

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

February 4, 1981

The meeting on the Board of Education, Fire Services Training, and Vocational Education Advisory Council of the Joint Appropriation Subcommittee on Education was called to order at 8:05 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 1981 by Chairman Donaldson in Room 104, Capitol Bldg., Helena, Montana.

All members were present including John Bebee, Fiscal Analyst.

Those who gave testimony in support were;

Harriet Meloy, Board of Public Education; Ira Bryant, Montana Fire Service Training; Dave Fisher, Montana Fire Chiefs; Albert Roat, Town and Fire Department; Art Korn, Montana Volunteer Fire Council; Clem Duaine, Montana Volunteer Fire Council; Bob Kelly, State Fire Marshall; Mike Walker, Montana Fire Fighters Council; Richard Sandman, Montana Division of Forestry; R. H. Ellis, Montana Volunteer Fire Council; Al Sampson, Fire Chief in Missoula; Lloyd Greenup, Ravalli County Fire Council; and Senator McCallum for the Vocational Education Advisory Board.

RICK REESE, Director of the Board of Education, gave his presentation. He stated that the Board of Education and the Board of Regents get together four times a year to comprise the State Board of Education. He explained that the modified request for \$40,000 is to gather data with regard to the remedial programs. At least 30% of the students entering at the college level end up in remedial classes. They are seeking the \$40,000 to determine what the problem is and what to do about it. Recently the Board of Education adopted a new accreditation standard for the state that would give local school districts the option of meeting the additional process of creditation standards or of testing and demonstrating that their students were performing at a specified level.

MR. REESE stated that the other modified to current level for the Board of Education is for student travel funds. The State Board is very interested and determined to see exactly what students in Montana are doing to compare the quality of instruction these kids get. The Board for the past several years has had a student sit as a non-voting member of the Board. He stated that they feel it is valuable to have this student there.

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The Legislature before the last biennium provided the money for this student's travel, room and board. In the current biennium this was not provided and the Board felt that this was so important that they have been paying expenses out of their own pockets. This is a student who is elected by the Montana Student Council. The request is for \$1,200 per year for this biennium.

RECK REESE stated that the \$40,000 is not to launch the program, but to try to determine where the problem lies and to come up with recommendations for how that problem would be addressed. He stated that they would be back the next biennium to tell you what they determined. The \$40,000 would determine the nature of the problem. Beyond that they would have to discuss the way of addressing the problems.

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked if the data is there now.

RICK REESE stated that it is not. For example, they know that 30% of these students need remedial classes. We do not know which schools they came from. We don't have any idea. We think it can be gathered by one person.

REP. BENGTON stated that the Office of Public Instruction and the local school districts address this problem. What will you do with the data after you get it?

RICK REESE stated that the local schools do some testing but 30% are still not getting it. The OPI has testing but will not compare students or schools. The testing does not tell us about all the schools and determine what they are or are not doing and why. The next step would be to try to formulate some sort of remedial program.

SENATOR NELSON stated that he has spent half of his life on a School Board. The School Board can't weed out teachers who aren't teachers. A lot of the teachers get to be tenured teachers before its realized that they are not teachers. As long as we have these teachers there will be those students who are not taught.

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked what performance testing they want to do.

RICK REESE stated that what they want to do is to give school districts the option rather than going with the old standards.

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MR. REESE stated that if you demonstrate through a testing program that your students are performing at specified levels than we won't worry about a lot of the process if they can produce results. It also provides for the students who don't make the score. The school will receive a remedial plan for them.

Testimony was given at this time.

The next discussion was on the FIRE SERVICES TRAINING SCHOOL.

IRA BRYANT, Director of the Montana Fire Services Training School, gave his presentation. He stated that through budgetary cuts they have been unable to operate. The funds have gotten to where he is between a rock and a hard place. The demand in the field for instruction has increased, but because of the budget they have declined over time. "I have to tell people that I do not have the money to instruct them. There are firemen who have not had classes for over two years. "Their life depends on their training." Rather than traveling to give instructions they have sent out slides and films, which is up to eight to ten per day. There are costs in mailing them also. He stated that they are only producing 40% of their potential. And that he has excellent instructors but there are many times he does not have the money to send them to places.

MR. BRYANT also stated that the State has given him a responsibility that he can not carry out the way it has been carried out. What he asked for is the committee to consider the Executive Budget. He stated that they are willing to work hard and make sacrifices. Also that he would like to put a person in Miles City or Glendive for the Eastern part of the state. He discussed the classes that are offered in Great Falls. Another problem he brought up is the lease agreement with the Vo-Tech Center in Great Falls. That agreement stated that they would receive the office and two class rooms for \$15,000 per year. The last Legislature decided to put it in the Vo-Tech budget. In the law, all building related costs would be included in this. This is another expense because if we have a class on the weekend then we pay an extra \$200 to \$300 to pay for the janitor. "I don't think we should have to pay this. I wish this could be cleared up."

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON assured that it would be resolved.

Testimony was given at this time.

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The next discussion was in regard to the Vocational Education Advisory Council.

BILL BALL, Director of the Vocational Education Advisory Council gave his presentation. The council is made up of 27 appointed members in specific categories; i.e., Agriculture, Industry, School Board Members, Students, Organized Labor. Their major expenditure in the operational area is for travel. The law that creates the council is a Federal law and mandates that the council must travel with regard to those specific areas. They just found out that they will have to move from the armory where they have been residing rent free. They are requesting that the \$1,944 be included in their budget which the LFA has left out. Bill Ball stated, "We are totally funded by Federal Funds and we have no intention of asking the State of Montana for State Funds. We feel that we are obligated to operate within that amount of money."

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked if he would explain the impact on the Vo-Techs.

BILL BALL stated that they are basically responsible for vocational education anywhere at any level where Federal Funds for vocational education are spent. This does include secondary schools, post secondary centers, and in some cases, the community colleges and university system where there are Federal Funds. They deal with them regarding preparation of vocational education teachers and to some degree, administrators. It is an advisory role.

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked what he sees in the future as far as Federal Funding.

BILL BALL stated that he feels that vocational education is going to have a tough time but that it will be one of the better handled areas. By that, they will hang on to the Federal support; there's a lot of support. He stated that he does not see any great amount of money coming into the state additionally to what they have now. They have the persuasiveness and the legal responsibility according to Federal law, to pass off and to give approval to all the things that will go on in Montana. They have the power of disapproving and not approving to sign the state plan. However, they have not had to do that.

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CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked Mr. Ball to comment on the resolution for a two-year study for the Vo-Tech system and that if in effect, the Advisory Committee had been functioning properly that it would not be necessary.

BILL BALL stated that he wished they could take that much credit. Because he feels they would have probably been able to make some kind of change. In fact, they did make a suggestion two years back in that the council backed a different type of set up for the Vo-Tech Centers and it brought a great deal of problems down on the council. Their position was not accepted. The council is aware of the problems of the Vocational Education System and they are concerned.

SENATOR NELSON asked for more information in regard to what the council had in mind two years ago.

BILL BALL explained that for years back the Legislature passed a bill that put the Vo-Tech Centers under the Board of Education. They supported that position because they felt there was a relationship between the two boards. That piece of Legislation was ruled unconstitutional. So the council studied it further and came back with a recommendation that the centers be made more of a state type system and made the responsibility of the Board of Public Education. That was countered by making them more specifically responsible to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The council supported that the Vo-Tech study with the Board of Public Education. That was the position we were in with that regard.

The hearings were closed at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION was called to order by Chairman Donaldson.

TOM CROSSER gave the Executive recommendation on the Vocational Education Advisory Council. He stated that if costs arise they cannot budget amend them once it is decided by the committee.

JOHN BEBEE gave the LFA recommendation on the Vocational Education Advisory Council. He stated that when the LFA put together the budget the rent situation had surfaced after the LFA recommendation came out. He had no objections to the rent. (EXHIBIT A)

Discussion was held in regard to the Advisory Council.

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REP. THOFT moved that the committee accept the Executive recommendation for the Vocational Education Advisory Council for \$94,000 for FY 82 and \$94,000 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

TOM CROSSER gave the Executive recommendation for the Fire Service Training School. The differences between the Executive and the LFA being with travel and supplies. The major difference is the modification request for a Training Person in Miles City and/or Glendive. This is for one FTE, travel costs, and a vehicle.

JOHN BEBEE gave the LFA recommendation. They did not recommend the modification. (EXHIBIT B)

Discussion was held in regard to the Fire Service Training School.

SENATOR HAFHEY moved that the committee accept the Executive recommendation for the Fire Service Training School for \$178,478 for FY 82 and \$173,406 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

TOM CROSSER gave the Executive recommendation for the Board of Education. The major differences between the Executive and the LFA is for the student travel for \$1,200 per year and the remedial vocation program for \$40,000.

JOHN BEBEE gave the LFA recommendation and stated that their recommendation is higher in supplies and materials. (EXHIBIT C)

Discussion was held in regard to the Board of Education.

SENATOR HAFHEY stated that he understands there is a problem in the 600 or so schools in the State of Montana. That students get to higher levels without having, what some think is enough ability to read or write, and if there is a problem a solution has to be found. If a suggestion for a solution can be found somehow from all the observations of the remedial teachers around the state, perhaps it is a valid suggestion. On the other hand, a study has many negative connotations that sometimes we cannot see the positive side. It can bring together into one place, on one sheet of paper, the kind of vision you would not otherwise have.

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SENATOR HAFHEY stated that all he wants to say is if this study is not funded now we are saying to ourselves that there is a problem and sometime we are going to have to solve the problem if it means now or ten years from now. So if this committee doesn't fund this, the problem is not going to go away.

REP. BENGTON commented that there is more to it than the teachers who cannot teach. There are many parents and community negativism too. Society is not supportive of the basics. Getting out and making a buck seems to be the important thing in the lives of students. We have kids in high school who want to work and their parents condone this kind of thing. They could care less about the basics, so it isn't the teachers altogether. The fault lies with everyone, a social attitude.

SENATOR HAFHEY moved that the committee accept the Executive recommendation for the Board of Public Education for \$98,291 for FY 82 and \$101,043 for FY 83. MOTION FAILED with two, SENATOR JACOBSON and SENATOR HAFHEY affirmative.

REP. BENGTON moved that the committee accept the LFA recommendation for the Board of Public Education for \$77,903 for FY 82 and \$77,819 for FY 83 and add the \$1,200 per year for student travel. MOTION PASSED with REP. THOFT opposing.

Discussion was held in regard to the Bureau of Mines. The committee agreed to reconsider the study for \$98,000.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.


REP. GENE DONALDSON, Chairman

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AGENCY West Valley Council
 PROGRAM _____
 SubProgram _____

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Executive Budget Page _____
 Fiscal Analyst's Page _____

FTE
 Personal Svcs.

Operating Svcs.

21 Contr. Svc.
 22 Supplies
 23 Commun.
 24 Travel
 25 Rent
 26 Utilities
 27 Repairs
 28 Other

SubTotal,
 Oper. Exp.
 31 Equipment
 Subtotal

NonOperating

EXPEND.	1982 BUDGET			1983 BUDGET			
	1980 Actual	Exec. Budget	Fiscal Analyst	Exec-LFA Variance	Exec. Budget	Fiscal Analyst	Exec. Variance
	2	2	2	0	2	2	0
Personal Svcs.	49195	51895	50623	1272	51998	50623	1375
Operating Svcs.							
21 Contr. Svc.	10322	11263	9807	1456	8932	10590	<1658
22 Supplies	2184	2391	2615	<224>	2592	2837	<244>
23 Commun.	555	3354	3667	187	4050	3979	71
24 Travel	17242	22236	16519	5717	24057	18003	6054
25 Rent	15	12	17	<1>	17	18	<1>
26 Utilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Repairs	0	150	150	0	164	164	0
28 Other	740	1040	895	145	740	971	<231>
SubTotal,							
Oper. Exp.	31058	40950	33670	7280	40552	36562	3990
31 Equipment	1155	1155	500	655	1450	0	1450
Subtotal	32213	42105	34170	7935	42002	36562	5440
NonOperating							
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
TOTAL EXPEND.	81406	94000	84793	9207	94000	87185	6815

188,000 total

Funding
 General Fund
 Other Funds
 Federal

81406	94000	84793		94000	87185
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AGENCY Board of Public Education
 PROGRAM 01 Administration
 SubProgram: _____
 Name:

C

Executive Budget Page _____
 Fiscal Analyst's Page _____

	1982 BUDGET				1983 BUDGET		
	1980 Actual	Exec. Budget	Fiscal Analyst	Exec-LFA Variance	Exec. Budget	Fiscal Analyst	Exec Vari
FTE		2	2	0	2	2	0
Personal Svcs.	47619	52184	52401	<217>	52199	52401	<202>
Operating Svcs.							
21 Contr. Svc.	665	14227	790	13437	14286	853	13433
22 Supplies	1944	2662	3883	<1221>	2844	2043	801
23 Commun.	2989	3834	3182	152	4120	3994	126
24 Travel	9623	21915	14550	7365	24122	15713	8409
25 Rent	32	35	32	3	38	32	
26 Utilities							
27 Repairs							
28 Other	2120	3434	2565	869	3434	2783	651
SubTotal, Oper. Exp.	17373	41107	25502		48844	25418	23386
31 Equipment							
Subtotal	64992	98291	77903	20388	101043	77819	23284
NonOperating							
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
TOTAL EXPEND.	64992	98291	77903		101043	77819	
			1200			+ 1200	
Funding							
General Fund	64992	98291	77903		101043	77819	
Other Funds							
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							

VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE JOINT APPROPRIATION SUB COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

CALL Board of Education, Fire Services Training, Date February 4, 1981

SPONSOR Vocational Education Advisory Council

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OPPOS
- ED WELCH	Bozeman	Boze Fire Dept	✓	
JACK FISHER	Butte	Home APT. Ten VFD	✓	
Clem Duime	Butte	Mont. Vol. Fire Assoc.	✓	
Jens Bulstad	Great Falls	State Fire Sec Train	✓	
Allen A Root	Alberton	Town of Fire Dept	✓	
- ART KURN	Butte	MT ST Vol Fire Assn	✓	
LLOYD GREENUP	HAMILTON	RAVALLI CO. FIRE COUNCIL	✓	
Richard Sandman	Missoula	Montana Division of Forestry	✓	
- William Ball	Helena	State Adm. Council	✓	
Rich Reese	Helena	Bo. of pub. ed.	✓	
Harold McCoy	Helena	" " "	✓	
George McCallum	Missoula	Vo Ed. Council	✓	
Maingon Niemi	Helena	Board of Public Ed.	✓	
R. A. Ellis	Helena Valley	Mt. St. Vol Fire	✓	
IRA BRYANT	Great Falls	MT. Fire Sec Training	✓	
- Dave Fisher	Butte	Montana Fire Chief Firemen's Assoc.	✓	
L ERICKSON	Missoula	MONTANA STATE	✓	
AL STAMPSON	Missoula	city of Missoula	✓	
Ed Johnston	Anaconda	city of anaconda	✓	
Ray Gehring	Mt St Firemen's Assn	Billings,	✓	
Mike Walker	Great Falls	Mt. State Council Fire Fighters	✓	

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