MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 30, 1981

The Executive Session meeting on the Bureau of Mines was called to order at 8:05 a.m. on Friday, January 30, 1981 by Chairman Donaldson in Room 104, Capitol Bldg., Helena, Montana.

All members were present including Bruce Shively and Curt Nichols, Fiscal Analysts.

CURT NICHOLS gave a briefing on the LFA recommendation for the current level of funding for the Bureau of Mines. (EXHIBIT A)

GLEN LEAVITT gave the Executive recommendation for the current level funding and one modification, Hydrogeological Research.

REP. BENGTSON moved to accept the LFA recommendation for current level funding and for the modifications without the 9% pay increases. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SID GROFF, Director of the Bureau of Mines, commented about their Personal Services. He stated that he had to give pay raises this last biennium in order to keep people on and that they had to absorb those.

ED BINGLER stated that their revenue is placed in their unrestricted operating budget and as that revenue from sales and services changes, their FTEs fluctuate. So when revenue is up the FTE is up and when the revenue is down, the FTE is down.

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked if the fluctuation is caused by the Federal grants.

ED BINGLER stated that, "no" it comes from sales and services such as water well monitoring, publications, etc.

SENATOR HAFFEY asked what happens if they were to get the lower of the recommendations,

ED BINGLER stated that they would have to reduce FTE or move people into other areas.

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked Commissioner Richardson if the process of an agency to do upgrading needs his approval.

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COMMISSIONER RICHARDSON said "yes", that the agency submits upgrades for classified positions to the Director of Personnel and then it is taken to the Personnel Division with the State. On the unclassified, they are funded on a dollar basis.

CURT NICHOLS explained Operations and gave the LFA recommendation.

GLEN LEAVITT gave the Executive recommendation and explained the difference between the Executive and the LFA.

SID GROFF commented that they could live within the equipment figure.

ED BINGLER stated that some vehicles are hard to replace, such as pumping trucks.

SID GROFF stated that coming up next year there will be a couple additional items that should be added in there. They are two modules for the Lab Analytical Department at \$5,000 a piece.

VICTOR BURT stated that they do not buy out of their motor pool funds specialized types of vehicles that are specifically for a department such as seismic trucks, etc. The same for the Bureau, if they have a single-purpose vehicle, they have to generate revenue to get their own.

REP. THOFT moved to amend the motion that the committee accept the Executive recommendation for Equipment for \$60,000 for FY 82 and \$60,000 for FY 83, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CURT NICHOLS explained the Transfers. Discussion was held within the committee in regard to the Transfers.

The next discussion was in regard to the modifications,

GLEN LEAVITT gave the Executive recommendation for the Hydrogeological Research modification. The Executive did not recommend any of the other modifications. The LFA did not recommend any of the modifications.

SID GROFF gave a handout relating to the modifications (EXHIBIT B). Discussion was held regarding the Hydrogeological Research.

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REP. BENGTSON moved to amend the motion and allow the Executive recommendation for the Hydrogeological Research funded for \$170,000 for FY 82 and \$170,500 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Next the committee discussed the Cooperative Groundwater Study.

SENATOR JACOBSON moved to amend the motion and accept the Board of Regent's recommendation for the Cooperative Groundwater Study for \$33,000 for each year of the biennium. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SID GROFF explained each of the remaining modifications.

REP. BENGTSON moved to not allow funding for the Mineral Resource Studies for \$52,400 for FY 82 and \$56,100 for FY 83. MOTION FAILED with REP. DONALDSON and REP. BENGTSON affirmative.

SENATOR HAFFEY moved to fund the Mineral Resource Studies using the Board of Regent's recommendation for \$52,400 for FY 82 and \$52,100 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED with two, REP. BENGTSON and REP. DONALDSON opposing.

Discussion was held in regard to the Energy-Mineral Research.

REP. THOFT moved that the committee amend the motion and allow funding for the Energy-Mineral Research for \$58,400 for FY 82 and \$59,300 for FY 83. MOTION FAILED on a tie vote with SENATOR JACOBSON, SENATOR HAFFEY and REP. THOFT affirmative.

Discussion was held in regard to the Gological Map Atlas. No amendment was made for that modification.

Discussion was held in regard to the Mineral Economic Study.

REP. THOFT moved to amend the motion and accept the Board of Regent's recommendation for the Mineral Economic Study for \$47,600 for FY 82 and \$49,200 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED with two, REP. BENGTSON and SENATOR JACOBSON opposing.

The committee discussed the Seismic Monitoring and the Clerical Assistance. No amendment was made for those modifications.

Discussion was held in regard to the upgrading in the current level funding for Personal Services.

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BRUCE SHIVELY gave an overview for the School for the Deaf and Blind in regard to the pay scale.

TOM CROSSER explained that there were three issues:

- (1) the catch-up for the salaries
- (2) the division of the bargaining unit between the teachers and the non-teaching unit
- (3) if the base adjustment is made to the 1981 salaries, then what percentage increase would be allowed on that base and would it be tied to the pay plan

The Executive recommendation is that the Board of Education is the governing body and the legislature approves the funding for that organization. Whatever the position is in the legislature will be the governing factor.

BRUCE SHIVELY gave the LFA recommendation that the teachers as well as the non-teaching staff within the bargaining unit be given pay raises commensurate with all state employees. They do not support the catch-up.

LEROY SCHRAMM, Chief of the State Labor Relations Bureau stated that the issue is parity for other institutional teachers (Mountain View, Pine Hills). The teachers are holding out for parity (an average of Miles City and Helena). He stated that they have rejected that because they don't feel it is fair to give them 20% increases for the first year when other state employees are getting less than that. Mr. Schramm stated that they are insisting that they be given raises similar to state employees. The settlement now for most of the units is around 12%. The 12% includes the 2% annual step and also includes the \$10 per month for state insurance.

BOB DEMMING stated that compared with the other Class C schools, from 1 to 10, they are about 6 on the scale for salaries. And the teacher/student ratio is ten to one.

SENATOR HAFFEY moved that the committee support the actions of the Board of Public Education for both the teaching staff and the non-teaching staff.

A Roll Call Vote was taken. MOTION FAILED with SENATOR HAFFEY affirmative.

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REP. BENGTSON moved to not approve the catch-up portion. MOTION PASSED with SENATOR HAFFEY opposing.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

REP. GENE DONALDSON, Chairman

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