

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MONTANA STATE SENATE

March 18, 1983

The meeting of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Bob Brown on March 18, 1983, at 1:04 p.m. in Room 442, State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All committee members were present.

HOUSE BILL 419: Representative Donaldson, District 29, said the bill was introduced as a result of the Finance Committee transportation study. It changes the reimbursement rate for school transportation to provide for the number of students using the vehicle and its rated capacity. The bill provides that half the rated capacity of the bus be full of eligible students before the rated reimbursement can take place. In some areas at present on a 72 passenger bus there may be 5 eligible students and 49 who are not. The bill would provide that in order to be reimbursed one half of the students must now be eligible. He stated this would not have a heavy impact on reimbursement rates but would bring those not presently complying with the three mile limit law into compliance.

There were no proponents or opponents to the bill. Bob Stockton noted half the amendments adopted by the House Education Committee were inadvertently left off the bill and he will supply them to correct that situation.

There being no further discussion the hearing was closed.

HOUSE BILL 822: Representative Eudaily presented the bill in the absence of the sponsor, Representative Donaldson. He said the bill is merely a housekeeping procedure intended to permit an elementary school district and a high school district representing two separate social security reporting entities to merge into a single reporting entity.

PROPOSERS

John Campbell, Montana School Business Officials and Clerks, said the bill is a matter of federal red tape. If an elementary and high school district didn't pass their social

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security referendum at the same time you have two reporting entities doing the same thing at different times. The bill would consolidate them into one entity with one report, one set of books, and the same reporting officer.

David Senn, Public Employees Retirement Division, said they support the bill as it would give them some leverage with the Social Security Administration to change their rules to accomodate the law.

ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 822: Senator Blaylock moved House Bill 822 BE CONCURRED IN. The motion carried unanimously.

HOUSE BILL 93: Representative Eudaily carried the bill for the sponsor, Representative Donaldson. The bill provides for the funding, upon application by the district and approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, of an instructional aide for schools with an ANB of at least 14 and less than 18. The definition of "instructional aide" includes a certified teacher. He said 16 schools would be affected this year. He noted the bill will enable a school to have 17 pupils and maintain a teacher and an aide position. Previously, a school had to have 18 students to have two teachers. The bill allow rural schools to maintain educational quality and continuity year after year.

PROPONENTS

Richard Trerise, Montana Association of County Superintendents, supported the bill as guaranteeing the basic instructional mandate. He said it insures students' educations in the small school will be equivalent to those in larger areas.

Senator Dover, District 24, presented his testimony in support of the bill (exhibit #1).

Ed Grady, Trinity School District 4, presented his testimony in support of the bill (exhibit #2). He also presented a letter of support from the Montana Farm Bureau Federation (exhibit #3).

David Bertelsen, Ovando School District #11, presented his testimony in support of the bill (exhibit #4).

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Trudi Downer and Fran Masters, Molt Elementary School, presented their support of the bill and materials to the committee (exhibit #5).

Wayne Buchanen, Montana School Boards Association, said the bill has been long needed and is an excellent solution to the problem. He asked the committee to support the bill.

Hal Hawley, Curriculum Specialist, Office of Public Instruction, presented his testimony in support of the bill (exhibit #6).

Robert Johnston, Powell County Superintendent of Schools, urged the committee to support the bill.

Rod Svec, a private citizen, said continuity is essential to maintenance of quality education in the very small school. He urged the committee to support the bill.

There were no further proponents and no opponents to the bill and the hearing was closed.

HOUSE BILL 772: Representative Bengston, District 59, sponsor of the bill, said the bill is the transportation bill which raises the reimbursement monies every session. This bill funds 72¢ in 1984 and 80¢ in 1985. The full cost of reimbursement is 99¢ and \$1.05 and this bill represents a compromise. She said the state never pays the full 1/3 of actual costs and so these figures represent a compromise between the fiscal analyst's and Governor's figures.

PROPOSERS

Bob Stockton, Office of Public Instruction, said OPI is projecting the state will pay 24¢, the counties will pay 24¢, and local districts will pick up 58¢. He said the state does not pay a full 1/3 but some is better than none.

Wayne Buchanen, Montana School Boards Association, said the bill is an attempt to freeze funding at current levels and asked the committee not to lower the amount at all. He said doing so would just add to the crisis already brewing re foundation funding.

Calvin Spangler, Blue Sky Schools, Hingham, offered support for the bill.

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Ron Kinder, Blue Sky Schools, Rudyard, offered his support for the bill (exhibit #7).

Jess Long, Executive Secretary, School Administrators of Montana, said his group supports the rates currently in the bill.

John Deeney, Billings Public Schools, urged support of the bill. He said the potential for problems is very real if no increase is granted.

Richard Trerise, Montana Association of County Superintendents, said he would like to see an amendment requiring approval by the next county's transportation board. He said he supported the rest of the bill.

Elinor Collins, Hill County Superintendent of Schools, presented her testimony in support of the bill (exhibit #8).

Joe Fahn, J-I Public School District 29-28C, Joplin, presented his testimony in support of the bill and asked the committee to amend the bill (exhibit #9).

There were no opponents to the bill and the hearing was closed.

Mike Hamaoka and Nat Williams, students from Havre High and Junior High Schools, spoke about their involvement in the computer programs in their schools. They have both taught in-service training in computer use in the classroom to the Havre area teachers.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

jdr

ROLL CALL

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE

48th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1983

Date 3/18/83
7:00pm

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
<u>Senator Bob Brown, Chairman</u>	X		
<u>Senator Ed Smith, V. Chairman</u>	X		
<u>Senator Roger Elliott</u>	X		
<u>Senator Delwyn Gage</u>	X		
<u>Senator George McCallum</u>	X		
<u>Senator Elmer Severson</u>	X		
<u>Senator Harry Berg</u>	X		
<u>Senator Chet Blaylock</u>	X		
<u>Senator Jack Haffey</u>	X		
<u>Senator Joseph Mazurek</u>	X		

DATE

3-18-83

COMMITTEE ON

Ed

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Richard Trevis	Mt Assoc Co Supt	93	✓	
" "	" "	772	✓	✓
Elmer Collins	"	772	✓	✓
Betrunde Koch	Interested Citizen			
Edna Neil	"			
Olma Johnson	"			
Terahy Billingsley	"			
Frederic B. Dawner	Mt Elem. School	93	✓	
Iran Master	Mt Elem. School	HB 93	✓	
Hal Hawley	OPI, Helena	93	✓	
Elmer Collins	County Superd. Assoc.	93	✓	
David L. Bertelme	Quanda School Dist	93	✓	
Calvin L. Spang	Blue Sky Public Schools - ^{Superintendent}	772	✓	
Goss Kinder	Blue Sky Schools - Trustee	772	✓	
Verne Belfert	Interested Citizen + teacher			
Ana Gahr	J. I. Schools	772		✓
Joe Gahr	J. I. Schools Supt	772		✓
Ed Brady	School Dist 4 M.F.B.F.	93	✓	
Rod Loke	Self, Helena	93	✓	
John B. Campbell	M.F.B.F.	872	✓	
Det. Anderson	M.F.B.F.	93	✓	

March 18, 1983

COMMITTEE ON Education & Cultural Resources

VISITORS' REGISTER

[illegible]

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)

TO: The Senate Committee on Education and Cultural Resources

FROM: Lee Heiman, Committee Counsel

DATE: March 18, 1983

RE: Summaries of House Bills 93, 419, 772, and 822.

House Bill 93 (Donaldson). Provides for the funding, upon application by the district and approval by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, of an instructional aid for schools with an ANB of at least 14 and less than 18. The definition of "instructional aid" includes a certified teacher.

House Bill 419 (Donaldson). Changes the reimbursement rate for school transportation to provide for number of students using the vehicle and its rated capacity.

House Bill 772 (Bengtson). Changes the reimbursement amounts for school transportation for for fiscal years 1984 and 1985. Provides for approval of additional miles not reimbursable.

House Bill 822 (Donaldson). Provides for the consolidation of separate social security reporting agencies. Particularly covers when a high school district and an elementary district join the system at different times.

(This sheet be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: David Soren DATE: _____

ADDRESS: 1712 9th Ave

PHONE: 449 3154

REPRESENTING WHOM? Public Employees Retirement Division

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 822

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENT: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

March 18, 1963

MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

having had under consideration **HOUSE**

Bill No. **R22**

Donaldson (Mazurek)

FROM SENATE REPORT FOLLOWS: THE SENATE HAS PASSED

SENATE NO. 11

11-7001-11-11-11-11

11-7001-11-11-11-11

11-7001-11-11-11-11

11-7001-11-11-11-11

HOUSE BILL 93

I am Senator Dover, Senate District 24. I support House Bill 93 with an amendment that I am going to offer. Raynesford Elementary School is located in my Senate District. John Bodner, Daryl Watkins and others were planning to be here today and share with you the importance this bill would have on their school. They are ranchers and storms like this bring on the new calves and they have to take care of those they already have.

There are 14 full time students and 4 kindergarten students in their school this year. (16 ANB). Next year they should have 15 full time students and 5 kindergarten students - (17 1/2 ANB). Also, a new family has moved into the area and they have three children they intend to enroll in the school this next fall. The school would then have over the 18 students for ANB, for two teachers.

This school has a good scholastic record. Their SRA mean score for the school has averaged 76.

They have had two teachers, one bus driver and one cook. Their payroll has been about \$33,000.

There has been a change in life styles in rural areas that affect school attendance. In the past the people in these areas have been strictly farmers and ranchers who have stayed in the area and the school could be fairly certain of its future enrollment. Today there are a lot of families that will move into the area and stay two or three

years and then leave. Some have children which helps the school attendance when they come, but cause the district to go below the minimum requirements when they leave. This mobility of population makes big fluctuations in school attendance.

House Bill 93 provides some manuverability and adjustment during these times of transition. If the school has no prospect of growth it should probably be closed, but when the low attendance is only for a year or two it needs to be able to keep the educational system functioning with quality education. With this in mind, I would request this amendment that would give the school the alternative of retaining two teachers or keeping only one teacher and one aide.

The amendment will allow the district to hire a certified teacher as an aide and they would receive about \$7,000 from present foundations programs toward the salary of the teacher aide. Or, they can hire a certified teacher and get about \$14,000 of the salary. This gives the school district a chance to address their local needs for teachers.

3/18/83
TRINITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #4

P. O. Box 523
Canyon Creek, Montana 59633

March 18, 1983

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Edward J. Grady. I am a rancher and land owner in the Canyon Creek area, Northwest of Helena. I am also Chairman of our local school board, known as the Trinity School, District 4.

My following comments are in regards to H. B. 93.

I have been on the school board for fourteen years and have been chairman for twelve years. Up until two years ago Trinity School was a one room school. For years the number of children attending stayed relatively steady for the community people were mostly families of ranchers and their hired help. In recent years this has changed with the influx of sub-divisions and a large saw mill starting up in our area. This has brought about a more unsteady number of children attending our school. The original class room which is small in size, especially with the increased amount of material teachers have to have today to provide adequate education for children, became very over crowded and two years ago the board had to take emergency action and fix up another class room out of a store room. We also had to hire a teachers aide, this of course put an added burden on the taxpayer of the district. We also were petitioned from residence of the district to start a kindergarten program.

In planning for the 1982-83 school year the board anticipated 22 children from K-6 grades attending. With this in mind and the added kindergarten program, we hired two full time teachers. Just before the opening of the school term, two families moved out of the area, this left us with less than 18 children for this term. We are now facing our budget for the 1983-84 school term. Not meeting the 18 A. N. B., minimum attendance for 1982-83, and keeping a two teacher school, will put the school board in the position of going to the district taxpayers for a big increase in our mill levy.

I feel very strong about keeping our country schools open for younger children and also a kindergarten program which almost all other schools provide at this time. I feel we will have to stay with two teachers now for our class rooms are quite far apart and I strongly feel children in kindergarten should not be combined with children from all six grades.

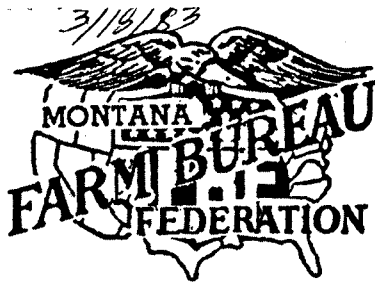
I realize, of course, this bill will not solve our problems for the coming school year, but it would help in the following years. With people going more against local tax burdens, I feel our school and other country schools are in jeopardy of being closed down. With the closing of country schools, small children are forced to ride the busses for long periods of time, and being away from home in some cases ten to twelve hours a day.

Members of this committee, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

Sincerely yours,

Edward J. Grady

Edward J. Grady
Chairman of the Board
School District 4



MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

502 SOUTH 19th

Dial 587-3153

BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

DATE MAR 18, 1983

NAME PAT Underwood BILL NUMBER HB 93
SUPPORT ☒ OPPOSE ☐ AMMEND ☐

The Montana Farm Bureau
SUPPORTS HB 93 and recommends
a DO PASS!

NAME: David L. Bertelsen DATE: 3/18/83

ADDRESS: Box 93 Orono, Mt. 59854

PHONE: 793-5549

REPRESENTING WHOM? Orono School District No. 11

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 93

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENT: Because of a drop in enrollment we
have had to increase our mill levy from 3 mills
two years ago to 24 mills for the coming year.
This amounts to 18,428.⁰⁰ which is 42% of our
total budget. We have 16 students this year and
should have 14 next year. Whether or not HB 93
passes may very well determine whether or
not we can continue to have two teachers.
We urge the passage of this bill. Any financial
support you can give us will be greatly
appreciated.

Thank you

David L. Bertelsen

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Trudi B. Downer DATE: 3-18-83

ADDRESS: Molt, mt. 59057

PHONE: 669-2554

REPRESENTING WHOM? Molt Elementary School

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 93

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENT: _____

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Fran Masters DATE: 3/18/83

ADDRESS: 2148 Lake Elmo Dr. Billings, MT. 59105

PHONE: 256-5110

REPRESENTING WHOM? Molt Elementary School

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB 93.

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENT: The children of rural Montana
deserve a quality education. Quality
education requires time for pupil/teacher
interaction. The financing of one and
two teacher schools needs to be seriously
evaluated so that if ANB ^{grade levels} warrants
two teachers, such funds should be
available.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

3/18/63

COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL 93

by Hal Hawley
Curriculum Specialist
Office of Public Instruction

I. MINIMUM ACCREDITATION STANDARD #403, BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

- A. An elementary school shall have a minimum educational program that includes the subject areas listed below:
1. Language arts, including reading, literature, writing, speaking, listening, spelling, penmanship and English.
 2. Arithmetic, written computation and problem solving.
 3. Science, ecology and conservation.
 4. Social sciences, including geography, history of the United States, history of Montana, agriculture and economics. Contemporary and historical traditions and values of American Indian culture may also be included.
 5. Fine arts, including music and art.
 6. Physical education.
 7. Health education.
- B. Approximately fifty percent of the emphasis in the primary grades is in reading and math. Reading and mathematics still make up a fourth of the instructional day in the seventh and eighth grades. Preparation, teaching and checking student's work in these two subjects alone takes TIME.

II. TEACHING/LEARNING TIME

- A. In the primary grades (K-3), the teacher needs to spend a much greater portion of time working with each individual student.
- B. When upper grade students are present they can help younger students. This process actually helps the upper grade students. However, too much time spent helping reduces the upper grade student's ability to be challenged to reach their potential. Too much dependance on peer tutoring robs the younger student of direct teaching by a certified teacher. Reduced teacher time for upper grade students increases the potential for discipline problems.

Exhibit #5
3/18/85
HB 95
Support Material
Milk Elem. Sch.
of Tripartite

Rapelje Public Schools

School District #32

P. O. Box 104

Rapelje, Montana 59067

Phone [406] 663-4373

W. H. (ED) WARNER
Superintendent

CHARLENE McFARLAND
Clerk

CARD MEMBERS:

John Zinne

Theodore Waddell

Stanley Erfle

Dale Schneidt

Donald Herzog

January 14, 1983

Montana State Legislature
State Capitol
Helena, Montana 59601

To whom it may concern;

I would like to take this opportunity to address you on a matter of deep concern: the needs and rights of all Montana students to receive a sound education within the confines of their own local school district.

To this end I ask your support of:

House Bill - 93 Donaldson - Education

I request that you do not support:

Senate Bill - 43 Blaylock - Education

Montana is composed largely of rural communities; the source of the openness and friendliness of the Big Sky Country. Like most Montanans, I do not want to see this atmosphere totally vanish; as it will if the heart of small communities is not amply supported financially. Support is very evident in community participation, a particular pride that should be sustained.

Respectfully,



W. H. Ed Warner, Superintendent

P.S.

Please don't be fooled by the large school (better) versus small school (less than) controversy.

This small school having turned out veterinarians, pilots, registered nurses, big city school teachers and others of equal stature shall not bow it's head.

BROADVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DISTRICT NO. 21

BROADVIEW, MONTANA 59015

PHONE 406-667-4306

Superintendent
ANDREW (BUD) VEIS

Clerk
DIANE BROOK

Trustees
CLAIRE HOAGLAND
ROBERT TEW
ROGER HAUGRUD
LESLIE AUER

Date: January 14, 1983

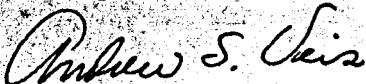
From: Andrew S. Veis, Superintendent
Broadview, Mt

To: Legislators

Please give strong consideration to the
passage of H.B. 93 by Representative Donaldson.

I truly believe that the small schools in
rural Montana are providing Montanas youth with
good educational opportunities. In order to
continue providing challenging educational
leadership within Montana's rural schools,
these rural schools need your legislative support.

Respectfully,



Andrew S. Veis

ASV/bjb

To: Senate Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, Mt. 59601

From: Molt Elementary School District 12-12
Trudi B. Downer, Representative
Molt, Montana 59057

Concerning: HB 93 amending Section 20-9-316, 20-9318 MCA.

From the school year 1977-1978 through the school year 1980-1981, Molt Elementary School District 12-12 enjoyed the financial security inherent to the classification as a non-isolated school with an ANB of 1-9. Fluctuations in student enrollment had no bearing on Foundation Funds and an adequate mill levy could be set allowing us to set forth a budget which guaranteed a quality education for our children.

However, for the school year 1981-1982, budgeting became guess work at best. After our mill levy had been set, teacher contract signed and budget finalized, our enrollment doubled. From that point to the present, we have learned that financial planning and educational standards for schools with an ANB of 10-17 have little basis in sound educational practice. We have found that election regulations, finance deadlines and lack of a defined standard have made our budget process little more than a numbers game in which we were missing some of the pieces. We have been unable to plan a suitable budget and lack the funds to fully update the added supplies, materials, library resources and school properties necessitated by such an enrollment increase.

We have enclosed graphics and substantiating materials which fully illustrate that the current system has little to do with educational needs or the crucial responsibility of giving our children the best education possible.

HB 93 is an essential first step in setting up a system of finance based on sound education standards. I urge your favorable recommendation of HB 93.

To: Senate Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT

From: Molt Elementary School District 12-12
Marsha Sillivan, Teacher's Aide, 1981-1982
Box 69, Molt, MT 59057

Concerning: H.B. 93 Amending section 20-9-316, 20-9-318, MCA

Date: January 17, 1983

HB 93 is excellent. It will aid our rural schools in proper funding and accreditation standards.

I, Marsha Sillivan, was a teacher's aide for Molt Elementary School during the school year 1981-1982. During this time the teacher and I worked hard to give the students quality education.

As an aide my classroom instruction was very restricted. I would assist the students after initial discussion with the teacher, correct papers, prepare bulletin boards and learning centers, average grades at the end of each quarter, and supervise inside and outside of the classroom.

The restrictions as an aide limited me to paperwork and assisting the student when requesting additional help, so to free the teacher to conduct other discussion groups because of limited time. The teacher still had to prepare lesson plans, present new concepts and over-see the areas an aide worked.

HB 93 is a beginning for sound small rural school funding. Some of the classroom hardships in delivering quality education would be eliminated. The 14-18 pupils, two teacher funding gives the school a chance to continue their quality education.

To: Senate Education Committee
Montana State Legislature
Helena, MT.

From: Molt Elementary School District 12-12
Fran Masters, Teacher, 1979-1982
2148 Lake Elmo Drive, Billings, MT. 59105

Concerning: H.B. 93 Amending section 20-9-316, 20-9-318, MCA.

Date: January 17, 1983

I would like to take this opportunity to address the problem of school finance currently facing the rural schools in Montana.

I, Fran Masters, am an elementary teacher and have been directly affected by the lack of adequate standards for one and two teacher schools.

For the first two years I was employed by the Molt school district, I experienced the ultimate teaching experience. I had three lower primary grade levels, the opportunity for individualized instruction, and the time and means for enrichment. I was able to give the children the best possible education.

The last year I taught at Molt, I taught seventeen children from kindergarten through fifth grades; two thirds of which were in the lower primary grades (K-3).

I believe that each individual should have a quality education, and it is the teacher's responsibility to carry out the educational process within the classroom. However, such a pupil load creates a hardship on the teacher to give each child an education of true quality. The kindergarten, first, second, and third grade children require an added amount of attention which takes away valuable time from the older children who also need instruction and guidance.

A second teacher was much needed last year, however further funding was not available unless the Board of Trustees declared an emergency budget. Because funds were limited, a full time aid was hired. This was a welcomed and needed relief. However, because the law prohibits aids from administering instructions dealing with new concepts, very little of the curriculum could be turned over to the aid.

For your information and convenience, I have enclosed a daily schedule (from last year) of the classes for all six grades. This schedule identifies 43 daily preparations for the teacher. If you divide this by six teaching hours, it leaves you with $8\frac{1}{2}$ minutes in which to teach each subject each day. As an educator, I feel that $8\frac{1}{2}$ minutes of instruction is not insuring a quality education for the children.

Because of this overwhelming teaching load and constant pressure, I chose to decline a tenure contract and risk the chance of ^{not} being hired by another district rather than taking the chance of being in this situation again. Quality education requires time for pupil/teacher interaction. This type of situation did not provide adequate time which contradicted my philosophy of education.

As you well realize, the children that we are currently educating are Montana's most valuable resource. HB 93 provides a needed first step in setting a much needed educational standard for rural schools. I urge your affirmative recommendation.

Grade <u>Kindergarten</u> Subject _____	Grade <u>First</u> Subject _____	Grade <u>Second</u> Subject _____
Assignment: 9:00-9:10 - Flag, song, intro 9:10-9:35 - Free Time Art 9:35-9:55 - Formal Instruction.	9:00-9:10 - Flag, Song, Intro. 9:10-9:35 Phonics/Language 9:35-9:55 - Spelling.	9:00-9:10 - Flag, Song, Intro 9:10-9:35 - Phonics/L 9:35-9:55 - Spelling
Assignment: 9:55-10:15 - Formal Instruction 10:15-10:30 - Recess 10:30-10:50 - Story & Activity.	9:55-10:15 - Writing 10:15-10:30 - Recess 10:30-10:50 - Centers	9:55-10:15 - Writing 10:15-10:30 - Recess 10:30-10:50 - Cent
Assignment: 10:50-11:30 - Formal Instruction 11:30-12:00 - PE/Music 12:00 - Dismiss	10:50-11:30 - Reading 11:30-12:00 - PE/Music 12:00-12:45 - Lunch and Recess	10:50-11:30 - Reading 11:30-12:00 - PE/Music 12:00-12:45 - Lunch and Rec.
Assignment:	12:45-1:00 - Story 1:00-1:45 - Reading 1:45-2:15 - Math	12:45-1:00 - Story 1:00-1:45 - Reading 1:45-2:15 - Math
Assignment:	2:15-2:30 - Recess 2:30-3:00 - Social Studies 3:00-3:15 - Jobs.	2:15-2:30 - Recess 2:30-3:00 - Social Studies 3:00-3:15 - Jobs

Grade <u>Third</u> Subject _____	Grade <u>Fourth</u> Subject _____	Grade <u>Fifth</u> Subject _____
Assignment: 9:00-9:10- Flag, Song, Intro 9:10-10:15- Reading 10:15-10:30- Recess	9:00-9:10- Flag, song, intro. 9:10-10:15- Reading 10:15-10:30- Recess	9:00-9:10- Flag, song intro 9:10-10:15- Reading 10:15-10:30- Recess
Assignment: 10:30-11:30- Language 11:30-12:00- PE/Music 12:00-12:45- Lunch and Recess	10:30-11:30- Language 11:30-12:00- PE/Music 12:00-12:45- Lunch and Recess	10:30-11:30- Language 11:30-12:00- PE/Music 12:00-12:45- Lunch and Recess
Assignment: 12:45-1:00- Story 1:00-1:25- Spelling or Phonics 1:25-1:45- Writing	12:45-1:00- Story 1:00-1:25- Spelling or Phonics 1:25-1:45- Writing	12:45-1:00- Story 1:00-1:25- Spelling Phonics 1:25-1:45- Writing
Assignment: 1:45-2:15- Math 2:15-2:30- Recess	1:45-2:15- Math 2:15-2:30- Recess	1:45-2:15- Math 2:15-2:30- Recess
Assignment: 2:30-3:00- Social Studies 3:00-3:15- Jobs	2:30-3:00- Social Studies 3:00-3:15- Jobs	1:45-2:15- Social Stud 3:00-3:15- Jobs

Molt Elementary School District 12-12

Box 67

Molt, Montana 59057
November 15, 1982

(406) 669-2583

As a Board of Trustees, we are very concerned about the area of school finance and accreditation. It is the responsibility of government to set standards which insure equal educational opportunities for all children. However, the standards and finance policies as they exist today discriminate against small schools with an ANB of 10-18. There is no standard set to insure quality education. The policy merely states that a school must have a guaranteed ANB of 18 to receive state aid for a second teacher. This number does nothing to reflect the need of a second teacher or the fact that each different grade increases teacher preparation time and time which needs to be budgeted for group work nor does it reflect that younger primary children (K-3) require more direct supervision and more teacher help. All other educational situations have accreditation standards and funding geared to teacher-pupil ratio, teacher load, and grade level concentration. Nothing like this exists in the code or accreditation standards for a 1-2 teacher school. This combined with the budgeting and election timetable established in the Montana Code makes an untenable situation for small schools. We have enclosed graphics and statistics to illustrate the situation that we have faced in the past two years which dramatically indicates a need for a change.

We feel that to guarantee equal educational opportunity, Foundation funds and accreditation standards should be geared to creating a good educational atmosphere rather than being tied to a specific number of children. This would guarantee educational excellence for all children. We feel that Foundation funds for a second teacher should be made available to schools with an ANB of 12-18 provided that the school has at least four grade levels and provided that at least 50% of the students are in the lower primary grades, K-3. This guideline would not indiscriminately release Foundation Funds; it would merely enable small schools to provide educational excellence without undue burden to teachers or taxpayers.

In speaking with legislators and Office of Public Instruction personnel, we are told that there is little chance of a change in standards for funding small schools because there is a move to consolidate small schools. This move to consolidate has little basis in educational needs of the children. Consolidation, in our case, would mean that our children

would be required to spend at least one hour morning and evening on a bus to go 20-25 miles to school. It would decrease community identity and make community participation in school functions difficult. Most of all, we would not be guaranteed the same educational excellence we have now. The neighborhood school concept is just as necessary in rural areas as it is in urban areas.

We urge your assistance in preparing, sponsoring, and supporting legislation in the 1983 Legislature to alleviate this situation. We are very willing to meet with you to discuss this problem and to answer any questions. Feel free to contact Trudi Downer at 669-2554 for further information or to make arrangements to meet with us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Molt Elementary Board of Trustees

L. Harold Blattie
L. Harold Blattie, Chairman

Charles McFarland
Charles McFarland

Trudi B. Downer
Trudi B. Downer

GRAPHICS

Time Factor:

February: Budgeting process begins by setting mill levy amount
 March: Public notice of election and mill levy
 Teacher interviews
 April: Election
 Contract to teacher
 May 1: Unusual Enrollment increase deadline
 June: Preliminary Budget
 July: Final Budget
 August: School begins and true ANB is realized

Within this time frame, it is difficult to accurately budget when the budget must be finalized and teachers hired before there is a true indication of the ANB.

Enrollment Statistics:

Year:	#students	ANB	#teachers	Grades (# in grade)
1982-1983	16	13	2	K (6) 1 (1) 2 (4) 3 (1) 4 (2) 5 (2)
1981-1982	17	15	1 (1 aid)	K (3) 1 (4) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (3) 5 (2)
			(spring)	K (1) 1 (4) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (3) 5 (1)
(This load represents 44 teacher preparations each day)				
1980-1981	1-10		1	K (4) 1 (0) 2 (3) 3 (2)
1979-1980	1-10		1	K (1) 1 (3) 2 (2)
1978-1979	1-10		1	K (3) 1 (2)
1977-1978	1-10		1	(fall) K (4) 2 (1) 4 (1)
			(spring)	K (4)

We have shown a steady increase in number of students. Along with this increase is a constant increase in the number of grade levels with the highest concentration in the lower primary grades. We have never hit the number 18 for ANB and it is highly unlikely we will.

Projected Enrollment:

1983-1984	16 ANB	K (0) 1 (6) 2 (1) 3 (4) 4 (1) 5 (2) 6 (2)
1984-1985	15 ANB	K (2) 1 (0) 2 (6) 3 (1) 4 (4) 5 (1) 6 (2) (7 (2))
1985-1986	16 ANB	K (3) 1 (2) 2 (0) 3 (6) 4 (1) 5 (4) 6 (1) (7 (2) 8 (2))

All indications are that grades 7-8 will go to Rapelje for Junior High because of athletic options and to establish class rapport for the high school years. So in the predictable future Molt School will never reach 18 yet still has a teacher load which warrants two teachers.

Budgeting Process 1981-1983

May, 1981 Projected enrollment: 9 K (2) 1 (4) 3 (3) 4 (2)
 The budget for 1981-1982 was set and one teacher hired.
 June, 1981 Projected enrollment: 13 K (2) 1 (4) 2 (1) 3 (3) 4 (3) 5 (1)
 With this unexpected increase in enrollment, we applied for an emergency ANB increase one month after the official deadline. It was granted.

August, 1981 Actual enrollment: K (3) 1 (4) 2 (2) 3 (3) 4 (3) 5 (2)
We gained even more students on the first day of school, but short of declaring emergency budget, there was noway to fund a second teacher. We had exhausted our emergency budgeting methods. So we hired an aide.

During the school year we lost 2 kindergartners and 1 fifth grade. We sent out an attendance survey to project 1982-1983 budget.

February, 1982: Our teacher indicated that she would not be returning. We set our mill levy with a healthy increase.

March, 1982 We sent a survey to the community to ascertain the projected enrollment for 1982-1983. We also received a request for three students to attend our school from out of district.

Projected Enrollment:

K (7) 1 (2) 2 (4) 3 (4) 4 (3) 5 (3) 6 (1) 7 (1)

This enrollment necessitated a second teacher and the ANB indicated we would reach the 18 ANB for a second teacher. We set our mill levy in line with this a made preparations to apply for an emergency ANB increase.

April, 1982 Community passed a mill levy with a 50% increase over previous years. We hired two teachers and signed a contract with them for a set wage. We were fortunate that we hired a married couple so that we did not have to come up with additional housing for the second teacher. Since our community is small with little extra housing available, we have a teacherage which is included in the teacher's salary.

May, 1982 Requested and received an unusual ANB increase of up to 22.

June, 1982 Set the preliminary budget at 22 ANB. Our actual enrollment at that time would have been an ANB of 20. So our budget was figured at:

Foundation	\$32,989.28
Permissive	8,247.32
Levy	11373 .00
Total	<u>\$52,609.60</u>

We figured our budget at maximum ANB because the previous year, we had a 20% ANB increase after the emergency ANB increase and budget were approved.

July, 1982 We were informed that we were losing three students who had applied in 1981-1982 to attend our school from out of district. Our ANB became:

17 ANB K (6) 1 (1) 2 (4) 3 (3) 4 (3) 5 (2) 7 (1)
(we had lost 1 kindergarten prospect and one student in May)

Our ANB was now at below 18, but the need for a second teacher still existed because of the number of grade levels and number of lower primary children and a second teacher had already been contracted.

August, 1982 On the first day of school we were informed that one student had

decided to enroll at Broadview to be in the same school with her older sister since she would eventually go there anyway and the three out of district students informed us that they would have to move and would not be enrolling.

Our budget went from \$52,609.60 in June to \$35,277.60 in July and then to 33,780.20 in August.

Our actual enrollment and ANB became:

K (6) 1 (1) 2 (4) 3 (1) 4 (2) 5 (2) 16 students/13 ANB

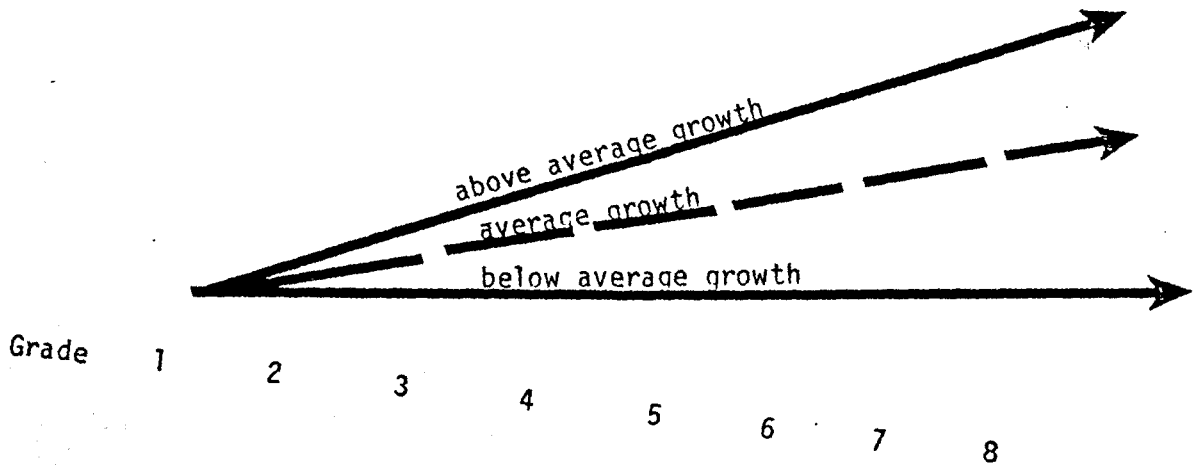
We were back to funds earned for an ANB of 15. We are therefore financing an increased expenditure for a second teacher on the same Foundation as the previous year with only the increased mill levy to help fund the budget.

These graphics clearly indicate that finance and budgeting for schools between 10 and 18 is guesswork at best. The budgeting time table and the ANB number make budgeting in the true sense of the word nearly impossible. The loss or gain of one or two students can throw the whole system into turmoil. Students from out of district are not bound by their application to attend and students who indicate they will return are not bound by their stated intentions even when it means they are attending out of district yet the school has to have teachers, books and supplies budgeted for them. In a situation where one student can make a tremendous amount of difference, planning is difficult.

The accrediting standards and budget guidelines are geared to numbers and administrative expediency rather than to sound educational practices and equal educational opportunity.

III. FUNCTIONAL STUDENT ABILITY

Students are never more alike than they are the first day of school. Good teachers do make a difference, but good teaching takes time. As the difference between functional ability increases, the teacher is challenged to deal with a wider range of functional abilities.



TIME . . . TIME . . . TIME . . . TIME . . . TIME

Time is like a suitcase ... you can only pack it so full. *** Time is like capital ... to be invested wisely. *** It is possible to do only one thing at a time. *** Time wasted is time lost.

TIME . . . TIME . . . TIME . . . TIME . . . TIME

(This sheet be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: Robert Johnston DATE: 3-18-83

ADDRESS: 409 Missouri Ave., Deer Lodge, MT

PHONE: 846-3680 Ext. 32

REPRESENTING WHOM? Powell County

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: N.B. 93

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ☒ AMEND? ☐ OPPOSE? ☐

COMMENT: Passage of this bill will help
to improve and maintain quality
education in our small rural
schools.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

(This sheet be used by those testifyg on a bill.)

NAME: Calvin L. Spangler DATE: March 18, 1983

ADDRESS: Hingham, Montana

PHONE: 397- 3138

REPRESENTING WHOM? Blue Sky Schools

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: H.B. 772

DO YOU: SUPPORT? X AMEND? No OPPOSE?

COMMENT:

I would like to address this committee concerning the rights of the
County transportation committee and the right of a local
school board.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

NAME: Bon Kinder DATE: 3-18-83

ADDRESS: Box 209 - Bucyard, MT. 59540

PHONE: 355-4242

REPRESENTING WHOM? Blue & Hwy Schools

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: 772

DO YOU: SUPPORT? ✓ AMEND? No OPPOSE?

COMMENT: I support the original bill
- not amended

I believe in local control for schools.
I don't think residents of a district
should be held captive to that district.
I also feel that the best efficiency of
schools is accomplished by leaving control
to local boards.



Hill County

Superintendent of Schools

Elinor Collins

Elinor Collins
P.O. Box 110
Havre, Montana 59501



House Bill 772

Rationale for proposed amendment

Bus transportation provided by school districts is governed by the statutes in Title 20, chapter 10, part 2, MCA. That part establishes a county transportation committee for each county composed of members from each school district within the county and other county officials, Section 20-10-131 MCA. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate the orderly provision of a uniform transportation program within the county under the transportation law, board of public education transportation policies, and the transportation rules of the superintendent of public instruction....." 20-10-132, MCA. The duties of the committee, as set out in section 20-10-132, MCA, include the task of approving, disapproving or adjusting school bus routes. If the bus routes are approved by the committee and they comply with state transportation law, school districts become eligible for county and state reimbursement. A transportation committee is established for a particular purpose and its decisions either should be complied with or appealed from.

This committee and its functions are mandated by law. The legislative intent ascertained from section 20-10-10¹, MCA is to provide some penalty for violation of transportation laws. It gives the county transportation committee a method of enforcing its decisions. Otherwise the penalty section would have little, if any, direct effect on school districts. These districts would be free to operate buses as they choose regardless of the county transportation committee's bus routes. To do otherwise is to reach absurd results. For example, if section 20-10-10¹, MCA is interpreted to mean only the excess mile reimbursement is suspended the law provides no penalty. A district will never be reimbursed for those excess miles, so to suspend payment for them is to suspend nothing.

If a district is allowed to run buses beyond the approved routes, why have a penalty section in the law? If buses are allowed to run buses where they choose why have the county transportation committee to provide orderly, uniform transportation programs?

As enrollments decline and funds become scarce districts will look beyond their boundaries and encourage students to transfer to their school by providing transportation.

Parents do have the option under state law to send their children to another district at their own expense. Tuition laws do provide mandatory provisions for parents to send their children to a school that is closer, to an elementary school if the high school children are going to that out-of-district school, etc. However, if a school provides transportation to a school with an accredited program parents wishing to send their children out of district, especially to schools that are five or six miles down the road, should provide their own transportation.

3/18/83 (This sheet be used by those testifying on a bill.)

NAME: Joe FAHN DATE: 3/18/83

ADDRESS: Box 117 Joplin, mt 59531

PHONE: 292-3832

REPRESENTING WHOM? J-I Public School Dist. 29-28J

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: HB # 772

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? ☒ _____ OPPOSE? _____

COMMENT: _____

I wish to amend in such a way that
school busing does not interfere with the
operation of rural schools in Montana.

PLEASE LEAVE ANY PREPARED STATEMENTS WITH THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

3/18/83

J-I PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District 29-28J
Joplin, Mt. 59531

Joe Fahn, Superintendent

Ken Monilaws, Principal

Ira Mae Kenfield, Clerk

March 18, 1983

To: Members of the Education Committee and all members of the legislature of the 1983 session.

From: J-I School District 29-28J Board of Trustees

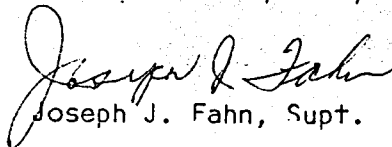
Subject: House Bill 772 (Bengston)

We propose to amend HB 772 to include the following statement or some form of the statement: The added mileage shall be limited to each school district's boundary lines. School districts may cross boundary lines with written agreement of all districts involved.

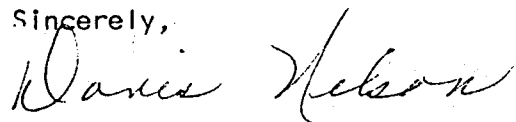
RATIONALE: House Bill #772, which is being sponsored by Bengston, by itself in its present form has merit. School bus costs of operation are high and schools can use more assistance from state sources.

Some public schools in the state do need relief from the restriction of changing bus routes during the course of a school year. However, granting permission by law for any and all buses to travel on any road that a school desires, creates problems in rural Montana. If HB #772 is allowed to pass in its present form, a district or several districts can "cannibalize" another district to the extent that only those students that can conveniently be transported will be taken from their home district to an out-of-district school. Those students that do not conveniently fit into the route would not be picked up. This would create a situation in which students who live in fringe areas may be the only bus students attending their home school. This would cause small schools to become smaller and could eventually cause bus routes to be created in which students would be riding buses for much more than the one hour limit should their home school be forced to close.

We request your consideration and adoption of the amendment.


Joseph J. Fahn, Supt.

Sincerely,


Doris Nelson, Chairperson

MONTANA RURAL EDUCATION CENTER

WESTERN MONTANA COLLEGE

DILLON, MONTANA 59721



January 26, 1983

RALPH V. KROON

Field Service Coordinator

P.O. Box 839

Belgrade, MT 59714

Bus. Phone: 683-7325

Res. Phone: 388-6556

SERVING
RURAL
MONTANA

ALAN G. ZETLER

Center Director

Western Montana College

Dillon, MT 59725

Bus. Phone: 683-7325

The Honorable Bill Hand
House Chambers, State Capitol
26 South Davis
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Bill:

I support House Bill 93 regarding funding for schools with an ANB of 14-17 for two teachers or one teacher with additional funding for a teachers aide.

Please consider the following:

1. The rural teacher teaching 14 students in all grade levels or at least 5 different grades. Multi-grade teaching 14 students is very difficult.
2. Schools must apply for the funding. It is not automatic funding.
3. Some of the rural schools do not have facilities for two teachers.
4. The fiscal note attached to the bill is extremely high.
5. This year only 16 schools could apply for the extra funding.

Thank you for your continued support for the rural schools.

Sincerely,

Ralph V. Kroon