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

January 16, 1987

The third meeting of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Senator Bob Brown, at 1:03 p.m. in Room 402, State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All committee members were present.

SENATOR BROWN introduced a special quest, SUSAN SHEEHY-MOE, (vita attached, Exhibit #1) Montana Teacher of the Year. She spoke briefly to the committee stating her support for the maximum number of PIR days and addressing the morale problem teachers statewide are facing as more cuts are made in levies, funding from the state, programs, and professional support. She stressed incompetent teachers are not the problem, as there are ways to deal with them. Rather, the indifferent teacher is the largest threat to quality educa-She felt the cutbacks in all phases of education are contributing to apathy and indifference as coping mechanisms. She said there are wonderful things going on in education today, such as gifted and talented programs, Title 9, social work in schools (drug, alcohol, and pregnancy counseling). She urged the committee to support all phases of education as the "only human resource that is not depletable is the human mind".

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 37: SENATOR BENGSTON, District 49, sponsor of the bill, said the bill was introduced at the request of Conrad Stroebe, trustee, Billings School District #1. The bill would determine the number of Class 1 rural district high school trustees using the same taxable valuation amounts that are used to determine tax levies. It would exclude the taxable valuation of any urban renewal tax increment plan from the taxable valuation used to determine the number of outlying trustees for a high school district.

PROPONENTS: CONRAD STROEBE, High School Trustee, Billings, presented a summary of figures used to qualify the one high school trustee for the Billings district. Billings is a Class I district, therefore it has seven elementary trustees automatically on the high school board, and one outlying trustee. He said the bill creates consistency with school

law and is a more equitable way to determine the number of trustees for the high school board.

RICK BARTOS, Office of Public Instruction, stated qualified support for the bill. He pointed out the Windy Boy case has not been fully evaluated in terms of one trustee, one vote. He cautioned the committee and advised them to look at other bills that will be coming in.

OPPONENTS: DAVID HARTMAN, Montana Education Association, presented his testimony to the committee in opposition to the bill (Exhibit #2). He further pointed out urban renewal increment districts do not exist everywhere. The only areas affected are those in larger areas.

There being no further opponents, the hearing was opened to discussion by the committee.

<u>DISCUSSION:</u> SENATOR MAZUREK asked if taxpayers pay on the full taxable value even though the funds are in the tax increment district.

BOB STOCKTON, Office of Public Instruction, replied they do in those areas where tax increment districts exist.

SENATOR NEWMAN pointed out that in ten years when the tax increment district is up, it would go back the other way.

SENATOR SMITH asked if the 45 mill levy is a mandatory school equalization levy, how do some districts get out of paying it?

MR. STOCKTON replied the county attorney can so rule in cases of tax increment districts. He noted Cascade, Missoula, Yellowstone, and Flathead have such districts.

There being no further discussion, SENATOR BENGSTON closed by saying she felt the bill made sense. She told the committee if they want to rewrite the law in regard to Windy Boy, they will have a big job ahead of them. She said this is a fair bill and operates under current law.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5: SENATOR HALLIGAN, District 29, sponsor of the bill, said it is a resolution which would encourage the Board of Regents to grant fee waivers to full-time faculty and staff of the university system. He said with the embarassingly low salaries in our university system and the budget crunch increasing, this resolution at least gives some balance and is a definite "perk" for professors. He pointed out it is a fee waiver, not tuition, and only for professors, their children, and spouses. He said he realizes fee waivers don't need to be expanded, rather, fine tuned. It is intended to give an extra boost to those who are affected by salary cuts.

PROPONENTS: REPRESENTATIVE REAM, District 54, said he is a faculty member of the School of Forestry, University of Montana. He said staff benefits have eroded over the years such as parking, bookstore discounts, etc.. He said Columbia University gives its professors \$5000 for their children to attend school out of state. He said the fee waiver is not a new idea, in fact, it is a common practice in most colleges and universities and does show some appreciation of and to the professors in the system.

MIKE EASTON, Vice President, University of Montana, said he supports the intent of the bill. He said the bill has essentially two parts: first, to offer fee waivers to full-time faculty and staff, which the University of Montana does, and second, to offer fee waivers to the children and spouses of professors. He said he would like to see this happen and estimated this would bring the total cost to \$1,000,000 of the \$3,000,000 Scholarship and Fellowship budget. Currently fee waivers in the staff area run approximately \$37,000. Fee waivers at present total \$760 per individual which does not include tuition.

There being no further proponents and no opponents to the resolution, the meeting was opened for discussion by committee members.

DISCUSSION: SENATOR REGAN said she understood the Board of Regents had voted to abolish fee waivers for everyone but Native Americans.

MR. EASTON said statutory fee waivers were abolished, not the fee waivers addressed in the resolution.

SENATOR REGAN expressed concern about opening up the fee waiver to many other groups.

SENATOR HALLIGAN said that is a definite possibility, but felt the Regents should see to their own.

MR. EASTON noted a full professor in the Montana university system is paid \$6000 below his peers in this region. Nationally the figure is even higher. He felt this resolution is an important recruitment tool.

SENATOR REGAN asked if WICHE-WAMI fees fall in this area.

REPRESENTATIVE REAM, said this is a different fund entirely.

SENATOR HALLIGAN said in closing we have to deal with university funding overall and the Regents need to review their area, but he felt it is necessary for us to direct and encourage them in respect to this subject specifically. He said he wouldn't object to including assistant professors if the committee so desires.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ACTION ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5: SENATOR McCALLUM, asked if this bill will give the university system another \$100,000.

SENATOR REGAN moved SJR 5 DO PASS. She said she understood the Regents wiped out all fee waivers amounting to \$1,000,000. She said this resolution isn't law, it is just a letter encouraging the Regents to take care of their own. It tells the Professors we want to help more than we can. It certainly doesn't hurt and it might help.

SENATOR HAMMOND said he can't vote for this when the education subcommittee cuts funds to the university system, even scholarship monies.

SENATOR BLAYLOCK said he felt salaries \$6000 under peer levels is really ominous. He said the professors are what makes the university system and they need all the help they can get to get good people.

SENATOR SMITH asked if the Regents wiped out all fee waivers, wouldn't they just ignore this?

SENATOR BLAYLOCK replied they are responsible citizens and if they can respond in any way, they will.

SENATOR PINSONEAULT said the Regents have enough trouble, why should we burden them with more. He said although he signed the bill, he may rethink his position. He said he respects the position the Regents are in and even though he was hard on them during the special session, he wants to help if he can.

SENATOR MAZUREK said he is looking for little ways to help the problem. We need to attract good people and if this helps even a little, he failed to see how it could hurt.

SENATOR HAMMOND said he felt if students who live far from the university unit have their waivers abolished and we give the waivers to students right in town, its just not fair.

SENATOR McCALLUM said in ordinary times he would be all for the resolution, but the legislature has been hard on the Regents, telling them to do their duty, and then we send them this. He said he could just hear what they will say out in the public and at the Regents' office.

SENATOR BROWN said he knows of a professor from the University of Montana who moved to Big Fork and took only a very small salary cut. He said they are very low paid and this resolution sends a small signal that someone cares.

SENATOR SMITH said we are not being consistent; if we do it for one, we have to do it for all.

SENATOR REGAN said you can be sure athletic waivers will continue. This just recognizes that the faculty is underpaid and we appreciate them.

SENATOR MAZUREK said even after all the cuts this may be all we can give back. This is the only glimmer there is.

SENATOR FARRELL said university employees aren't the only ones who are underpaid in Montana, all public employees are underpaid.

THE MOTION THAT SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5 DO PASS FAILED ON A ROLL CALL VOTE (Exhibit #4).

ACTION ON SENATE BILL 38: SENATOR BROWN suggested amending the bill to phase in applicability of the law. He said the implications could be pretty significant if it takes effect July 1. He said an amendment to phase in one day per one year might make it more palatable.

SENATOR MAZUREK moved SB 38 DO PASS.

SENATOR HAMMOND said he had talked to several superintendents in the state and they indicated they will all up their PI days as only a few do now.

SENATOR FARRELL wondered if adopting the amendment would be putting 180 days back in.

SENATOR BROWN said this gets everyone back to 180 days. Some are at 183 now and this would phase them back and make it less hurtful.

SENATOR WILLIAMS asked if this is constitutional if you let one school take 182 days but another cannot increase.

SENATOR BROWN said based on that argument, what already exists is unconstitutional.

SENATOR REGAN said she would reluctantly support the bill with a phase-in. She noted Reed Point is paid four times what other districts are paid to have a student in high school.

SENATOR FARRELL noted the Foundation Program only pays about 65%. He said those extra days aren't totally a free gift.

SENATOR MAZUREK WITHDREW THE MOTION.

SENATOR BROWN said the committee will take further action when there is an amendment ready for consideration.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 39: SENATOR WILLIAMS asked the committee to consider SB 38 and 39 together.

SENATOR BROWN said he felt he had bent over backwards to accomodate him, however, he would let the committee decide how to proceed.

SENATOR REGAN felt two days would not make that much difference at this point.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL 37:

SENATOR MAZUREK said the bill is totally unfair. Segregating out the tax increment district and pretending it doesn't exist is fundamentally unfair.

SENATOR McCALLUM said in very rural areas a few people own land with very high valuations. He knew of a case where three trustees represented a very small number of people.

SENATOR MAZUREK said the bill only applies in Billings, Kalispell, Great Falls, and Missoula where they have tax increment districts. He said taking the tax increment districts out of the district valuation only takes the base value out for ten years. When it pays off, it bounces back up.

The committee decided to postpone further discusssion unit1 the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Senator Bob Brown, Chairman

ROLL CALL

SENATE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

50th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1987

Date 1/16/87

NAME .	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR BOB BROWN	V		
SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK	>,		
SENATOR GEORGE McCALLUM	V		
SENATOR ED SMITH	/		
SENATOR PAT REGAN	. V	-	
SENATOR JOE MAZUREK	/		
SENATOR BILL FARRELL	V		
SENATOR TED NEUMAN	į.		
SENATOR DICK PINSONEAULT	/		
SENATOR SWEDE HAMMOND	V		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE Augustion COMMITTEE

DATE 1/16/87 BILLSB 37 STR5 VISITORS' REGISTER Please note bill no. (check one) BILL # SUPPORT OPPOS REPRESENTING NAME

GUEST FROM DOWN UNDER

Australian teacher proves what friendship is about

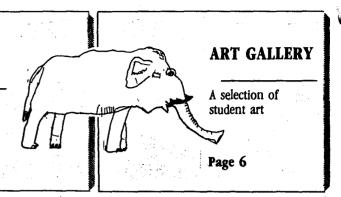
Page 3



CONSTITUTION BICENTENNIAL

Writing competition is "a civics lesson for all of us"

Page 4



WINTER 1986

VOLUME 30, NO. 2

Montana Schools

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Ed Argenbright, Superintendent



Mary Moe, Montana Teacher of the Year 1987.

Teacher of the Year

Mary Moe—a challenging and dedicated teacher with a sense of humor—has earned the bonor of her colleagues.

Columbia Falls High School English teacher, Mary Sheehy Moe, admits that she was not what one would call a model high school student. She was bright and energetic but rebellious and without a sense of constructive paths to success. The turning point came when her parents attended a school meeting, and Mary was on the agenda.

"The good news was that I had finally turned in an English assignment," Moe recalls. "The bad news was that it was a short story vividly portraying the murder of my English teacher."

Today Moe jokes with her own students that, after being a "crummy adolescent," she has come back to high school as a teacher, this time "to get it right" in a career she feels was inevitable. That she has "got it right" is a certainty for her students, colleagues, the community she serves and, now, her fellow educators across the state.

Mary Sheehy Moe is Montana's Teacher of the Year 1987. She is the state's candidate for National Teacher of the Year, a program cosponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the Encyclopaedia Britannica Cornoration.

Helping her students assume responsibility for their own lifelong education is a priority in Moe's teaching philosophy, one she attributes to her own upbringing. "My parents believed and showed me through their example that one

person can make a difference," she said. "They believed that you were not put on this earth simply to better your own situation. You had something to contribute to others and a duty to do so."

She also is deeply committed to the subject she teaches. She believes that through their ability with language, students will improve their professional and personal lives and, through their understanding of the words of others, they will find identity and self-worth.

"I have the most important job in America. I teach English," she said. "I help students become total human beings who can have some control over the events in their lives because of their ability to use language."

"I may teach A Man For All Seasons until I'm crabbed with age. It is not the freshness of the material that is crucial, but the novelty of the response. If the material is provocative, in the better sense of the word, then the response will be ever new, and my students will not allow me to be an automaton going through familiar motions. They will make me think and grow, just as they are thinking and growing."

"Mrs. Moe is not an easy teacher," comments Michele Archie, a former student. "Her students appreciate the challenge she offers them and the level of performance she demands of herself and them."

continued next page

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



With a difficult election behind us and an uneasy feeling about the upcoming legislative session, I would like to focus on a few of the good things happening in education. This issue of *Montana Schools* spotlights Montana's

This issue of Montana Schools spotlights Montana's Teacher of the Year, Mary Moe. Mrs. Moe, an English teacher at Columbia Falls High School, and runners-up Ron Conrad of Dawson County High School, Glendive, and Roger Larsen of Glasgow High School are fine examples of the thousands of excellent teachers in our state. Many times we forget that the real business of education is done in the classroom, between teacher and students.

An excellent conference this fall highlighted business-school partnerships. In these trying times, such partnerships can make a difference for schools, and local business are interested in helping. As a result of this conference, General Motors will supply new engines for classroom use at secondary and vo-tech levels. This will be of special assistance to the Helena, Billings and Butte vo-tech centers, which provide training to auto dealers in their cities.

We currently are examining the possibility of establishing satellite demonstration sites whereby Montana schools, isolated as they may be, can receive national in struction programs through these telecommunication downlinks. More about this as work progresses.

We often use the media to focus on the outstanding performance of Montana students, who consistently score above average on national achievement exams. No matter how tough times may seem, we and others should be reminded about the excellent things happening in our schools.

All that good news aside, declining revenues have forced the Governor to impose a two percent reduction in the state budget. The share for elementary, secondary and vocational education will be about \$919,000, including \$537,000 in special education, \$160,000 from the vo-tech centers, and varying amounts for special education contingency, gifted and talented programs, pupil transportation and the OPI budget. The budget reduction in our office has meant further reorganization and elimination of administrative costs. One assistant superintendent position has been eliminated, and we have created the Department of Educational Services, which comprises the Basic Skills and Special Services staff and services.

As a special legislative committee looks at school funding and efficiency, committee members are learning more about the complexities of accreditation standards, the funding system, consolidation and retirement programs. The committee held a public hearing early this month, but results were not available when we went to press.

Our preparation for the upcoming legislative session concentrates on school finance reform to ensure that Montana schools continue to be able to provide the services Montanans want for their students. Funding is a basic responsibility of our legislature.

Allegroben —Ed Argenbright State Superintendent

Teacher of the Year, cont.

Colleagues agree that Moe's teaching is challenging. "She provides her students with a remarkable degree of motivation and personal responsibility," said Sonia Tetlie, counselor at Columbia Falls High School. Howard Hunter believes Moe's inspiration is not inclusively for students, but also makes him more accountable in his job as a member of the district's board of trustees. "I appreciate her willingness to challenge me and demand that I grow in my own understanding of the education process," he said. He is impressed by Moe's dedication to provide the best possible education for the students of the district and her willingness to make the personal sacrifices necessary to achieve that goal.

Moe grew up in Billings and received her degree from the University of Montana. She has taught for 14 years, nine of them at Columbia Falls, where she has been a speech and drama advisor, coach in nearly every girls sport, English curriculum coordinator and Student Council advisor. As chair of the English department, she was instrumental in adding an advanced placement program and convinced her colleagues that writing in the content areas should be a department priority

A curricular unit of her own creation, "Controversy in the

Classroom," has helped students develop the language skills needed in interpersonal communications, research, argumentation and writing style while analyzing current issues and controversies.

She has been president of the local affiliate of the Montana Education Association and has served on the Columbia Falls Local Government Study Commission and other community groups. She often is called upon to speak for the school and community, and her wit and eloquence have proved to be a morale booster in the demanding profession of teaching. Twice the high school students have asked her to be their commencement speaker.

The honor of being Montana Teacher of the Year has been great for the Columbia Falls community, Moe says, and a boost to other teachers at the high school. The student and teacher recommendations written for her nomination meant a great deal to her and reinforced her belief that professionalism should be honored.

She personally would rather have the responsibilities of being a teacher advocate rather than the award. "All teachers, especially retiring teachers, should get this kind of feedback."







Roger Larsen

TOY Runners-Up

Ron Conrad, English, speech and drama teacher at Dawson County High School in Glendive, is first runner-up Teacher of the Year.

Conrad's colleagues and students agree that he is an "extra mile" teacher who goes out of his way to help all of his students succeed. "Ron leaves his mark on young people," said fellow Dawson teacher, Mick Weist, who now teaches in Cody, Wyoming. "He understands how students learn and how to reach them educationally. More important, he treats them with respect and understanding. He is an unforgettable teacher."

Conrad has taught at Dawson County High since 1976, after teaching in Wibaux and Anamoose, North Dakota. He has chaired the school's English department for the past five years and has served on various curriculum committees and

community organizations. As drama coach, he has helped Dawson's forensics team win honors year after year, including three state championships.

Conrad's compassion for young people extends beyond academics through his work as co-advisor of the Rainbow Connection, a student drug and alcohol abuse prevention group, and membership in CORE, teachers who work with students with drug or alcohol problems.

"I enjoy teaching, and I want the students to enjoy being taught," Conrad said. "Student interest can be established by an atmosphere of excitement, teacher enthusiasm, energy and a pleasant approach to each experience. Curiosity should be encouraged by creative teaching, not wasted on busywork."

Ryan Conrad, a 9th grader at Dawson, pays his father the

MONTANA SCHOOLS

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Marilyn Miller
Executive Asst. to
the Superintendent

Ellen Meloy
Public Information

Lori Clark Typesetting



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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

January 12, 1987

INTRODUCING

MARY MOE

MONTANA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 1987

Teaches English at Columbia Falls High School -- 9 years

Received her degree from the University of Montana, has taught for 14 years

Has been speech and drama advisor, coach in nearly every girls sport,

English curriculum coordinator, Student Council advisor

Chairs English department, was instrumental in adding advanced placement

Has been president of local MEA unit, has served on Columbia Falls

Local Government Study Commission

SENATE BILL 37

TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF CLASS 1
RURAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL TRUSTEES
USING THE SAME "TAXABLE VALUATION"
AMOUNTS THAT ARE USED TO DETERMINE
"TAX LEVIES AND STATE EQUALIZATION"

12-7-86

To:

Conrad Stroebe

From:

Re:

Number of high school trustees

The following calculations are based upon MCR 20-3-352.

Billings Elementary taxable value

\$147,608,751

Number of trustees

7

Taxable value per elem. trustee

\$21,086,964

Taxable value High School district less T.V. of Elementary district

\$178,951,049 \$147,608,751

T.V. of High School without

\$31,342,298

representation Taxable value of the high school district without representation divided by the taxable value per elementary trustee

31,342,298/21,086,964 =

1.486

Rounded to the nearest whole number

1

Conrad, it looks as if the outlying elementary districts would not qualify for an additional high school trustee.

AC DE POSTON KNREN DOCKEN

SB 37

WITHOUT TID

\$ 135,676,

31,342,298

1.617

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Montana Education Association 1232 East Sixth Avenue • Helena • Montana 59601 • 406-442-4250

SENATE BILL 37

TO REVISE METHOD OF DETERMINING NUMBER OF TRUSTEES FOR HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Before: Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

January 16, 1987

Testimony on behalf of Montana Education Association

Dave Hartman, Executive Secretary

With all respect to Senator Bengston, MEA must speak in opposition to SB 37. Section 20-3-352 MCA, and the amendment to that section contained in Senate Bill 37, base the number of high school district trustee positions upon taxable valuation.

The use of taxable valuation to determine representation on a high school board of trustees, regardless of whether or not urban renewal tax increment plans are excluded from the calculation of taxable valuation, flies in the face of the principle of one person-one vote protected by the Montana Constitution at Article II, Section 4: "The dignity of the human being is inviolable. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws..." (Emphasis supplied.)

The use of taxable valuation to determine trustee representation, rather than the number of registered voters to be served by each trustee, has produced disparities in representation which are an affront to the one person-one vote principle.

This disparity is illustrated by an examination of the ratio of trustees to registered voters in Lewis & Clark High School District #1. Using 1984 registered voter information, we find that:

Helena Elementary District #1 has 3 trustees representing a total of 16,014 registered voters, or a ratio of 1 trustee per 3,203 registered voters.

Nominee Area #1 has 1 trustee representing 1,956 registered voters.

Nominee Area #2 has 1 trustee representing 2,596 registered voters.

Nominee Area #3 has 1 trustee representing 2,037 registered voters.

-continued-

Senate Bill 37 MEA testimony January 16, 1987 Page Two

You will note from the above that a trustee from Helena represents almost 64% more registered voters than a trustee from Nominee Area #1.

It should also be noted that 20-3-356 MCA, which addresses trustees of county high school districts, is also at odds with the principle of one person-one vote. Here, representation on county high school boards of trustees is based upon elementary school districts.

Like the system in 20-3-352 MCA, the system established for trustee representation on county high school districts produces considerable disparities in the ratio of trustees to registered voters.

The extent of this disparity is illustrated in Dawson County High School District based upon 1984 registered voter information. Here we find:

Elementary District No. 1, Glendive, has 4 trustees representing a total of 4,750 registered voters, or a ratio of 1 trustee per 1,188 registered voters.

Elementary Districts No. 3 and 7 (Deer Creek and part of Savage Elementary) have 1 trustee representing 289 registered voters.

Elementary District No. 10 (Amo school) has 1 trustee representing 116 registered voters.

Elementary District No. 36 and 37 (Lindsay and Union schools) have 1 trustee representing 198 registered voters.

You will note from the above that a trustee from Glendive represents over 10 times as many registered voters as a trustee from Elementary District No. 10.

MEA urges a "Do Not Pass" recommendation on Senate Bill 37 and constructive legislative attention to remedy the violation of the principle of one person-one vote contained in 20-3-352 MCA, and 20-3-356 MCA.

Thank you.

ROLL CALL VOTE

SENATE COMMITTEE EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

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SENATOR ED SMITH		V
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