

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

JANUARY 5, 1979

The Senate Education Committee met for its first meeting of the 46th Legislative Session Friday, January 5, 1979, in Room 402 of the Capitol Building. Senator Bob Brown, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Committee members present were Senators Brown, Blaylock, E. Smith, Fasbender, Severson, and R. Smith. Senators O'Hara, McCallum, Thomas, and Anderson were excused due to scheduling conflicts with other committees.

Former Chairman of the Education Committee, Senator Chet Blaylock, presented the gavel to the Chairman, Senator Bob Brown. Senator Brown introduced the committee staff Stan Zezotarski, Legislative Council Researcher, Bob Pyfer, Attorney, Legislative Council, and Jill Rohyans, Committee Secretary.

After making a few housekeeping announcements, Senator Brown asked Stan Zezotarski to proceed with the presentation on the foundation program.

Mr. Zezotarski stated the purpose of the foundation program is to distribute funds equitably to all school districts to insure a quality education for all children. He explained the ANB (Average Number Belonging) calculation is arrived at by dividing the total aggregate days of attendance and regular days absent by 180 days. If a regularly enrolled pupil is absent more than 10 consecutive days, neither his absence or attendance is counted in the ANB calculation. There are three sources of funding the foundation program. The county level includes 25 mills - elementary, 15 mills - secondary, federal forest funds, Taylor grazing funds, and fines and forfeitures. The state level includes interest and income monies, 25% of the corporation license taxes, 66% of the U.S. oil and gas regulating funds, 10% of the coal tax monies and the surpluses from county levies as well as the general fund appropriation. Counties fund 20% of the schools' general fund dollars and the state 80%. If the state can't fund the full 80% the State Department of Revenue levies a state wide property tax for the difference. Counties can utilize permissive levies to reach their 20% total. The state also has a permissive levy if the counties don't reach the total 20%.

Stan introduced John Campbell, Business Manager of Helena School District #1, who further explained the foundation program with a prepared overhead projection presentation. He explained the school fund structure and the makeup of the general fund. Total special education dollars are added to the total general fund monies to arrive at the maximum general fund budget without a voted levy. Eighty percent of that total is the foundation program, 20% is the permissive levy amount. Financing of the foundation program is funded by a dual equalization program. The county equalization (permissive levy dollars) payment funds the first percentage of the foundation program. The state equalization program (permissive levy) funds the remaining percentage. The Superintendent of Public Instruction estimates each year the amounts available from the two sources of revenue and

determines if the state equilization amount will cover the foundation program. All districts receive the same percentage of the equilization funds. This year 96% of the foundation program was funded by equilization funds. A 3.2 mill property tax was levied to correct the 4% deficiency.

Senator Brown introduced Superintendent of Public Instruction Georgia Ruth Rice. She welcomed the Senators back to Helena and offered the services of OPI to the Senators. Brown bag information lunches will be held every Thursday noon to dicuss special education, the foundation program, secondary vocational education and post secondary vocational education.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to reconvene Wednesday, January 10 at 1:30 p.m.

Bob Brown  
Bob Brown, Chairman

jdr

Date 1/5/79

## ROLL CALL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

46th LEGISLATIVE SESSION - 1979

Each Day Attach to Minutes.

SENATE

DATE 10/11/5, 1979

COMMITTEE ON

## EDUCATION

BILL NO.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	Check One	
		Support	Oppose
John B. Campbell	PTI		
Arizona P.R.T.	OP 1		
Ed Weide	OP 1		
Tom Watkins	OP 1		
Curt Johnson	Montana Student Lobby		
Mike Dahlberg	44 11 11		
Kirk Johnson	Assoc. Strategist of M.S.L.		