

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

April 10, 1985

The meeting of the Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by Chairman Dan Harrington at 9:00 a.m. in Room 312-3 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All Committee members were present with the exceptions of Representatives Brandewie, Kitselman, and Montayne. Representative Williams was previously excused.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION #52: Representative Dan Harrington from District #68 appeared to present this resolution as its chief sponsor. He reminded the committee that this resolution came as a result of recommendations made by them and concerns funding and governance of vocational-technical education. In many of the localities where the five centers are located, serious financial problems are occurring. Mill Levies have raised in some areas from \$300,000 to \$600,000 that local districts are having to pick up. Representative Harrington felt that many cuts have been made but many more are down the road and the whole vo-tech system in the State is in jeopardy. The interim study should come up with a plan that is acceptable to all areas. Because of the changes made in the 1981 session, the problems are increasing.

PROPOSERS: Alan Eck rose in support of the bill. He represents the Montana Farm Bureau Federation. (See written testimony, Exhibit #1)

Eric Feaver with the Montana Education Association said his Association supports the resolution vigorously and wholeheartedly, but was not certain that the Legislature supports the resolution. The studies of vo-tech centers have been endless and it has been a major issue. He said he personally does not want to be drug through the wringer, come up with an acceptable compromise, and then discover there isn't any money. Vo-tech Centers cannot be financially supported at the local level and it will require a State commitment. He hopes that the interim study keeps that in mind.

Bill Lannan with the Montana University System rose in support of the resolution. He said they supported the similar resolution that went through six or eight years ago and they would support this one. He hoped that legislation in 1986 would resolve the problem but reminded the Committee that it would be 1988 before results of the study could be implemented.

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There being no further proponents or opponents, Vice-Chairman Eudaily called for questions from the Committee.

Representative Sands asked Representative Harrington that if everyone in Butte voted against the funding of the vo-techs by use of coal tax revenue, what kind of support can be expected for the resolution. Representative Harrington responded by saying that sooner or later a tax increase will be necessary and people may be reluctant to rob one program to pay for another. When questioned again, Rep. Harrington reiterated that it would not necessarily mean a major tax increase, but he has problems doing away with other programs to get the job done.

There being no further questions, Representative Harrington closed the hearing by noting that from the beginning of the session there has been indications of major problems with the vo-tech centers, and the next two years will compound the problems. He hopes that all five centers survive and the programs are not cut to the point that they are no longer viable institutions of learning. The local property taxpayers are having to carry the burden of the vo-tech centers. If Montana is to be an industrial state, the vo-tech centers will be necessary.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION #52: Representative Hammond moved that the resolution DO PASS. Representative Mercer made a second to the motion. In the ensuing discussion, Representative Hannah asked what was to be learned about the vo-techs that has not already been learned by previous studies. Representative Sands said he was against the resolution as the question is whether or not the legislature will provide the money for it and he did not feel any additional information could be gathered. Representative Eudaily referred to the questions by noting on Page 2, Subsection (2) the resolution calls for study of the funding needs and sources and that is the important and critical part. Representative Eudaily said it may not be selected from among the 50 other studies, but he felt there is a problem and it needed to be kept in front of the Legislature. Representative Harrington added that the sub-committee did a very fine job on this issue and greatly improved the bill. If the study does not come up with a solution, the next session will see the same problem before them. He voiced the importance of coming up with something acceptable to all five centers and how the governance is going to work. A voice vote on the motion of DO PASS to H.J.R. #52 showed all in favor with the exceptions of Representatives Hannah and Sands. The motion carried.

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CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #32: Senator Bob Brown, District #2, opened the hearing on this resolution. He explained that it called for an interim study of educational television in Montana. He brought out that some school districts have invested in various types and kinds of equipment and the program lacks coordination so money would not be wasted and the maximum educational benefit could be reached. He referred to Page 2 of the resolution, Lines 4 through 8 which give a purpose to the study and the offices having input. He said there is a limited amount of educational television being broadcast from the University of Montana in Bozeman, but so far that is all. Montana is the only state that has not gone into it on a large scale.

PROPONENTS: Sheila Cates, Library Media Specialist in the Office of Public Instruction testified in favor of the resolution. For her testimony, see Exhibit #2.

Harriett Meloy with the American Association of University Women spoke for the resolution saying they have supported educational television for a number of years. This plan sounds very sensible to bring educational television to Montana. Ms. Meloy said urban schools can benefit greatly as well as all the public.

Hidde VanDuym, Executive Secretary with the Board of Public Education, said the Board supports this resolution and it would make a significant contribution to the Board's accreditation and the professional development of teachers. He said it would alter some of the decisions that are being made now and he was glad the bill was put forth.

Roland Fisher, Vice-President of the Montana Hospital Association, spoke support of the resolution. He said the Montana Hospitals employ 9,000 people throughout the state and there was a certain legal and moral responsibility for their continuing education. For further testimony, See Exhibit #3. He asked that the Hospital Association be included in the study group.

Eric Feaver with the Montana Education Association said they definitely support this resolution and it is hard to believe that there isn't educational t.v. in Montana.

Bill Lannon with the University Systems said there is a need for continuing education as well as a perpetuator to schools and institutions of education, itself. The university systems are involved in television programming of education and feel it is a vital resource.

Brenda Schye, representing the Montana Arts Advocacy, spoke of the practical needs for educational t.v. Over the last four years there have been over 50 different sites in Montana

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that applied for federal grants for their own public television and yet there has been no coordination on the projects, none of them planned statewide coverage, and some areas proposed technologies that were incompatible with each other. Educational television has been around for 30 years and Montana is the only holdout. She said approximately one-fourth of the state has access to public broadcasting signals of some kind and the rest is left out.

Claudette Morton, Liason to County Superintendents in the Office of Public Instruction, said that she was not here to say anything further for the O.P.I., but Dick Trerise with the Montana Association of County Superintendents of Schools asked that she relay their support of the resolution. (See Exhibit #4)

Dave Nelson, Executive Director with the Montana Arts Council, said those few in the state who do receive public television on the cable systems receive a considerable amount of cultural information. In the case of Montana, this kind of information is coming from Utah and the young people in this state are learning a lot about the culture of Utah.

There being no further proponents and no opponents, Chairman Harrington called for questions from the committee. Representative Eudaily had a concern which he addressed to Senator Brown, referring to Page 1, Lines 17-19, as the resolution makes specific reference to schools but there is not mention of including teachers, the M.E.A. or the M.F.T. in the study. The teachers may be more willing to participate if they have a part in its creation, rather than having it forced upon them. Eric Feaver answered the question At Senator Brown's request saying that they definitely would like to be included in the study group. Representative Hannah asked Mr. VanDuyum what he meant by the decision-making being altered if public television were in place. Mr. VanDuyum said he was referring to the gifted and talented programs as it has been a contested issue and the cost of providing the programs may be helped as educational television could be used as a resource rather than employ a full-time teacher or aide. Rep. Hannah asked Senator Brown if satellite access were available all over the state, to which he replied that in his district they receive educational t.v. from Salt Lake and Spokane and he believed other parts of the state also receive it from there. He mentioned a small 1,000 watt station from Williston, North Dakota and Montana state University which broadcasts 50 hours per week and hitchhikes the Salt Lake signal. Representative Hannah wondered if the Salt Lake station were an example of what was wanted in Montana and asked why we did not just provide satellite dishes so that the Salt Lake broadcast can be received, rather than buying all the equipment. Senator Brown said there is something to be said to having a Montana base, but it may be of an

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enormous economic benefit cooperating with the Salt Lake station. Representative Nelson said the KUED signal from Salt Lake is available by satellite in the rural areas and comes into the urban areas by microwave. Representative Schye said that a lot of cable companies do not have educational programming from the PBS stations. It was clarified that those receiving public broadcasting through the satellite systems are getting the signals from the East Coast and there is a three hour delay which may interfere with trying to transmit it to the schools, as pointed out by Representative Harbin.

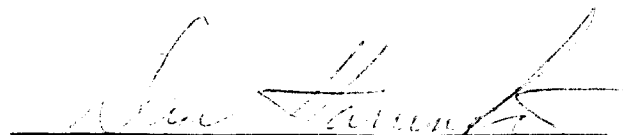
Senator Brown closed the hearing by saying that we should maximize the benefits of television technology in education, especially in rural Montana. This would also include making wise use of the public dollars. Senator Brown said there would be no objection to including the Hospital Association, the ME.A., and the M.F.T. in the resolution.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #32: Representative Hammond moved that the resolution BE CONCURRED IN. Representative Mercer seconded the motion.

Representative Eudaily recommended that the Montana Hospital Association, Montana Education Association, and the Montana Federation of Teachers be added to the resolution as groups from which advice could be gotten. Andi Merrill, Legislative Researcher, suggested that the wording on the amendment refer to major teacher organizations and school administrators. The voice vote on the motion showed that the amendments carried.

On the vote that Senate Joint Resolution BE CONCURRED IN, AS AMENDED, a voice indication showed it carried with Representative Hannah voting against the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.


Rep. Dan Harrington, Chairman

crf

DAILY ROLL CALL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1985

Date 4-10-85

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	✓		
Mel Williams			✓

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 10 19 35

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION Bill No. 32

THIRD reading copy (BLUE)
color

REQUESTING INTERIM STUDY OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION IN MONTANA

Respectfully report as follows: That SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION Bill No. 32

BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Page 2, line 14.
Following: "EDUCATION,"
Insert: "major organizations representing
teachers, school administrators,
school boards, and other educational
personnel, the Montana Hospital
Association,"

AND, AS AMENDED,

BE CONCURRED IN
~~DO PASS~~

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

..... APRIL 10 19 85

MR. SPEAKER

We, your committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

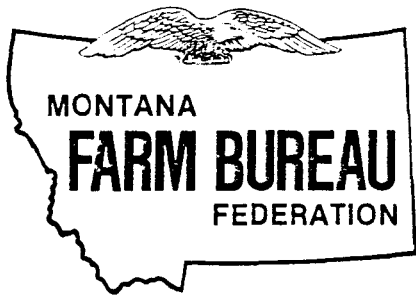
having had under consideration HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION Bill No. 52

FIRST reading copy (WHITE)
color

INTERIM STUDY OF GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING FOR VO-TECHNICAL CENTERS

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION Bill No. 52

DO PASS



502 South 19th

Bozeman, Montana 59715 4-10-85
Phone (406) 587-3153

EXHIBIT 1
H.J.R. #52

TESTIMONY BY: Alan Eck

BILL # HJR-52

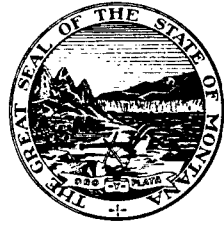
DATE 4/10/85

SUPPORT XXX

OPPOSE _____

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record my name is Alan Eck. I'm representing the Montana Farm Bureau. We would like to go on record as supporting HJR-52. We believe it is important to know how the Montana Vo-Tech system could be improved. We would like to see a "do pass" recommendation on HJR-52. Thank You.

Alan Eck
SIGNED



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STATE CAPITOL
HELENA, MONTANA 59620
(406) 444-3095

Ed Argenbright
Superintendent

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Sheila Cates and I am the Library Media Specialist for the Office of Public Instruction.

We in the Office of Public Instruction are enthusiastic about the potential of educational television for all the students in Montana's schools. From information received from Station KUED in Salt Lake, we know that in 1984, students in 19 Montana school districts were able to receive their ETV programming. That's 19 of 551 districts!

Educational TV programming will not replace a teacher. It will, however, both enhance the teacher's teaching and enrich the curriculum. The programming has specific learning goals and can be adapted to fit a teacher's schedule. Programming for grades K-12 exists in most subject areas: health, career education, science, social studies, math, computers, visual and performing arts, foreign language and language arts. And, of course, there is the pre-school programming we're all familiar with -- Sesame Street and Electric Company -- which does a great deal to promote reading readiness skills, etc. ETV programming is also available for teachers in terms of staff development programs -- sometimes including credit courses.

I can recall a letter we received in the Office from one of our Montana teachers. His school district was interested in acquiring a television set and some video equipment, but the school board would not authorize it since there seemed to be no instructional use for it other than in the athletic program. The teacher was telling us that if cable TV were available, educational programming could be utilized, consequently making the TV of use to all subject areas.

We hear it said over and over that we're an "information society" now. ETV is an essential part of the technologies which make that society. Montana's students and educators, if denied equality of access to ETV, may well be society's new disadvantaged group. We urge your support of SJR 32.

EXHIBIT J

S.J.R. 32

4.10.85

Representative Dan W. Harrington, Chairman, House Education and Cultural Committee:

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Roland Fisher, Vice President of the Montana Hospital Association, appearing today in support of Senate Joint Resolution 32 which requires an interim study of educational television in Montana. Montana hospitals as a major employer in Montana and having legal and moral responsibilities in the area of continuing education for their employees, strongly support this resolution.

Currently 10 Montana hospitals are receiving via satellite signal health education for their employees and communities. In addition, St. Vincent Hospital in Billings has recently obtained a fixed instructional television channel to broadcast educational programs within that community.

I would like consideration of this committee to have hospitals included as a participant in this interim study and suggest that this participation would be freely given and of benefit to the citizens of Montana in terms of health care education.

Thank you for your consideration.

EXHIBIT 4

M.S.J.R.32

4.10.85



Lewis and Clark County

Office of County Superintendent of Schools


HELENA, MONTANA 59601

RICHARD W. TRERISE
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

PHONE 443-1010
EXT. 344

April 8, 1985

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: RICHARD W. TRERISE, MT ASSOC. OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS 

I'm sorry I'm not able to personally attend the hearing to support SJR32.

My association recognizes the value of educational television and would like to see its future potential be explored. The availability of television as an educational resource for all the students of Montana is too great a prospect to be dismissed lightly.

We ask your support of SJR32.

Thank you.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

BILL H.J.R. 52 - Postsecondary Vo-Tech Centers

DATE 4-10-8

SPONSOR Dan Harrington

[illegible]

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

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

VISITOR'S REGISTER

HOUSE EDUCATION & CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

BILL S.J.R. 32 - EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

DATE 4-10-85

SPONSOR Senator Bob Brown

[illegible]

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

WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.