

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By Rep. Peck, on January 11, 1989, at 8:00
a.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Keith Wolcott, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Sandy Whitney, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Joe Williams, Budget Analyst, OBPP
Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: Rep. Peck informed the Subcommittee that in view of the action that the Full Appropriation's Committee took in the Tuesday meeting which abolishes vacancy savings and requires that line item for personal services will be in the budget so there will be no transfers out of that category, this will change the Subcommittee's agenda. The School for the Deaf and Blind has two positions and will have to justify it before the Subcommittee can take executive action on it.

Tape F\1:000

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group They Represent:

Claudette Morton, Board of Public Education
Mr. Butch Weedon, Director Fire Service Training School,
Great Falls, Mt.

Presentation and Opening Statement:

Claudette Morton, gave an account of the Board of Regents stand on the Fire Service Training School. She was surprised to find that FSTS was part of the program, but commented it is a vital part of Montana and is truly an educational agency even though it is as small as it is. They provide a unique and important service for pre training for beginning volunteer firemen as well as additional training for people wanting to learn more about it. Ms. Morton stated it is a real

educational support for 7200 volunteer firemen and 400 professionals throughout the state of Montana and encouraged the Subcommittee to support the budget request. Ms. Morton stated THAT the Board of Regents and OPI have spent the last 2 years visiting about this issue, after Legislature turned the Vo-Techs over to Board of Regents, she stated that perhaps they should be dealing with everything from the 12th grade and down and the Board of Regents should be dealing with everything above the 12th grade. Ms. Morton commented this is a professional training program and certainly fits more into their area, either as an extension service or Vo-Ed. The Board of Regents did agree to take it, she was told by a audit report 4 years ago that this program was inappropriate in OPI because the board does not have the resources to adequately support them and account for their needs. Ms. Morton stated the Vo-Tech is the best place for them and the board does believe it is a better home for them, but it does not mean they do not need their budget.

- Mr. Butch Weedon, Director of Fire Service Training School, Great Falls, Mt., opened by addressing the different levels of their funding needs: 1) Staff working without pay, 2) Material and supplies, 3) Need budget for a vehicle, and 4) Need more space for FSTS. The current level budget provides a 1.0 percent decrease from the 1989 to the 1991 biennium. Personal services increased by 1.4 percent. This reduction includes removing a \$6,500 federal grant for training in handling hazardous and supplies purchased with a transfer from personal services. Increases in operating expenses include \$804 to the Dept. of Administration for computer processing and network and \$527 for insurance.
- Mr. Weedon stated it is not in the LFA or executive budget for the examination of Volunteer firemen or the evaluators. They need to compensate the staff when working weekends and holding seminars. Mr. Weedon commented they have issued 1700 professional certificates to Montana Fire Service personnel and have double the man hours spent in training. They had a record second quarter for the resource center the end of calendar year 1988. Mr. Weedon stated they have received national accreditation for their professional service program.
- Mr. Weedon addressing current level issues that present problems for them in the budget: 1) Vacancy Savings, they have had to sign previous personnel off to gain enough operating fund to provide programs. Have had

staff members take time off without pay, 2) Material and Supplies, LFA recommendation is to reduce current level by \$2,000, and have had the opportunity before to request money through the federal government that requires the visible amount of the \$2,000 and hoped we would use the Governor's budget for the material and supplies, 3) Travel is \$2,800, and the current level calls for \$9,700. Mr. Weedon stated they were not able to spend it for travel because they had to use it for costs in other operations. 4) Vehicle, they need one replaced and one repaired. They do not have enough to compensate in the budget in both LFA and the Governor's budget. 5) Space. It was written in the appropriation's bill in 1979 that the FSTS would be provided space at the Great Falls Vo-Tech, the rent and utility money would come out of their budget and simply be placed in the Vo-Tech budget, but he thought that it came out of FSTS budget. The Vo-Tech is funded on a square foot per basis.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

Tape F/2:393

Rep. Peck stated the Subcommittee was receiving a sheet for Executive Action on the Vo-ed Advisory Council. He stated the Director spoke to him and was concerned the Subcommittee was critical of the 2.5 FTE and wanted to assure the Subcommittee that if there was a decrease in federal funds, that would be the first position to go.

Disposition of Montana Advisory Council for Vo-Ed

Keith Wolcott distributed a handout which presented the LFA and Executive comparison and then explained it stating the LFA would like to do the base before the modifications. See Exhibit #1.

Rep. Peck asked Mr. Wolcott if he wanted the Subcommittee to make a motion to adopt either the current level or the executive and then consider those issues and mod's that follow? Mr. Wolcott replied that would be best to keep them separate.

(508)

Rep. Peck stated a motion would be in order for Issue 1 whether the Subcommittee wanted to grant the \$900 charge for the telecommunications subscription or not.

Sen. Jacobson commented to Rep. Peck that the Subcommittee should first adopt the LFA current level and then go through the issues one by one.

Motion: Sen. Jacobson moved the LFA current level expenses at \$126,672 for FY 90 and \$123,284 for FY 91.

(536)

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: Sen. Nathe called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

(543)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider Issue 1: Ad-Voc Subscription which states the executive budget includes \$300 for system maintenance and \$600 for on-line charges each year for the Ad-Voc telecommunications subscription service that are not in current level.

Motion: Sen. Jacobson moved to adopt Issue #1.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The question was called by Sen. Nathe. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

(585)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider Issue 2: Travel which states the Executive office reduced out-of-state travel by \$1,725 each year of the biennium while the LFA includes the agency requested level. Rep. Peck stated if the Subcommittee did not act on it, the out-of-state travel would be removed as a result of the Subcommittee's first motion.

(600)

There were no motions. Rep. Peck went to Issue 3: Office Space Lease which states the Executive office reduced the space rent by \$1,280 each year while the current level includes rent at the agency requested level. Discussion followed.

Motion: Sen. Hammond moved to take \$1,280 in rent out of the agency budget.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: Sen. Nathe called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

(629)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider the modified level, person services, Issue 4: 0.50 FTE Secretary which states the executive includes a 0.50 FTE secretarial position costing \$7,976 in fiscal 1990 and \$7,981 in fiscal 1991 that is not in current level. This position was added by budget amendment in fiscal 1989 using federal funds. He further stated if the Committee wanted to provide the secretarial position, the Committee would have to make a motion to include

the 0.50 secretarial position.

(643)

Motion: Sen. Hammond moved to include the 0.50 FTE secretarial position for the agency. Discussion followed with Rep. Peck requesting the Subcommittee to incorporate in the narrative that this is conditional upon the dollars arriving at the level to fund this properly.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: Sen. Nathe called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

(688)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider, under Appropriation Committee Policy, Issue #5: Vacancy Savings which states the executive budget includes vacancy savings at 2 percent compared with 4 percent in the current level. This difference amounts to \$1,296 more costs in fiscal 1990 and \$1,300 more in fiscal 1991 in the executive budget. Total vacancy savings in LFA current level is \$2,592 in fiscal 1990 and \$2,600 in fiscal 1991. Discussion followed.

Tape G/1:000

Rep. Kadas stated in terms of the Subcommittee's procedure on Issue #5, the procedure is that the vacancy savings has been taken out and the Subcommittee does not take action with Rep. Peck agreeing. Rep. Peck stated the instruction from the full House Appropriation Committee will apply in all cases and the staff will be reminded to take the necessary action to restore it.

(180)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee for a motion to adopt the budget as amended.

Motion: Rep. Kadas moved to adopt the budget as amended.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: Sen. Nathe called the question. The motion CARRIED unanimously. Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Boylan were absent.

Disposition of Board of Public Education

(206)

Sandra Whitney, Assistant Analyst, distributed a Legislative Action information sheet and stated she would like to follow the same procedure as the previous one. The motion on current level first, then consideration of the current level issues and then the modified issues. See Exhibit #3.

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider the current level of the Board of Public Education which is \$105,360 in FY '90 and \$103,076 in FY '91.

Motion: Sen. Nathe moved to adopt the LFA current level for FY '90 and FY '91 with figures of \$105,360 and \$103,076.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The question was called by Sen. Hammond. The motion CARRIED unanimously. Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Boylan were absent.

(228)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider Issue #1: Personal Services which states the executive budget includes an upgrade of \$1,736 in fiscal 1990 and \$1,742 in fiscal 1991 which is not included in current level. Discussion followed with a need of clarification of the executive budget which included the upgrade for the administrative assistant but did not include the agency request for the executive director. While this was being done, Rep. Peck proceeded to Issue #2.

(250)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider Issue #2: Legal Fees which states the executive has budgeted \$1,000 less than the agency request each year for the Underfunded School lawsuit, while current level includes the agency request. He further stated the \$1,000 for the legal fees are in based on the first motion the Committee adopted and to be removed, it would take a motion to do so. Discussion followed.

Motion: Rep. Marks moved to delete the \$1,000.00 from the budget for the Underfunded School lawsuit. Discussion followed.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The question was called by Sen. Hammond. The motion CARRIED unanimously. Sen. Boylan was absent.

Sandra Whitney referred back to Issue #1 stating the budget office was correct. There were no upgrades included in the personal services and was a modification request which will be discussed in the modified issues.

(370)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider Issue #3: Audit Fees which states there were expenditures of \$2,428 from the audit appropriation for operations in fiscal 1988. These were included in the executive budget but not current level. The audit fees are a line item

budget which must be spent only for audits. Discussion followed with Ms. Whitney asking the Subcommittee to look under Board of Education, the audit appropriation of \$18,496, shows it was expended and Joe Williams explained it suggesting that the amount of \$2,428 under audit fees excluded is money that is actually operational expenditures and should be restored to the audit area. Ms. Whitney stated the net result is that current level backed that amount of money out of the base and it would take action from the Subcommittee to put that money back into the base or they would lose it.

Motion: Sen. Nathe moved to reinsert the \$2,428 back into the base for the Board of Public Education that was backed out inadvertently to the audit area.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The question was called by Rep. Marks. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

(469)

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider modified level, Issue #4: Board Meetings which states the executive budget has included an additional \$2,000 per year in per diem for two additional board meetings. Discussion followed which included a handout from Keith Wolcott. See Exhibit #4. Joe Williams stated that Issue #4 and Issue #5 are the same modified. The \$13,980 on Issue #5 includes \$2,000 of per diem and includes \$2,968 of travel.

Tape G/2:035

Keith Wolcott concluded with clarification stating if the Subcommittee would like to cover one issue to ignore Issue #4 and go to Issue #5 which will cover the entire amount listed.

Motion: Jacobson moved to adopt Issue #5 in the amount of \$13,980 which includes all the items down to the total of Exhibit #4.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The question was called by Rep. Kadas. The motion FAILED.

(109)

Motion: Sen. Nathe moved the \$2,000 expenses covered for the National Teachers examination of Montana examinees be inserted for both years of the biennium.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The question was called by Rep. Marks. The motion CARRIED unanimously.

Motion: Rep. Kadas moved the Subcommittee add in one additional meeting and allow \$1,000 a year per diem and \$1,500 per year for travel.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The question was called by Sen. Nathe. The motion CARRIED. Rep. Marks voted no.

(157)

There was no motion regarding the \$7,000 for the National Association of State Board of Education dues.

Rep. Peck asked the Subcommittee to consider Issue #6: Montana Project Excellence Implementation which states the executive budget includes \$5,609 in fiscal 1990 only. These funds would be used as a match to secure a grant which would be used to ensure successful implementation of Project Excellence. Discussion followed.

Motion: Sen. Nathe moved the Board of Public Education be allowed \$5,600 to develop the Project Excellence implementation, \$1,600 which will be base money to use in a search for grants and the other \$4,000 is available on a dollar per dollar match. Discussion followed.

(257)

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: Rep. Kadas called the question. Rep. Peck requested a roll call vote. The motion CARRIED. Sen. Hammond, Sen. Boylan and Rep. Marks voted no.

Motion: Sen. Jacobson moved to adopt the LFA current level funding figures as amended.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The motion CARRIED unanimously.

(331)

Motion: Sen. Jacobson moved to adopt the budget as amended.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The motion CARRIED unanimously. Sen. Hammond, Rep. Marks and Sen. Boylan voted no.

(343)

Motion: Sen. Jacobson moved to adopt the funding level for the Montana Advisory Council for Vo-ed as amended.

Amendments, Discussions, and Votes: The motion CARRIED

unanimously.

There being no further business the Subcommittee was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 11:20 a.m.


Rep. Ray Peck, Chairman

RP/cj

0921.min

DAILY ROLL CALL

EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE

Jan 11, 1989

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
REP. RAY PECK, CHAIRMAN	✓		
SEN. SWEDE HAMMOND, VICE CHAIRMAN	✓		
SEN. PAUL BOYLAN	✓		
SEN. JUDY JACOBSON	✓		
REP. MIKE KADAS	✓		
REP. BOB MARKS	✓		
SEN. DENNIS NATHE			

VISITOR'S REGISTER

SUBCOMMITTEE

AGENCY(S)

Education

DATE

1-11-88

DEPARTMENT

Fire Training

NAME	REPRESENTING	SUP-PORT	OP-POSE
Betch Weedon	FSTS-Budget	X	
Paul Laisy	FSTS - Budget	X	
Tom McIsaac	Belgrade City - Rural Fire	X	
John JARRETT	Belgrade Fire Dept	X	
Lyle Nagel	Mt. St. Val. Firefighter Assn	X	
Claudette Morton	Board of Public Ed - FSTS	X	
Vern Erickson	Mt State Fireman's ^{assoc}	X	
Charles H. Gibson	Mt State Fire Chief ^{Assoc}	X	
Ray Mahugh	Elkton Co. Assn of FF's		
Bill Weber	Roe Vol Fire Co Chief	X	
Alan Nichols	Bl of Public Ed	X	

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT.
 IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN COMMENTS, PLEASE GIVE A COPY TO THE SECRETARY.

ROLL CALL VOTE

EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE Jan 11, 1989 AGENCY Board of Public Ed. NUMBER

NAME	AYE	NAY
REP. RAY PECK, CHAIRMAN	✓	
SEN. SWEDE HAMMOND, VICE CHAIRMAN		✓
SEN. PAUL BOYLAN		✓
SEN. JUDY JACOBSON	✓	
REP. MIKE KADAS	✓	
REP. BOB MARKS		✓
SEN. DENNIS NATHE	✓	

TALLY 4 3

Celencia Johnson

 Secretary

 Chairman

Motion: Sen. Nathe made the motion for the Board of Public Education to be allowed \$5,600 to develop Project Excellence implementation, \$1,600 to be used as base money to search for gra \$4,000 to be available on a dollar per dollar match. The motion CARRIED 4/3.