

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HOUSE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES  
MONTANA STATE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 28, 1985

The meeting of the Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order at 3:20 p.m. by Chairman Harrington in Room 312-3 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Representatives Williams and Thomas.

Chairman Harrington told the Committee members that there would be a joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees on Wednesday, January 30th at 11:00 p.m. in the old Supreme Court. Dr. Frank Newman, President of the Education Commission of the States will address the committees.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. 305: Rep. Ted Schye, District #18, spoke as sponsor of this bill. He passed out copies of the Fiscal Note for the bill. It seeks transportation reimbursement for more than one round trip for any parent or guardian transporting children to school. Rep. Schye read a letter from a Nashua woman who was too far away to come and testify but relayed that the school bus route where she lives had been eliminated because it was too costly. She is taking her children to meet the bus which is 8-1/2 miles one way, making a total of 34 miles per day for which she is reimbursed \$2.80. If she received reimbursement for all traveled miles, she would have a right to \$6.80 per day. She was understanding of the fact that the school bus was costly and had to be eliminated, but she felt that all her costs for transporting the children ought to be reimbursed. It was explained that individual transportation contracts between the schools and private drivers are made if they live more than three miles from school or 1-1/2 miles from the bus route. This bill would ask that the 20¢ per mile reimbursement be given for the total number of miles driven, subtracting 12 miles (for two round trips) for the 3 mile limit standard. An amendment may be needed to determine proof of actual mileage.

PROPOSERS: Bob Stockton from the Office of Public Instruction pointed out on the Fiscal Note that the figure of \$111,978 was not raised by the county and to get that amount you would deduct \$59,237 from it. His office supports this bill.

Chip Erdmann with the Montana School Board Association spoke support for the concept of the bill and recognized there is a problem in the rural areas for individual reimbursement. The rate of pay is low and this may be an equitable solution. He relayed that there is another bill on this subject which would allow the district to negotiate with contracts and the committee may wish to view the bills together.

Richard Trerise representing the Montana Association of County Superintendents of Schools showed support of the bill but spoke concern about potential abuse. If an amendment were proposed which would govern legitimate need, they would also support such an amendment.

Representative Dave Brown, District #72, said he had spoken with a number of his constituents who live on Roosevelt Drive in Butte which is a substantial distance from the nearest school and the parents are put under an additional burden because of where they live, while the costs are fairly high he urged the committee to consider the definite merits of this bill.

OPPONENTS: None

DISCUSSION ON H.B. 305: Rep. Montayne asked if these vehicles were a liability to the school district as they were a carrier of school children. Bob Stockton replied that it would not affect insurance as the district is only liable to and from school on the school bus or when the children arrive on the school grounds.

Rep. Peck questioned who decides if the parents make more than one trip. Rep. Schye said an amendment to the bill could allow the Office of Public Instruction to be covered by an affidavit. Rep. Peck spoke of the "escape" clause in 20-10-142, Subsection 3, which allows people to qualify for isolated transportation reimbursement. Bob Stockton replied by saying that in the isolation cases the most increase they could receive would be 50%. Rep. Eudaily made a suggestion of going to the County Transportation Committee, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or the Board of Trustees and questioned if it wouldn't be better to include this in the bill rather than make a blanket statement. It was pointed out that the final authority to approve, disapprove, or make adjustments rests with the State.

Rep. Schye closed the hearing on the bill by saying that these people are not complaining about losing their bus service, but would like to be reimbursed for all the costs. He said perhaps the bill could be changed to address the rulemaking authority, or perhaps a little less money on mileage so that the people do get a fair shake.

Chairman Harrington said the bill would be held until after the hearing of H.B. 324.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. 454: Rep. Loren Jenkins, District #13, sponsored this bill which increases the salary of the County Superintendent of Schools with a Master's of Arts Degree with a specialization and emphasis in school administration by \$2,000.

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PROPOSERS: Richard Trerise from the Montana Association of County School Superintendents spoke support of this bill. He said currently only three county elected positions have qualifications that are necessary for the person to assume office and they are the county attorney, county surveyor and the county superintendent of schools. The qualifications were established many years ago and the office has evolved a great deal since then. The duties have become complex and demanding. The advantages would be: 1) an incentive to get the degree; 2) incentive for the people with the degree to run for the office; 3) person would be better able to perform duties of the office; 4) prestige of the degree would improve the relationships with co-workers. There are County Superintendents in the State of Montana that are making as little as \$14,000 per year, the lowest paid school district superintendent makes \$25,000. In Lewis and Clark County the average principal's salary is \$34,000 and Mr. Trerise spoke of his salary being \$21,500 which is at the upper end of the county superintendents pay scale. The average is \$17,000 to \$18,000. There are 13 county superintendents who presently have their Master's which would mean about a \$26,000 impact at this time.

Larry Stollfuss spoke as a County Superintendent from Fort Benton in support of this bill. He said this bill would not affect him, but if he had the money for an incentive he would like to go back and pick up his credentials. Raising a family of four on \$17,000 makes it difficult to finance schooling. He felt it would upgrade the position greatly and made good sense to pay for better qualifications.

Jesse Long, School Administrators of Montana, spoke in favor of the legislation. The job has become much more technical over the years in terms of hearings, finances, etc. and demands a greater amount of training.

Claudette Morton, Liaison to the County Superintendents in the Office of Public Instruction testified for H.B. 454 as the role of the County Superintendents is much more complex, such as evaluations of teachers, educational leadership, curriculum development and advisors to the board of trustees regarding State and Federal regulations. It is important that they are at a comparable educational level with the district administrators. (See written testimony, Exhibit 1)

Chip Erdmann from the Montana School Board Association said the County Superintendents have a variety of duties and practically act as a school administrator. It is important to attract qualified people to these jobs.

Phil Campbell, Montana Education Association spoke support of the bill for all of the already stated reasons.

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Ralph Kroon, Field Service Coordinator for Western Montana College, said he travels the state and holds workshops and in-services with county superintendents. He works closely with the University of Montana which offers training in school law and school finance. He spoke of one-third turnover of the positions each four years and the salary increase might keep people in the position.

There being no opponents to the bill, Chairman Harrington called for discussion.

Rep. Kitselman pointed out that there is another bill drafted which would allow the County Commissioners to set the salaries. Phil Campbell said his organization would stand in moderate opposition to that bill as all salaries would raise at the same time.

Chip Erdmann explained the differences of the county superintendents for Rep. Mercer in that they act for a number of the small districts but the duties are the same as a regular school district superintendent.

Rep. Eudaily referred to Page 2, lines 9 and 10 and the words "with emphasis on" and questioned whether "endorsement" might not be a better term so it wouldn't be left to open interpretation.

Rep. Hardin stated that there are 56 county superintendents of schools and questioned Richard Trerise whether there were any counties without a superintendent, to which Mr. Trerise answered that there were a number of counties who have consolidated, but each is served.

Rep. Jenkins closed by saying that this job is complex and to increase the effectiveness and quality of the position he would urge support of this bill.

ACTION ON H.B. 454: Executive session was held on H.B. 454. Rep. Brandewie made a motion for the following amendment:

1. Title, line 6.  
Strike: "EMPHASIS"  
Insert: "AN ENDORSEMENT"
2. Page 2, lines 8 and 10.  
Following: "with"  
Strike: remainder of line 9 through "emphasis on"  
on line 10  
Insert: "an endorsement in"

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Rep. Brandewie motioned that H.B. 454 DO PASS AS AMENDED, the motion had a second by Rep. Eudaily.

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Rep. Hannah moved that an amendment be added to Page 2, line 13 to strike \$2,000 and insert \$4,000. There was a roll call vote on this proposed amendment which failed by 6 for, 11 against.

A voice vote to the motion that H.B. 454 DO PASS AS AMENDED showed all in favor with the exception of Rep. Thomas who dissented.

ACTION ON H.B. 209: Rep. Nelson motioned that H.B. 209 DO PASS, with Rep. Harbin seconding the motion and a voice vote indicating unanimous approval with Representatives Hannah and Glaser voting against the motion.

Chairman Harrington informed the Committee that Wednesday afternoon was being held open for the sub-committee and there would not be a formal Education Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

  
Dan Harrington, Chairman

crf

DAILY ROLL CALL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 1-28-85

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Dan Harrington	✓		
Ralph Eudaily	✓		
Ray Brandewie	✓		
William Glaser	✓		
Joe Hammond	✓		
Thom Hannah	✓		
Raymond Harbin	✓		
Roland Kennerly	✓		
Les Kitselman	✓		
John Mercer	✓		
John Montayne	✓		
Richard Nelson	✓		
Jerry Nisbet	✓		
Ray Peck	✓		
Jack Sands	✓		
Ted Schye	✓		
Fred Thomas	✓	✓ (late)	
Mel Williams	✓	✓ (late)	

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY 28

19..85

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 209

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**REQUIRING TRUSTEES TO PLACE ON LEVY BALLOT ONLY AMOUNT RAISED BY LEVY**

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 202

DO PASS

# STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

.....JANUARY 23..... 19 85.....

MR. SPEAKER.....

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

having had under consideration .....HOUSE..... Bill No. 454.....

FIRST reading copy ( WHITE )  
color

**SALARY INCREASE FOR COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS WITH MASTER'S DEGREES**

Respectfully report as follows: That.....HOUSE..... Bill No. 454.....

## BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Title, line 6.  
Strike: "EMPHASIS"  
Insert: "AN ENDORSEMENT"
2. Page 2, lines 9 and 10.  
Following: "with"  
Strike: remainder of line 9 through "emphasis" on"  
on line 10  
Insert: "an endorsement in"

AND, AS AMENDED

DO PASS



ROLL CALL VOTE

HOUSE COMMITTEE EDUCATION

DATE 1-28-85 HOUSE Bill No. 454 Time \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	YES	NO
<del>Dan Harrington</del>		
Ralph Eudaily		✓
Ray Brandewie		✓
William Glaser	✓	
Joe Hammond		✓
Tom Hannah	✓	
Raymond Harbin		✓
Roland Kennerly		✓
Les Kitselman	✓	
John Mercer		✓
John Montayne		✓
Richard Nelson	✓	
Jerry Nisbet		✓
Ray Peck		✓
Jack Sands		✓
Ted Schye		✓
Fred Thomas	✓	
Mel Williams		
Dan Harrington	✓	

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: HANNAH AMENDMENT RAISING \$2,000 TO \$4,000  
6 FOR, 11 AGAINST - FAILED

Office of Public Instruction Testimony  
in  
Support of HB454

For the record, my name is Claudette Morton and I am Liaison to County Superintendents for the Office of Public Instruction. I am here today to speak for the Office of Public Instruction in support of HB454.

In Montana education today, the role of the County Superintendent of Schools is a complex administrative one. For the rural schools which have no principal, they must assume that administrative role. This means supervising and evaluating teachers and support staff, providing curriculum and program leadership, advising school boards of trustees with regard to compliance with state and federal laws and regulations and assisting them in setting budgets. These aspects alone would be enough to justify the need for administrative credentials.

However, the role of the County Superintendent of Schools extends far beyond the rural schools which they directly supervise. Every public school district in their county, no matter how large or small, relies on their expertise in administrative areas. In some cases such as revenues, budgets and levies, they are an intermediate authority between the local district and the state. They also keep many vital records for the local districts and the state. Most recently, their load as hearings officer for controversial items which have not been resolved at the district level, has significantly increased. Because of these job responsibilities it is important that they be on a comparable educational level with the district administrators with whom they work.

HB454 does not require all county superintendents to have administrative credentials, but it does provide incentive and appropriate compensation for those who do. My experience with this position has made it very clear that those educators who have administrative credentials are able to facilitate relationships with district administration, to handle the difficult administrative role in which they are placed and provide the kind of educational leadership which is so vitally needed at the county level in these complex times. Therefore, the Office of Public Instruction urges your committee to support HB454.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_ COMMITTEE \_\_\_\_\_

BILL 305

DATE January 28, 1985

SPONSOR TED SCHYE

NAME	RESIDENCE	REPRESENTING	SUP- PORT	OP- POSE
Bob <del>Adach</del>	Helenia	OPT	✓	
TODD HUOAK	"	III. PENN OF COUNTIES	—	—
Richard Treise	Helenia	MACSS	✓	
Jesse W. Tracy	"	SAM		
Chip GOODMAN	"	MSBA	✓	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.  
 WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.