

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 27, 2001 Hearing Room B
3:00 p.m. Tapes 30 - 31

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Charles Starr, Chair
Sen. Susan Castillo, Vice-Chair
Sen. Ted Ferrioli
Sen. Bill Fisher
Sen. Avel Gordly

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Ryan Deckert
Sen. Tom Hartung

STAFF PRESENT: Jan McComb, Committee Administrator
Jennifer Simmons, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: Informational Meeting – Chris Amo
Work Session – SB 262
Public Hearing – SB 259

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 30, A		
002	Chair Starr	Opens meeting at 3:03 p.m. Opens informational meeting.
<u>INFORMATIONAL MEETING – OREGON READINESS TO LEARN</u>		
009	Chris Amo	Oregon Readiness to Learn. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT A) .
159	Sen. Gordly	Thanks Chair Starr for bringing Amo before the committee. Says that she appreciates Amo's work.
181	Chair Starr	Asks the witness for a written summary of her work.
183	Amo	Answers that she will provide him with that.
185	Chair Starr	Asks the witness to give her opinion of phonics as a teaching tool for reading.
195	Amo	Answers that she believes phonics to be a piece of what is required for learning to read but not the only piece.
203	Chair Starr	Says that he believes phonics to be the largest, most important piece of teaching a child to read.
214	Amo	Says that in her experience many teachers are using phonics in their classrooms.
230	Sen. Castillo	Points out that the focus in teaching a child to read should be on the whole child and all of their needs.
249	Sen. Fisher	Says that most times schools are not interested in backing up the family. Says that a lot of responsibility should be on the early school educators.
275	Amo	Agrees with Senator Fisher. Explains the "blame game" that goes on between parents and educators.
295	Sen. Fisher	States that there needs to be cooperation between parents and teachers.
309	Amo	Says that in her teaching experience, they worked quite a bit with

		the parents.
324	Sen. Gordly	Asks when Amo finds it appropriate to use phonics as a teaching tool.
339	Amo	Answers that phonics should be incorporated with an entire reading curriculum.
352	Sen. Gordly	Asks which tools are best for which style of learning.
360	Amo	Answers that phonics are best for auditory learners. Says that other students prefer visual tools.
370	Sen. Gordly	Asks how often Amo has used phonics as a teaching tool.
353	Amo	Answers that she uses phonics with all students at various times.
388	Chair Starr	Closes informational meeting and opens work session on SB 262.
<u>WORK SESSION – SB 262</u>		
399	Jan McComb	Administrator. Explains what changes have been made to the bill by the amendments.
421	Sen. Gordly	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 262-1 amendments dated 2/19/01.
429		VOTE: 5-0
	Chair Starr	EXCUSED: 2 - Deckert, Hartung
		Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
433	Sen. Gordly	MOTION: Moves SB 262 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
436		VOTE: 5-0
	Chair Starr	EXCUSED: 2 - Deckert, Hartung
		Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
		SEN. GORDLY will lead discussion on the floor. Closes work session on SB 262 and opens public hearing on SB 259.
<u>PUBLIC HEARING – SB 259</u>		
449	McComb	Gives overview of the bill.
TAPE 31, A		
019	Susan Massey	Chair, Educational Service District Task Force. Speaks about the task force. Submits written material (EXHIBIT B).
110	Bob Burns	ESD Task Force. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT C).
238	Sen. Castillo	Asks which ESDs are looking to voluntarily consolidate.
241	Burns	Answers Yamhill, Jefferson, and Crook-Deschutes.
249	Sen. Ferrioli	Commends the work of the ESD Task Force. Says that they provide fresh solutions to old problems. Suggests tabling SB 259 and moving forward on SB 260 in the Revenue Committee.
307	Burns	Says that there are some things on SB 259 that should not be tabled.
330	Rep. Butler	District 60. Testifies against the bill. Says that it would adversely affect most of his constituents. Says that the passage of SB 260 would deliver the kinds of services necessary without the negative effect of forced consolidation.
414	Sen. Harper	District 30. Agrees that passage of SB 260 would be better for constituents than passage of SB 259.
TAPE 30, B		
004	John Marshall	Oregon School Boards Association. States that his organization is against this bill. Says that there are good parts to the bill and he would be pleased to help with amendments to remove forced consolidation.
037	Bill Barry	Lake County Commissioner. States that the citizens of Lake County are against this bill. Agrees that there are good parts to

		the bill but disagrees with the forced consolidation. Says that if they were consolidated it is 175 miles from one point to another and would be costly because of mileage.
076	John Widenoja	Board Chair, Lake county ESD. Testifies against the bill. Says that consolidation would cause more problems than it would solve. Submits written material (EXHIBIT D) .
135	Jonathan Hill	Superintendent, Lake County ESD. States his opposition to the bill.
148	Sen. Gordly	Says that she wants to know what ESDs do to serve children.
162	Toni Foster	Jefferson County ESD. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT E) .
234	Edward Jensen	Superintendent, Wallowa School District. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT F) . Submits written testimony from Ed Schumacher (EXHIBIT G) .
306	Jeanne Burch	Wheeler County Judge. Says that consolidation would require long travel times. Says that this alone is reason to not pass this bill. Urges the committee not to pass this bill.
359	Dennis Reynolds	Grant County Judge. Explains what a “frontier county” is. Points out long distance between people and services already exists and says that it would be difficult to make the services move further away from people. Submits written testimony from Jim Cernazanu (EXHIBIT H) .
447	Rob Myers	Gilliam County. Testifies against the bill. Submits 100 letters from constituents in opposition of the bill (EXHIBIT I) .
TAPE 31, B		
023	Dennis Mills	Superintendent, Harney County ESD. Submits written material (EXHIBIT J) . Says that ESD provides services that small schools cannot provide themselves. States his opposition to consolidation.
083	Mike McArthur	Sherman County Judge. Testifies against the bill. Says that districts can merge if they have to and should not be forced.
118	John Young	Interim Superintendent, Yamhill ESD. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT K) .
160	Chair Starr	Thanks all of the witnesses. Enters written testimony from Wallowa County Board of Commissioners (EXHIBIT L) and Bob Williams (EXHIBIT M) .
177	Sen. Gordly	Says that we should know what research has been done to determine that this merger would save money.
198	McComb	Says that the fiscal that we have is pretty indeterminate.
206	Sen. Castillo	Comments that it was great to have so many people testify from such long distances.
201	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing and opens work session on SB 259.
<u>WORK SESSION – SB 259</u>		
217	Sen. Ferrioli	Speaks to the bill. Says that this bill would help counties that would make voluntary mergers easier.
240	Sen. Fisher	Asks why this should be tabled and not amended.
242	Sen. Ferrioli	Answers that this would be fine with him.
245	Sen. Fisher	Says that we need to work with voluntary consolidations and allow people to make their own decisions.
262	Sen. Ferrioli	Says that he has confidence that the chair would take this bill off of the table when there are appropriate amendments.
271	Chair Starr	Says that he will work to do what is best for education.
281	Sen. Ferrioli	MOTION: Moves to TABLE SB 259.
282		VOTE: 5-0

Chair Starr

EXCUSED: 2 - Deckert, Hartung

Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. Closes work session and adjourns meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Jennifer Simmons,
Committee Assistant

Jan McComb,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – written testimony, Chris Amo, 2 pp**
- B – written material, SB 259, Susan Massey, OS**
- C – written testimony, SB 259, Bob Burns, 2 pp**
- D – written material, SB 259, John Widenoja, 20 pp**
- E – written testimony, SB 259, Toni Foster, 2 pp**
- F – written testimony, SB 259, Edward Jensen, 2 pp**
- G – written testimony, SB 259, Ed Schumacher, 1 pp**
- H – written testimony, SB 259, Jim Cernazanu, 8 pp**
- I – written material, SB 259, Rob Myers, OS**
- J – written material, SB 259, Dennis Mills, 2 pp**
- K – written testimony, SB 259, John Young, 1 pp**
- L – written testimony, SB 259, Wallowa County, 2 pp**
- M – written testimony, SB 259, Bob Williams, 28 pp**