

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 15, 1999 Hearing Room E

6:30 PM Tapes 31 - 34

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Ron Sunseri, Chair

Rep. William Morrisette, Vice-Chair

Rep. Chris Beck

Rep. Betsy Close

Rep. Elaine Hopson

Rep. Bob Jenson

Rep. Tim Knopp

Rep. Lynn Lundquist

Rep. Carl Wilson

Rep. Jackie Winters

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Norm Fox, Administrator

Joan Diaz, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 100A - Public Hearing

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 31, A		

005	Chair Sunseri	Calls meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
007	Norm Fox	Committee Administrator. Refers to written testimony from Principal of Gray Elementary School who is unable to attend hearing. (EXHIBIT A)
020	Chair Sunseri	Opens public hearing on SB 100A.
<u>SB 100A PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
030	Shannon Sanders	Principal, The Renaissance School. Presents overview of her "charter" school in Jackson County. (EXHIBIT B)
107	Sanders	Explains non-certified teachers should be involved in the creation of a charter school. States certification does not ensure the "passion, creativity and level of innovation" to start a charter school.
145	Chair Sunseri	Asks what is the Average Daily Membership (ADM).
148	Sanders	Responds that she received 60% of the ADM for start up expenses.
150	Chair Sunseri	Asks what services are provided by the district that comprises the 40%.
152	Sanders	Responds she receives no services; does receive transportation and some Title I funds.
156	Rep. Morrisette	Asks does the district pay the cost of the teachers.
160	Sanders	Responds affirmatively.
162	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if there is any additional funding.
	Sanders	Responds Title I funds totaling \$8,000 has been received. States enrollment is at 38 students.
167	Rep. Hobson	Clarifies why the ADM is only 60%.
170	Sanders	Explains the full ADM will be forwarded after one year as specified in their charter with the school district.
175	Chair Sunseri	Comments that the start up year is when more funding is needed.

182	Sanders	Explains the district has to fund the "existing status quo" before they can fund other programs. Comments that the district has been very supportive.
206	Rep. Wilson	Asks are grades handed out by certified or non-certified teachers.
208	Sanders	Responds she oversees the grading process. Asks students to reflect on their work; standards discussed and set. Explains grading system.
224	Rep. Winters	Asks how many applications were received, and how were students selected.
230	Sanders	Explains they received 52 applications and accepted them all. Comments 27% of the students were "at high risk."
240	Rep. Winters	Asks if 52 enrolled, currently there are 38, what happened to the 14.
254	Sanders	Explains various reasons for students' departures.
269	Sanders	Refers to exhibit "frequently asked questions."
285	Rep. Beck	Asks who inspired this program.
298	Sanders	Explains history of the school and teaching techniques.
333	Rep. Winters	Asks how many teachers are not certified.
335	Sanders	Lists the number of staff members and their classifications.
377	Rep. Winters	Asks if the volunteer artists had to be certified, would there be the same kind of commitment.
387	Sanders	Responds that she is not sure.
TAPE 32, A		
002	Sanders	Discusses the professional background of her staff.
016	Rep. Knopp	Asks her to explain the 30 hours of volunteer work from the family.
022	Sanders	Responds that the response has been "kind of disappointing." Comments that one half of the parents has not volunteered.

038	Rep. Knopp	Asks if the volunteer staff has supported the school more than the families.
040	Sanders	Responds affirmatively.
042	Michael Hammond	Resident Artist, The Renaissance School. Comments on students' willingness to participate.
050	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if she has visited the 4J Eugene School District to look at their alternative school program.
053	Sanders	Responds she has visited other schools and lists them.
058	Rep. Morrisette	Suggests she visit the Eugene School District.
063	Rep. Hobson	Asks what do you want to see in a charter school bill.
068	Sanders	<p>Responds that the bill should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an appeal process • direct funding by the Department of Education (DOE) • equalized funding across the state • flexibility for non certified teachers in the start up and operations of the school
089	Rep. Hobson	Asks if 100% funding were received, would she assume responsibility for the payroll.
100	Sanders	Responds if they get 100% funding, it would make sense to administer their own resources.
105	Chair Sunseri	Asks if she prefers that a larger ADMw be available to the school with a provision to negotiate funds back to the district.
110	Sanders	Responds she would like that option.
116	Rep. Beck	Asks if she would hire a non-certified math teacher to teach algebra or pre-algebra.
129	Sanders	Evaluates her staff and their ability to teach.
142	Rep. Beck	Asks if noncertification would be her first choice.
145	Sanders	Responds it would not.

149	Rep. Beck	Asks is she familiar with alternative teaching licenses.
151	Sanders	Responds she is not.
155	Rep. Beck	Explains alternative licenses through Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) that might address the certification issue. Asks what is being done to ensure school's future.
159	Sanders	Explains the vision for governance was to be met by teams. States every role or job was to be shared by two people.
203	Rep. Winters	Asks what is the percentage of special needs students.
224	Sanders	Responds that it is 25%.
229	Paris Tirone	Teacher/volunteer, The Renaissance School. Shares her experience at the school and the cooperation with the school district.
297	Tirone	Explains opportunities at a smaller alternative school for students and teachers.
309	Chair Sunseri	Asks does she have children in this school.
313	Tirone	Responds her children are at Eagle Point High School; were previously home schooled.
329	Rep. Hobson	Asks how many students are on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), and how are special needs met.
334	Sanders	Responds she is trying to meet the needs of all students in an individualized way. States she has received no additional funding for the 11 students on IEP.
350	Rep. Hopson	Are these students classified under IDEA.
360	Sanders	Comments that she does not recognize that acronym Explains students have the paperwork for IEP; are not physically handicapped. Explains that the district's special education director processes the paperwork.
369	Tirone	Explains parents' responsibility and volunteerism.
385	Carolyn Rotar	Student, The Renaissance School. Shares her experience at the school.
398	Christina O'Neill	Student, The Renaissance School. Shares her experience at the school.

401	Sarah Hulse	Student, The Renaissance School. Shares her experience at the school.
TAPE 31, B		
005	Katie St. George	Student, The Renaissance School. Shares her experience at the school.
024	Rep. Wilson	Asks how has theatre arts made other subjects relevant.
035	St. George	Responds on how the theatre arts relate to math.
045	Rotar	Responds further on how subjects are taught.
050	Rep. Winters	Asks what are their future plans.
055	St. George	Responds she wants to major in family studies.
060	Hulse	Responds she wants to be a dancer.
062	O'Neill	Responds she wants to be a journalist.
066	Rotar	Responds she does not know.
069	Jer Pratton	Superintendent, Hermiston School District. Supports idea of charter schools, but has objections with SB 100A. (EXHIBIT C) Presents information regarding standardized student scores in Oregon. States effective instruction is his main concern.
139	Pratton	Refers to SB 100A, regarding sponsorship of a charter school. Disagrees with having the contiguous school district as a sponsor. Discusses non-certification of teachers.
187	Pratton	Comments it does not take a charter school to have an artist-in-residence program. Explains that a teacher's leave of absences should be time specific. Discusses impact on school district of funding followed the student to a charter school.
238	Pratton	Discusses accountability of charter schools. Discusses "creative management" in SB 100A.
279	Pratton	Comments if charter schools are granted reduced rules, public schools should have same reduced rules. Suggests committee look at history of other states' charter schools.

309	Pratton	Summarizes and suggests committee make this a "model schools act." Recommends that incentives be included. Refers to federal bill by Smith-Kerry regarding incentive schools. Suggests 1) DOE fund charter schools, not the school district, 2) the local Board should be the sponsor, and 3) licensed staff should be 1:30 ratio.
TAPE 32, B		
002	Pratton	Explains that charter school students should be taking state assessment tests like public school students.
008	Rep. Winters	Asks what is his definition of an applicant for a charter school.
015	Pratton	Responds applicant should not necessarily be from the education community. Explains qualifications should be examined.
026	Rep. Winters	States that at the charter school in Salem, the school board determined that applicants were qualified.
032	Pratton	Responds that the language in the bill is too broad; sponsor should be the local district not a contiguous district.
039	Rep. Winters	Asks should the sponsor be the local school board.
045	Pratton	Responds affirmatively.
049	Rep. Close	Asks if funds should go to both the district and the charter school.
060	Pratton	Explains loss of funds and students from his district would not impact teachers or transportation, but staff would have to be cut.
074	Rep. Close	Asks why does not the money follow the student.
069	Pratton	Responds that the state funding formula is based on funds going to a school district.
085	Rep. Knopp	Asks for suggestions of incentives.
088	Pratton	Responds monies could be provided for school districts that can demonstrate that they are improving instruction.
101	Rep. Knopp	Asks for three rules he would like to see reduced.

106	Pratton	Responds he will forward that information at a later date.
108	Rep. Wilson	Asks what has kept school system from "meeting charter school movement head on and beating them at their game."
122	Pratton	Responds that it takes three times more money to educate special education students. Discusses unfunded mandates.
160	Rep. Wilson	Discusses competition among schools.
185	Pratton	Comments on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • block scheduling • alternative school work • scores and attendance improved • drop out rate declining • graduating more students
215	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if he is familiar with the Eugene School District 4J program.
220	Pratton	Responds affirmatively.
226	Rep. Lundquist	Asks for comments on potential competition from charter schools.
241	Pratton	Responds he does not mind competition. Explains there is a common "yardstick" to measure outcomes.
252	Rep. Lundquist	Asks if it would be positive to the educational system.
255	Pratton	Responds affirmatively.
261	Rep. Jenson	Asks witness to comment on the University of California, Los Angeles study with respect to charter schools competition.
273	Pratton	Responds study does not mention competition; study discusses results of charter school management.
281	Rep. Winters	Asks are not charter schools a good vehicle for students to expand their language capability.
298	Pratton	Responds that is not part of charter schools necessarily.
320	Rep. Beck	Asks how to encourage alternative teacher licensure.

333	Pratton	Responds the teacher shortage creates the situation for alternatives.
361	Rep. Beck	Asks would he rank the 1991 education reform attempt as innovative.
369	Pratton	Responds he has mixed opinion on the 21 st Century Schools Act. Explains the Certification of Initial Mastery (CIM) should be called "basic skills." Comments the Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM) "seems fuzzy," and he will wait to implement that.
TAPE 33, A		
002	Pratton	Comments on the standards developed for students; test scores better now than the first year.
015	Chair Sunseri	Discusses views expressed regarding charter applicants and local school boards. Explains SB 100A prohibits violation of 1 st amendment. Asks for information on religious schools being funded as charter schools in other states.
039	Pratton	Responds that he has no problem with "any group or person" cited in Section 2 (1) in SB 100A, if the local school board is the sponsor.
049	Chair Sunseri	Disputes testimony that declares U.S. students are doing better Expresses concern that DOE states 75-80% students will not pass CIM next time.
066	Pratton	Responds that news articles state that all is not "rosy" in charter schools or in public schools.
089	Rep. Lundquist	Explains CIM test results. Asks for comments on the difficulty of CIM versus other standards.
096	Pratton	Discusses the SAT; test has been adjusted, fine-tuned and re-normed many times. Explains it takes 5-10 years to fine tune any test. Declares that charter school students should be held to same standards as public school students.
135	Rep. Beck	Asks if he could accommodate a request in his district, under existing law, to start an innovative educational program.
157	Pratton	Responds he has had those kinds of requests; discusses "study-buddy" program and summer school program.
180	Michael Collins	Former President, Oregon School Board Association, Pendleton. Opposes SB 100A as written.
246	Collins	Cites sections of the bill he objects to and suggests changes. States this bill will

		produce litigation.
302	Collins	Comments that in his district there is little demand for charter schools.
338	Sally Bigongiari	Representative, The Village School. Supports SB 100A. Discusses her elementary school and the Eugene 4J school district. Addresses sponsorship: someone besides existing administration and school board. Suggests University of Oregon or Lane Community College. (EXHIBIT D)
TAPE 34, A		
010	Bigongiari	Explains she is dissatisfied with the alternative school system due to the long waiting lists.
054	Bigongiari	Comments that she is agreeable to having her school located in any part of the community. Discusses the Bethel Home School in Eugene which has 475 students.
082	Chair Sunseri	Asks is she aware of any other group that has been turned down.
085	Bigongiari	Responds that she is not.
087	Rep. Morrisette	Expresses concerns why students have left District 4J.
090	Bigongiari	Responds that the students in the Bethel Home School have left the public schools.
095	Rep. Morrisette	Asks that the committee ascertain why District 4J or the Albany school district would turn down a request for an alternative school.
099	Chair Sunseri	Comments that the committee administrator can get that information.
101	Chair Sunseri	Closes public hearing on SB 100A. Adjourns at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Joan Diaz, Norm Fox,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Marilyn Lane 9 pp

B ñ SB 100A, written material, Shannon Sanders, 51 pp

C ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Jer Pratton 9 pp

D ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Sally Bigongiari, 10 pp