

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 52nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By SENATOR CHET BLAYLOCK, on January 9, 1991, at 1:00 P. M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Chet Blaylock, Chairman (D)
Harry Fritz, Vice Chairman (D)
Robert Brown (R)
H.W. Hammond (R)
Dennis Nathe (R)
Dick Pinsoneault (D)
Mignon Waterman (D)
Bill Yellowtail (D)

Members Excused: Bill Farrell

Staff Present: Eddy McClure (Legislative Council).

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Announcements/Discussion: Senator Blaylock welcomed members of committee and thanked them for serving on the Education Committee. He also introduced Eddy McClure, Staff Assistant from the Legislative Council and Betsy Clark, Secretary.

The chairman announced that three bills would be heard on Friday, January 11, 1991. They are: SB 17 introduced by Senator Blaylock came out of the Interim Committee which was set up on the implementation of HB 28 and generally revises school laws to conform with school funding reforms. The chairman said SB 17 was suggesting that the committee change the emergency provisions of the budget and go to budget amendment.

SB 29 introduced by Senator Devlin would require the term of service for a school trustee to begin July 1.

SB 32 introduced by Senator Keating would amend the constitution to revise legislative mandate from equality of education to education opportunity.

There was a discussion led by Senator Blaylock regarding the method of handling proxy voting.

It was unanimously agreed upon by members of committee that any absent committee member will be allowed to vote by proxy in advance of the committee meeting. This proxy must be in writing and a form will be provided. If the committee amends the bill making serious changes or if the bill is controversial, the written proxy vote will not be considered nor counted and voting will be left open for a period of 24 hours. Any bills that are controversial will be held and no action will be taken the same day of hearing.

Senator Yellowtail asked if it would be possible for the Department of Public Instruction to present information to the committee regarding HB 28. Eddy McClure said that possibly the week of January 14, the Legislative Council will be inviting the Office of Public Instruction, the Division of Workers' Compensation and other interested groups to participate in informative presentations to legislative committees.

Senator Blaylock then announced that interested members of committee would go to Central School where they had been invited to view a Montessori classroom in progress.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 1:45 P.M.


SENATOR CHET/BLAYLOCK, Chairman


BETSY CLARK, Secretary

CB/bc