

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

January 10, 1977

Senator Chet Blaylock, Chairman of the Joint Senate and House Education Committee, called the meeting to order on January 10, 1977, at 5:20 P. M. in the Senate Chambers.

Senator Blaylock introduced Ms. Judy Olson of the State Board of Education of South Dakota, to speak regarding the structure of the education department of South Dakota as that state has recently implemented the separation of the elective office of superintendent of public instruction under executive reorganization to an appointed director of the state board of education.

Ms. Olson's testimony, a copy of which is attached, was in support of the concept of proposed House Bill 69 wherein an appointed director would be responsible to a board of education, rather than an individual who feels responsible first to the electorate, and briefly explained how this was working in South Dakota.

Representative Ann Mary Dussault questioned if South Dakota had considered election of members to their 7-member state board of education rather than appointment to the board; Ms. Olson stated this had been considered and rejected.

Senator Fasbender inquired about the qualifications required of a director of the board of education and how many states had changed to a director at present; Ms. Olson replied the qualifications were set out by the National Board pertaining to state education directors, and that a rough estimate would be about two-thirds of the states now hire its education executive officer.

Senator Regan asked if this had required a constitutional amendment, and Ms. Olson stated that it did require an amendment as prior, the state superintendent was elected.

A question from the House Committee was asked regarding the powers of the board of education. It was replied by Ms. Olson that the legislature set the powers of the board; that prior, the board would establish policy and the superintendent failed to carry it out.

ADJOURN: There being no further questions or business, the Joint Meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 5:37 P. M.

  
Chet Blaylock, Chairman

Senator (Not X) X

## Philosophy re: Role of St. Bd.

Similarity of Statutory authorities in Montana and South Dak.

Bds. - have chiefly policy making roles but yet have some regulatory functions ~~in~~ in areas of accreditation, certification, etc.

When S.D. had an elected St. Supr - Chief St. Sch. Officer - Statute still charged SBOE with administration. Therein was a problem - For a <sup>lay</sup> Bd. To administer, delegation of power & responsibility is a necessity. Certainly, it is more comfortable to delegate to an individual who feels responsible to a <sup>body</sup> to a Bd. than to an individual who feels responsible first to the electorate.

~~Successful~~ Successful programs, successful legislation, & strong St. Dept. depend on mutual united effort & organization. Credibility suffers when local districts, the general public, & government <sup>at</sup> all levels ~~are~~ suspect education leaders are not in accord. I'm not suggesting that conflict exists in Montana - I'm suggesting that for the St. Bd. of Ed. to be effective for your St. they must have someone accountable to them. - That's only good business & don't purpose to be

an expert in either education or  
govt. but serving on the SDE  
for 4 1/2 yrs has given some  
perspective - especially since  
I began my term with an elected  
SI Dept, began my term serving  
as also the SI Bd Voc Ed &  
have since experienced Exel Perry  
which created ~~private~~ Bd Voc Ed  
a Dept of Ed & Cultural Affairs with  
a Sec (a Gerson type person with no  
administrative control) & gave the  
authority to the SBOE to hire its  
SI Dept. The effective date of  
reorganization was July 1, 1973.  
In short, after these changes,  
I'm more convinced that a  
Bd must have the privilege to  
hire its leg. officer. The philosophy  
is sound if you believe in lay control  
of ed.