials used, assessment of the individual child and help he needs. Rep. Moore asked how many students were given service in 1976 and 1977 within the five regions. Mr. Holmquist gave the following figures: Region 1 - 613; Region 2 - 735; Region 3 - 106; Region 4 - 409; Region 5 - 280. These numbers were contacted for diagnostic services--the number actually served was 576.

Representative Moore asked if additional staff had to be hired for diagnostic purposes. The answer was that these services were contracted with established firms and relatively few in number were used. He said that he could give specific figures for each child served. Rep. Moore asked if there were any cleft-palate children

in this program since special clinics are set up for these children. Mr. Holmquist said that this type of child is handled first by local district therapy clinics and that there might be such a child in the program if he were living in an isolated area and could not get to clinics readily. He said that they strive for coordination and cooperation with other agencies and there is very little overlapping of programs. There is no tie-in with the Mental Health people since this organization does not deal with the treatment of mental ailments but is organized for and deals solely in education for the slow-learner child.

Chairman South asked how the 84 FTE had been acquired. He wanted to know if the program has been evaluated to see how many people are needed. Mr. Holmquist said that this number of staff is needed in the judgment of the regional coordinators and special education staff. Chairman South asked if salaries were maintained or plugged into the state's pay plan. Mr. Holmquist answered by saying that in 1974 it was decided that special education needed to be decentralized, the need was to separate and build programs. Fiscal laws have changed.

The program went to a system where they get funds by direct appropriation from the legislature and contracted through Fund 10 which is with the school district budget. There were some problems with the teacher tenure. School administrators who had to administer the program but had very little to say about the operation of it were unhappy. They didn't want the program being included in the district any longer. The special education teachers organized and joined the union and the program was put under the Superintendent's office. The teachers are now affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers. The Regional Service Teachers are on a salary schedule that is independent of the state-wide classification system.

Chairman South asked if there is any duplication with the work of the Montana School for Blind/Deaf. Mr. Holmquist answered that there was no duplication. They are a resource to the program in regional services and in the local districts. The staffs of both have different qualifications and OSPI has been able to use their resources. Chairman South wanted to know how many people in OSPI are working with special education and was told that there are ten people in this work. Mr. Stockton said that the staff administers all of the federal programs under 94.142 and Part B and D of the Educational Handicapped Act, write rules and regulations and approve final budgets, check all certification of teachers and evaluate to see that an appropriate number of children are being served by an appropriate number of teachers. Some of the programs are very complex.

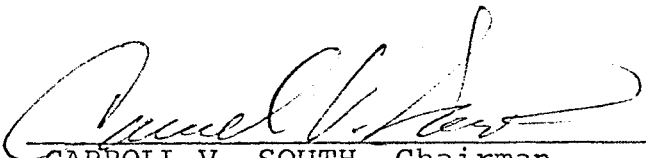
Senator Fasbender asked what the situation of the funding was prior to the transfer of this program from districts to the Superintendent's office. They answered that it was an appropriation. For

two years it was 1,350,000 and then this year 1,508,000. Same system and same amount of money went through Superintendent's office to those local fiscal administering districts. A regional counsel in each district is responsible for hiring, and approved by this office. We have input into the type of people hired.

Senator Fasbender asked if they could locate guidelines that were sent to the local districts to determine staffing patterns, kinds of qualifications, etc. The kinds of qualifications were placed on us by demands of needs in the areas served. House Bill 386 required the rules and regulations for qualifications of personnel. Staff qualifications were spelled out, load that could be served, etc. Senator Fasbender was given a copy of the rules and regulations that he requested.

Representative Moore said that \$3,844,302 had been requested for the budget of the Superintendent's office, plus the Regional Health Centers and it seemed like a great deal of money for the next biennium and that is just for checking out the administration of the program. Mr. Holmquist responded by saying that the budget request was not only for the staff of ten and the five regional centers, but that the staff of 84 which is a resource to schools and children not regulatory administrative kinds of functions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45. A tape is on file.

  
CARROLL V. SOUTH, Chairman

  
BETSY CLARK, Secretary