

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE BUILDING  
February 14, 1981

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Gene Donaldson in Room 104. All committee members were present except Rep. Moore (excused), Sen Etchart (excused) and Sen. Himsl (excused). Also in attendance was Bob Robinson, Legislative Fiscal Analyst.

Testimony was given by Larry Komlofske, Department of Justice; Phil Hauck, Director of Architecture and Engineering; Lonh Hoklin, Attorney General's Office; Bob Archibald, Historical Society; Floyd McDowell, Superintendent of Montana School for Deaf and Blind; Gwen Bushyhead, Great Falls; Bob Deming, Assistant Superintendent for Montana School for Deaf and Blind; Martha Janes, Parent; and Tom Mickler, Parent, Helena.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MR. KOMLOFSKE stated the Architecture and Engineering Division inspected the Registrar's Bureau and recommended four improvement areas which are to: (1) replace the exterior steps, (2) repair the exterior canopy, (3) repair and paint the window panes, and (4) treat a sidewalk area in front of the Motor Vehicle Division. The \$10,000 requested includes all four of these areas. He noted in the window panes item that the sashes and frames have deteriorated so there is heat loss.

MR. HOKLIN stated he would like to have the Committee look at Page 213 in their long range building books under the Department of Justice. This refers to a request for a 5,000 square foot building at a cost of \$630,000 to house the Division of Forensic Science which includes the Medical Examiner, the Crime Laboratory and the administrative staff plus a classroom for the Law Enforcement Academy. He noted this site is located in Bozeman adjacent to the Montana Law Enforcement Academy. He gave a brief background on how this proposal emerged. In 1977 the legislature enacted the Montana Forensic Science System Act. That act created the Board of Forensic Science which reviewed the forensic science needs for Montana to come up with a proposal for the 1979 session. In 1979 the Board ratified the Committee's findings and recommended the appropriation to get the program started. The final item to be dealt with was a permanent facility and five areas had been looked at, but the final decision was to build a new facility in Bozeman because of the following advantages:

- (1) It would be close to the Law Enforcement Academy.

- (2) It would be close to Montana State University which has the pre-medical school program. The University is very interested in having the Division nearby, and perhaps a forensic science curriculum could be developed.
- (3) It would be close to the Law and Justice Center, and would be available for the medical examiner to use free of charge.

Another reason is the central location of Bozeman. He explained a building of this specific nature is the most cost effective. He noted the architect who recommended the new building had looked at two state owned facilities to rent and still felt a separate building should be built. He stressed the necessity of having scientific investigation to assist the problems of crime in Montana. In regard to the question on financing, he noted the Board of Forensic Science was financed with federal funds, and that the Board has expired. The Board recommended to the legislature that they enact an appropriation, which they did and now there is the new Division of Forensic Science with state funds.

REP. BARDANOUVE asked why there was still need for more classrooms when the Law Academy just had some built.

MR. HOKLIN stated there is a long waiting list to have students get into the Law Enforcement Academy, since they can only handle approximately 1,500 students per year. If the administrative offices of the Academy could be put into the new building, then current office space could be converted to dormitory space and allow them to take more students. He again stressed that Montana State University was quite interested in being able to offer a forensic science degree, at this time they are only able to offer a degree in Criminology.

#### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MR. ARCHIBALD explained priority nine regarding the maintenance requests for the Historical Society. He noted there is a great need for a fire protection system in the historical building, which at the present time is nonexistent and very inadequate. This portion of the request is \$70,000, the actual details and estimates were developed by the A&E Division. The second portion of the request is for sealant for the exposed concrete floors, walls and ceilings of the archives area.

The 1969 construction has raw concrete which is creating a dust problem, which is a preservation problem plus an inefficient cleaning situation. The fire protection system would be to cover the whole building. The specifications would have the system connected to the capitol security system and the fire department. He noted if they had a sprinkling system, this would be almost as destructive as fire.

Priority six would reroof the oldest section of the Historical Society building, and is combined with a request for a new roof on the old Agriculture building. He stated the condition of the roof on the historical building is quite poor and they are at this time experiencing water damage and staining on the third floor. Presently the third floor contains offices and a museum area which is maintained by the veterans' organization.

#### MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

MR. ROBINSON explained to the committee that there are three parts to this proposal. Priority fifteen contains \$700,000 to complete the cottage for the School for the Deaf and Blind. This amount is proposed to be added to \$717,000 already appropriated by the 1979 legislature. There developed a complication because included in these funds were anticipated grants and gifts given to the school. It was the Attorney General's opinion that this was an improper use of the funds, so the available funding was not enough. The cottage was not constructed so the school is asking for \$700,000 additional to what was appropriated last time. He referred to Exhibit A, a letter from Mr. Lewis to reauthorize the money appropriated from the last session, since there may be a technical problem if it is not reauthorized. He explained there is a second proposal for bonds of \$1.4 million to construct an additional cottage and a food service facility.

MR. HUNTINGTON stated that the last session appropriated a project that totaled \$822,000 and there was to be \$717,000 to be derived from the sale of bonds plus \$100,000 taken out of the school's trust fund. When they got around to selling the bonds, there was a legal question about the appropriation itself. His Department was advised by the bond council that this particular bond issue should be isolated from the other. As a result the bonds have never been sold for this project. The letter, Exhibit A, is requesting that these bonds be reauthorized. The school still has a continuing appropriation, it is just that the bonds need to be reauthorized by the full legislature. He noted the easiest way to do it, would be to add the total amount on to the bond authorization passed this session. He stated

that the executive is proposing to renew the \$717,000 bond authorization. Then in the cash portion of the building program an additional \$700,000 requested to supplement that so they can complete the project. This would take care of the first cottage. They propose to sell the bonds for the second cottage. He stated that the last session authorized a forty bed cottage, and it will take an additional \$700,000 appropriation to build that cottage.

MR. HAUCK stated the cottage could not have been built for what had been authorized last session. He stated the whole concept was hastily put together without the proper evaluations and the amount authorized would not have been enough.

MR. MCDOWELL read to the committee Exhibit B.

REP. BARDANOUE asked about trying to make a dormitory a home.

MR. MCDOWELL stated they are proposing a cottage and not a dormitory. A cottage has a home life environment which is not a warehouse, and allows separate rooms for the children. He stated at this time they have 68 children as dormitory residents, six are blind and 62 are deaf.

REP. BARDANOUE asked if these children could live in private homes.

MR. MCDOWELL stated this is possible, and about twenty years ago Wyoming attempted to place the children in the community and this did not work. The first reason was the same families were being used and it was difficult to recruit for this, and secondly the parents did not like the idea of having their children in another home. He stated there is a unique characteristic to deafness which causes social and emotional problems. It takes a very unusual set of parents in a hearing environment, for the deaf child to socially and emotionally mature to a well rounded citizen. He stated they would like to see every child stay in their home, but it doesn't work. He stated they maintain they are a school by statute, and the mission and role they fulfill for the children is in regard to education. These children are not wards of the state, so the obligation of the parents is still there. He explained the designed cottage was to accommodate three separate age groupings of children. There would be two children in each room and a bathroom to accommodate every ten children.

REP. BARDANOUE asked if the committee was committed to a forty bed concept.

MR. HAUCK explained the cottage is designed in modules where ten students may be accommodated in five bedrooms. The design relates to four ten-student unit modules. Each module has a separate room for either a sick room or consultation, etc., and a separate area in each unit for house parents. In addition, there is a kitchen, a dining room and a living room in each of the modules. The kitchen is regarded as a service kitchen, where food is brought in. He noted one of the problems was the terrible soil conditions in Great Falls where a lot of money is needed for an adequate foundation.

MRS. BUSYHEAD, mother of a student at the school, stated she would have like sending her son to a homelike atmosphere in Great Falls. The staff at the school has had to teach him many things she was not able to, because of her limited knowledge in sign language. Once he went away to school they developed a routine where they could communicate. She did not like the idea of having him stay with another set of parents who did not know signs any better than she did, and she stated the difficulty of parting with a handicapped child. She said if you have to part with them you hope you live in a state that understands how to make productive citizens out of them. She stated she was appreciative to the legislature for keeping the interpreter-tutor program going, because it is very helpful to him.

MRS. JANES, Helena parent of a deaf student, stated the public schools just cannot offer the education that her son needs. She stated it would be very nice to have a nice homelike atmosphere while staying in Great Falls. She stressed she would not like her son staying with another family because of conflict of rules and regulation of her family.

MR. MICKLER, Helena parent of deaf student, asked the committee if they would be able to communicate with a child placed in their home with no knowledge of sign language. He stated that is how his family feels and many times the child feels quite isolated even in his own home and neighborhood because of this lack of communication. He feels the school is a very worthwhile proposal.

MR. DEMING explained the architectural drawings of the designed cottages. He stressed the necessity of combining three separate age levels of children from four to twenty.

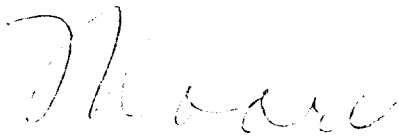
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE BUILDING  
February 14, 1981

Page 6

The CHAIRMAN asked what cost per square foot was.

MR. HAUCK stated he did not have the exact information at this time, but felt it was within the \$56 a square foot range.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.



---

JACK K. MOORE, CHAIRMAN

mg

## VISITORS' REGISTER

HOUSE JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LONG RANGE BUILDING

BILL \_\_\_\_\_

Date 2-14-81

SPONSOR \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUPPORT	OP.
Jwen Bushyhead	Helena	MSDB students	✓	
Bob Deming	GT. FALLS	MSDB <sup>asst.</sup> <del>Supd.</del>	✓	
Jusan Rowley	Great Falls	MSDB Counselor	✓	
Maddeline Demas	Great Falls	MSDB Asst. Dir. of Students	✓	
Bill Demas	Great Falls	MSDB Dir. of Students	✓	
Heidi McDowell	Gr. Falls	MSDB Teachers	✓	
Louise Deming	Gr. Falls	Parent	✓	
Vernon Kapp	Gr. Falls	MSDB, Mont. Supr.	✓	
Robert McManis	Gr. Falls	MSDB MFT MAP	✓	
Jim Oul	Gr. Falls	MSDB	✓	
Peter Kuhn	Gr. Falls	Asst. Dir. of Students	✓	
Phillip Jones	Helena	MSDB student	✓	
Maitha Jones	Helena	Parent of Student MSDB	✓	
Bob Jones	Helena	" " " "	✓	
Bob KUCHENBROD	HELENA	DEPT OF JUSTICE	✓	
Larry Komlosky	HELENA	Dept. of Justice	✓	
Bryan Cochill	Helena	Mont. Hist. Soc	✓	
John J. [unclear]	HELENA	Mont. Hist. Soc	✓	
LONN HOKLIN	HELENA	A.G.'S OFFICE	✓	
Ray J. McDowell	Great Falls	MSDB	✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING

THOMAS I. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL, HELENA, MONTANA

GEORGE L. BOUSLIMAN, DIRECTOR

RECEIVED  
FEB 11 1981  
LEGISLATIVE  
FISCAL ANALYST  
FISCAL ANALYST



February 10, 1981

Representative Jack Moore, Chairman  
Long Range Building Subcommittee  
Joint Appropriations Committee  
Montana House of Representatives

Dear Representative Moore:

The Executive Budget proposes a Long Range Building Program partially funded with the proceeds of selling Long Range Building Bonds. In reviewing the legislation that would authorize the sale of LRBP Bonds (HB563); a question arose over the affect that issuing additional bonds would have on the current authorization of \$717,000 to construct a Cottage at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. The bonds for the MSDB project were authorized by the 1979 Legislature, but were never sold due to defects in the appropriation. The proposed bond authorization (HB563) would have the affect of cancelling all previous bond authorizations.

The states bond counsel was contacted on this matter and we were advised that the authority for the MSDB Cottage should be re-authorized by the Legislature. The renewed authorization would be necessary for the following reasons:

- A) Traditionally the language authorizing new bonds, authorizes bonds in addition to those outstanding rather than in addition to those authorized.
- B) The questions that made the original authorization questionable, have not been totally resolved and the air would best be cleared with a new authorization.
- C) There could be some question as to the authorization of a previous legislature still being in effect, after a subsequent legislature has met.

a



February 9, 1981

The bond counsel's advice is offered to assure that Montana's bonds can be marketed and sold at the lowest rates. I will therefore recommend that the \$717,000 in authority be added to House Bill 563, in order that the bonds for the MSDB Cottage may be sold along with any other bonds that the current legislative session may choose to authorize. The Office of Budget and Program Planning will prepare amendments to HB563 to be presented during the hearing before the Long Range Building Committee, to include the MSDB authorization. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David M. Lewis  
Director

cc: Morris Brusett  
Bob Robinson  
Floyd McDowell

# SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND



STATE OF MONTANA

3911 CENTRAL AVENUE

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

(406) 453-1401

February 14, 1981

TO: Long-range Building Committee  
FROM: Administration - MSDB  
SUBJECT: Testimony concerning cottages and food service facilities

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

The administration of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, the children attending the school, their parents, the alumni, the staff of the school, and all the people familiar with our present facilities are unanimous in their view and opinion that the children attending the MSDB need and deserve modern, adequate and attractive housing and living facilities. We implore your favorable consideration and actions to recognize and provide for their needs.

The proposal you are studying which would provide cottages and food services facilities has been brought to you after considerable study and research. The single 1935 structure now being used has long ago fulfilled its usefulness and purpose. It was erected in the midst of the depression as a WPA project and undoubtedly was an expedient effort for that era and economic climate. It served a useful purpose for a time providing dormitories, classrooms, food services, play areas, vocational shops, gymnasium, auditorium, infirmary, staff living quarters, boiler room and offices. Yes, until about 1950, all eleven of these services or activities were housed in that one building.

Eight of these services are still carried on in this original 1935 structure. It has been well maintained. The boiler has been moved from the basement, the classrooms are now in a beautiful building provided by the 1969 legislature, and programmatic changes have taken the vocational shops out. But today 68 children ranging in age from 4 to 20 are housed in this building with its inadequacies for surrogate parenting. Activities and living needs for the five or six year old

B

cannot be managed effectively or efficiently in the same areas used for 18 or 19 year old children, and the reverse is true also.

The children now attending the MSDB, and those who will be attending in the future desperately need accommodations which will allow for personal privacy, social grouping by age and/or sex, appropriate play areas, pleasant dining areas, adequate bathrooms and in general a pleasant, attractive, home-like environment. The school is the children's home away from home for nine months of the year.

We have one concern connected with the second cottage. We understand it is proposed to house 26 children. If so, our capacity would be a total of 66 children--two less than our present dormitory enrollment. The residence population of the school varies from year to year by as much as ten percent. For the past seven years starting in 1975 our resident population has been, 74 - 83 - 75 - 62 - 63 - 68 - and 68 this year.

After taking graduations and known intake into consideration, we anticipate a population of 70 in 1982. We do not have hard data which can accurately predict enrollments for 83, 84, 85, etc., because parents move both in and out and sometimes conditions change for a child and our services are not needed. We do know of 46 pre-school children who are potentially in need of this school. This figure in itself would seem to indicate at least maintenance of our present population.

There are two factors we believe significant when attempting to predict future enrollments of resident students. First, With attractive home-like cottages, parents who visit the school to evaluate the environment before enrolling their child, will be less turned off by what they see and are more apt to be satisfied. We have no scientific study to validate this hypothesis but after many years of observation, we feel comfortable with this view.

The second factor which could effect future enrollment levels deals with blind children. Since 1971, we have decreased our in-house population of blind children from forty plus to ten. These children have been placed back into their home town schools as fully integrated students with the bulk of their support services coming from the MSDB. However, we are detecting a weakness in this program which could result

in a reversal of this process. The same weakness and even the trend back has been experienced by some other areas of the country. The weakness lies in the neglect of providing training in daily living skills and orientation and mobility. These skills are essential for blind people and are not a part of the usual school curriculum. We have attempted to fill this need by having a summer school for two weeks, but the effort is not working. Either the service is provided by someone or the children are not receiving an appropriate education.

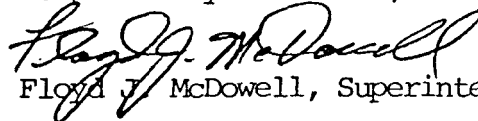
Based on statistical history, reasonable predictions and our professional judgement, we recommend that the second cottage be built for forty children. That would make our capacity 80 resident students---12 more than present enrollment, but three less than our 1976 population. Montana will certainly grow and unfortunately a fairly consistant percentage of school children will need the services of this agency. It is interesting to note that in spite of declining school age populations, our population has held constant to slightly increasing.

We have studied the mainstreaming concept and have concluded through professional studies and imperical evidences that in a primarily rural state such as Montana, it will not work when the total educational, social and emotional needs of deaf children and some blind children are considered. Mainstreaming can be used and can be successful for some children with hearing or vision problems, but the singularly unique characteristics of severe hearing loss inherently resists adaptation or accomodation to mainstreaming.

Unless there occurs a medical or pedagogic miracle, Montana for its handicapped deaf and blind children will need a special school for many years to come. We, the tax payers, cannot afford the alternative nor can the deaf children who would be denied an equal and appropriate educational opportunity.

In closing we would again implore your favorable consideration and action in providing what is needed.

Respectfully submitted,



Floyd J. McDowell, Superintendent