

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATURE

January 22, 1987

The meeting of the Education Subcommittee was called to order by Chairman Dennis Nathe at 9:10 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 1987 in Room 104 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Senator Hammond who was excused. Also present were Dori Nielson and Taryn Purdy of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst office, Norm Rostocki of the Office of Budget and Program Planning, and Deb Thompson, Secretary.

(Continued) OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
(12-1-A)

Judy Johnson discussed the basic skills and special services program that she supervises. She explained that special services was funded by federal money with the exception of two salaries that were paid by general fund. The director of special education and the gifted and talented program are those exceptions. There are growing programs in the gifted and talented area. The Chapter I distribution to public schools are federally funded in the special services program. Chapter II, the block grant, (061) is mainly distributed to the local school districts. She continued to explain the various programs that use federal funds and grants. Flexibility in the use of federal grant money is necessary for spending authority to get the money out to the local districts (155).

Senator Jacobson asked about the new grants and if they were locked into maintenance of effort. Ms. Johnson explained that there was not maintenance of effort on the drug and alcohol money. Representative Peck inquired about the use of Chapter II money. Ms. Johnson replied that the school districts had spent money on equipment, about 50 percent of that on satellite dishes and computers and then spent some on inservice. She mentioned the nationally recognized Whitehall project that bought video equipment and cameras and adapted the cameras to their microscopes. Other grants and programs were discussed.

Dori Nielson explained Chapter I money that was distributed to schools based on low income students census count and on Aid to Dependant Children figures. Grants had to be written to obtain the available funding to serve reading and math remedial needs.

Ray Shackelford mentioned the administrative services area. This program handles accounting, grants, audits from the school district, and data collection. All federal programs and money that the districts are involved with are reported in this office. (449) Monitoring and technical assistance are provided. Transportation and school foods, including surplus commodities and cooperative purchasing are duties of the department.

Ray Shackelford explained the need for contracted services. Vacancy savings was discussed. (12-1-B) Representative Iverson commented on the inconsistencies of vacancy savings between subcommittees. Dori Nielson said that vacancy savings has not been applied to budgets that are formula driven but could be refined.

Chief State School Officer: The issues discussed were the contracts and publications referred to on page E-23 of the analysis (094). The expense of publishing the law book every other year was enacted by legislation. The updated compilation of all the laws is reprinted each biennium.

Basic Skills: This was referred to on page E-36 of the analysis (150). Senator Jacobson questioned the test validation expense. A consultant was hired to design the teacher testing for certification and this was removed from the base. There is a charge for the teacher certification testing and that will be self-sufficient. Other expenditures include computer equipment used for the project and the contracts that are directly attributed to testing.

OPI did not apply for the full available amount of Johnson O'Malley Indian Education money. Two of Montana's reservations channel JOM funds through OPI and make contribution to support the position.

The audio visual library was discussed in regard to the indirect costs. It had been considered as self-supporting in the past but did not provide indirect costs. Taryn Purdy referred to Page E-28 of the analysis that had a revenue and disbursements table for the film library. This gave an indication of prior years income level through the library and what is anticipated in the coming years. (341) Charges for services providing income will not make the library self-sufficient. They do not have the funds to pay the indirect costs.

(2-B) Senator Jacobson asked about the assistant superintendent position in basic skills and if it was vacant. OPI asked to have flexibility to fill that position. Representative Peck suggested to identify needs and fill positions in a priority order (197). Gene Christiaanson said the

office is in a state of flux with the legislature and the status of HB39.

Mr. Shackelford said the use of curriculum specialists varies. Judy Johnson (267) said that the accreditation review team and consultants were the same people. Their technical assistance enabled statewide coordination. Senator Jergeson mentioned duplication. The potential for OPI to be the resource for the school districts was discussed. Representative Peck suggested a change in names for the positions to "facilitators". (386)

The traffic safety education amount represents OPI's share of administrative costs of the traffic safety education account which flows through the school and is administered by OPI. The driver's education funds are federal and go to the school districts for drivers education.

Vocational Education: The Carl Perkins funds that can be used for administration require a 50 percent match of general fund with the exception of sex equity. Funds are provided and the state is required to provide a sex equity position and related costs. Tayrn Purdy explained that current level does not match them with general funds. Norm Rostocki mentioned that Carl Perkins requires maintenance of effort. In Special Session III a law was passed that changed the statute that said the mill and one half at the local level "may" be assessed, to "shall" be assessed. That allowed the Office of Budget and Program Planning to count those funds for general fund as the state support match. Currently HB39 changes the mill levy again from one and one half to three mills. If HB39 goes through intact the match won't be a problem. Current level funds sex equity with full federal funds. The reason the executive budget included 50 percent funding for the sex equity position was for the maintenance of effort.

Gene Christiaanson said when language in SSIII changed the mill levy to a state revenue level there was an agreement that only that portion of the money that was absolutely necessary to meet the maintenance of effort was reported.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for 8:00 a.m., January 23.



DENNIS NATHE, Chairman

DAILY ROLL CALL
EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date 1-22-87

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Dennis Nathe, Chairman	✓		
Sen. Judy Jacobsen, Vice Ch.	✓		
Sen. Swede Hammond			✓
Rep. Dennis Iverson	✓		
Sen. Greg Jergeson	✓		
Rep. Ray Peck	✓		

VISITORS' REGISTER

Education Sub COMMITTEE

BILL NO. _____

DATE 1-22-87

SPONSOR _____

NAME (please print)	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
<i>Cindy Johnson</i>	<i>Bellevue</i>	<i>COI Budget</i>	

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