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House BILL NO. 277

*Jan Furdle*

INTRODUCED BY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE TRUSTEES OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ADOPT POLICIES WITH REGARD TO SITE-BASED MANAGEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS OF THE DISTRICT AND TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL FOR EACH SCHOOL OF THE DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

WHEREAS, a growing number of state and national school reform efforts have recommended site-based management of the schools within a school district as an essential vehicle for improving the public school systems in Montana and the nation; and

WHEREAS, site-based management of schools can provide members of the school community and the community at large with a constructive means of working within local school board policy and authority to improve the learning environment for and academic achievements of students in individual schools; and

WHEREAS, positive experiences with site-based management of schools could result in community trust and expertise in the process of managing individual schools that may be part of a large school district or of managing individual schools that may be merged into another school district; and

WHEREAS, over time, local school councils may contribute to a reduction in certain administrative functions, with the possibility of reinvesting any resulting cost savings in classrooms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Local school councils -- purpose -- membership -- duties. (1) By September 30 of a school fiscal year, the trustees of a school district shall:

(a) adopt policies for site-based management of the individual schools of the district, including but not limited to policies on membership terms for a local school council and on conduct of local school council meetings; and

(b) authorize a local school council for each school site within the district that will focus on academic improvement and enhancement of the learning environment of the school.

(2) The purpose of a local school council includes but is not limited to improving the learning

1 environment for and academic achievements of students in the school, within the policies of the trustees  
2 of the school district and applicable state and federal laws.

3 (3) The membership of a local school council must be selected in the following manner:

4 (a) The certified teaching staff of the school shall nominate and elect by appropriate paper ballot  
5 three teachers who are noted for outstanding classroom management skills and who represent the various  
6 grade levels within the school site.

7 (b) The various school parent organizations or parent advisory councils for the school shall, after  
8 timely announcements in the media of the widest circulation in the school district and other means of public  
9 announcement within the school attendance area, conduct a public meeting at which three persons with  
10 a child in the school are nominated and elected as parent members.

11 (c) For a high school, junior high school, or middle school, the student body of the school shall  
12 elect one female and one male student as student members.

13 (d) For an elementary school, the members of the local school council elected under the provisions  
14 of subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) shall by consensus select two members from the school attendance area  
15 who do not currently have a child in the school and who represent community interests.

16 (e) The principal of the school site is a voting member of the local school council and is the  
17 presiding officer of the council.

18 (4) The duties of a local school council include but are not limited to:

19 (a) reviewing the results of the most recently administered standardized testing and other  
20 criterion-referenced testing given by grade level;

21 (b) reviewing all recent occurrences of school discipline problems, including disposition of each  
22 discipline situation, repeat occurrences, and locations of the discipline incidents. The reporting of school  
23 discipline incidents may not include the full name of the child but may include the initial and gender of the  
24 child involved.

25 (c) participating in an advisory capacity only in personnel decisions related to the school site,  
26 including renewal of the principal's contract;

27 (d) making measurable, succinct, and clearly expressed school improvement strategies in the  
28 following areas:

29 (i) plans for student academic growth and improvement within the school;

30 (ii) enhancement of a positive learning environment; and

1 (iii) criteria for measuring the extent to which the school improvement strategies have been met and  
2 for realigning the strategies according to the evaluation results; and

3 (e) reporting to the school personnel, the local school community, and the trustees on the extent  
4 to which any measurable school improvements have been met.

5 (5) The trustees of a district and the administrative personnel of a school site shall provide the local  
6 school council with the appropriate information necessary for the council to execute the duties enumerated  
7 in subsection (4), including but not limited to assessment results and information on the incidence and types  
8 of school discipline situations.

9 (6) The principal shall report the names and addresses of the members of the local school council  
10 to the trustees of the district and to the superintendent of public instruction in the fall report.

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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an  
13 integral part of Title 20, and the provisions of Title 20 apply to [section 1].

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15 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 1995.

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