

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
55th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By CHAIRMAN ROYAL C. JOHNSON, on January 20,  
1997, at 8:08 AM, in room 312-2 at the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Royal C. Johnson, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Daryl Toews, Vice-Chairman (R)  
Rep. Don Holland (R)  
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)  
Sen. Ken Miller (R)  
Rep. Ray Peck (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Bob Tallerico, Legislative Fiscal Division  
Connie Jacobs, Committee Secretary

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: Office of Public Instruction,  
K-12, Base Aid, School  
Facilities Reimbursement,  
1/17/97.

Executive Action: None.

HEARING ON THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

CHAIRMAN ROYAL C. JOHNSON called the meeting to order and welcomed members from the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). Mr. Jim Standaert, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, presented information on school district general fund budgets.

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT B

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-13; Comments: .}

Ms. Nancy Keenan, State Superintendent of Schools, spoke of school finance trends versus cost per child trends. Ms. Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Office of Public Instruction (OPI),

discussed school general fund budgets related to property tax increases.

## EXHIBIT C

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 13-25; Comments: .}

Questions from the committee.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 25-30 ; Comments: .}

Questions from the committee, continued.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1-8; Comments: .}

**Ms. Loren Frazier and Mr. Conrad Robertson, of School Administrators of Montana (SAM)**, described that in poor school districts the cost of education per student is rising - primarily from declining enrollment, which causes less state funding, which causes an increase in local taxes. **Mr. Steve Johnson, Bozeman SAM**, elaborated on the inequity of funding between school districts.

## EXHIBIT D

## EXHIBIT E

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 9-28; Comments: .}

**Mr. Jay Erdie, Superintendent of Roundup Schools, Ms. Rosalie Buzzas, and Mr. Pat Cainin, Missoula County Public Schools Trustees**, stressed the need for appropriations to be allocated through the biennium, and not at the end of the biennium. **Ms. Rosemary Harrison, Missoula County Public Schools, and Mr. Larry Blades (SAM)**, concurred.

## EXHIBIT F

## EXHIBIT G

## EXHIBIT H

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-26; Comments: .}

**Mr. Tom Bilodeau, Montana Education Association**, spoke in favor of increasing the maximum state aid level by 4 percent.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 26-30 ; Comments: .}

Questions from the committee.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1-30; Comments: .}

Questions from the committee, continued.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-6; Comments: .}

**Mr. Robert Runkel, Special Education Administrator, Office of Public Instruction**, discussed special education within the state public school system.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 6-21; Comments: .}

Questions from the committee.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 21-30; Comments: .}

Questions from the committee, continued.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1-21; Comments: .}

**Mr. Bob Tallerico, Legislative Fiscal Analyst**, discussed issues with the property reappraisal, on page E-14, followed by questions and discussion by committee members.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 20-30; Comments: .}

**Mr. Tallerico** presented issues with base aid schedules, on page E-16, and school facility reimbursement payments on page E-18, followed by questions and comments by the committee.

EXHIBIT I


{Tape: 4; Side: A; Approx. Time Count: 1-30; Comments: .}

**Ms. Keenan** discussed how much of the present school funding has shifted to the taxpayer. Questions and comments from the committee followed.

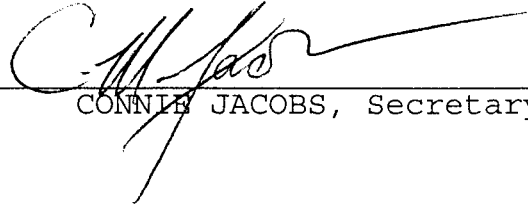
{Tape: 4; Side: B; Approx. Time Count: 1-10; Comments: .}

ADJOURNMENT

**Adjournment:** This meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.



REP. ROYAL C. JOHNSON, Chairman



CONNIE JACOBS, Secretary

RCJ/cj

Note: This meeting was recorded on four (4) 60 minute tapes.