MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 19, 1981

The Executive Session meeting on the Office of Public Instuction of the Joint Appropriation Subcommittee on Education was called to order at 8 a.m. on Monday, February 19, 1981 by Vice Chairman Nelson in Room 104, Capitol Bldg., Helena, Montana.

All members were present except Rep. Donaldson who was excused and had returned by 9 a.m. John Bebee, Fiscal Analyst was also present.

JOHN BEBEE explained the six areas of funding for the Office of Public Instruction. The LFA did not recommend any of the modifications.

TOM CROSSER gave the Executive recommendation and did recommend the modifications for the Reading Consultant, Gifted and Talented Program, Indian Consultant, Math Consultant and the associated clerical staff.

ED ARGENBRIGHT, Superintendent of Public Instruction, discussed the modifications. He stated that the important thing to remember is that they are trying to maintain services that are currently provided and that they want to make sure the basic areas are provided; i.e., math, music, etc. He also stated that they will hold the line on expenses.

JOHN BEBEE stated that the AV Library is a revolving account.

The committee discussed the Child Find Study.

REP. BENGTSON moved that the committee accept the LFA recommendation for Basic Skills for the Office of Public Instruction for \$1,739,260 for FY 82 and \$1,775,226 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The committee next discussed the Chief State School Office.

REP. BENGTSON moved that the committee accept the LFA recommendation for the Chief State School Office for \$95,435 for FY 82 and \$97,322 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The committee discussed the modifications.

REP. BENGTSON moved that the committee accept the recommendation for the AV Library for \$50,000 for FY 82 and \$50,000 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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The committee discussed the Gifted and Talented Program.

REP. BENGTSON moved to accept the funding for the Gifted and talented Program for \$33,438 for FY 82 and \$33,843 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED three to two with two, REP. THOFT and SENATOR NELSON opposing and REP. DONALDSON abstaining.

The next discussion was in regard to the Vocational Education.

REP. BENGTSON moved to accept the LFA recommendation for Vocational Education for \$684,362 for FY 82 and \$695,298 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The committee also discussed Financial Services.

REP. BENGTSON moved to accept the Executive recommendation for Financial Services for \$889,683 for FY 82 and \$910,283 for FY 83. MOTION FAILED on a tie vote with three, REP. DONALDSON, REP. THOFT, and SENATOR NELSON opposing.

REP. THOFT moved to accept the LFA recommendation for Financial Services for \$853,234 for FY 82 and \$876,355 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REP. BENGTSON moved to accept the LFA recommendation for Administrative Services for \$923,533 for FY 82 and \$942,417 for FY 83. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

SPECIAL EDUCATION was the next area of discussion.

REP. BENGTSON moved to accept the Executive recommendation for Special Education for \$573,789 for FY 82 and \$597,568 for FY 83.

The committee discussed the differences between the recommendation for General Fund for Special Education.

SENATOR NELSON asked if they don't get the \$32,728 General Fund what would happen.

TOM CHESBRO, Chief Accountant for the Office of Public Instruction stated that with the set aside flow through funds they actually spend through administration over and above this \$300,000. There is a provision in the Federal law that these funds be matched and if they don't have adequate General Fund support then they would be in trouble with the Feds.

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CHAIRMAN DONALDSON asked if he meant that he would not get a portion of the \$480,000.

TOM CHESBRO stated that they had better not use it, they would have to return it. He stated that anything over the \$300,000 in the Child Find is a hard match.

REP. BENGTSON asked how much the match amounts to.

TOM CHESBRO stated that in 1980 they had an appropriation of \$62,000 and in 1981 they had an appropriation of \$62,000 and in 1981 they added two consultants in the biennium through the Legislature and in FY 81 they were paid for with General Fund money. They had an appropriation for \$112,000 in FY 81.

JOHN BEBEE stated that he was not aware of a match.

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON suggested that they get together and resolve the difference.

QUESTION was called for.

MOTION PASSED four to two with REP. THOFT and SENATOR NELSON opposing.

REP. BENGTSON moved to include the audit cost within the Office of Public Instruction budget for \$50,000 General Fund for the biennium. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

CURT NICHOLS, Fiscal Analyst, gave the LFA recommendation for the Special Education. (EXHIBIT B) He discussed the concerns of the Office of Public Instruction.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

REP. GENE DOWALDSON, Chairman

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