

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 17, 1999 Hearing Room E

1:00 PM Tapes 35 - 38

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Ron Sunseri, Chair

Rep. William Morrisette, Vice-Chair

Rep. Chris Beck

Rep. Betsy Close

Rep. Elaine Hopson

Rep. Tim Knopp

Rep. Lynn Lundquist

Rep. Carl Wilson

Rep. Jackie Winters

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Bob Jenson

STAFF PRESENT: Norm Fox, Administrator

Joan Diaz, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 100A ñ 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 35, A		

005	Chair Sunseri	Calls meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Explains committee's schedule for this week and next week. Opens public hearing on SB 100A.
<u>SB 100A PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
017	Barbara Salser	Representative, Educational Research Associates. Supports SB 100A. (EXHIBIT A) Discusses individualized instruction methods used in the Centennial High School Business Learning Lab.
080	Salser	Discusses alternatives to traditional classroom lecture method.
120	Marvin Hempel	Retired Educator, Portland. Supports SB 100A. Explains business learning center concept.
172	Hempel	Describes the infrastructure at the Business Learning Lab. Discusses the learning center schedule versus the traditional school schedule.
213	Hempel	Suggests that there be flexibility in granting approval of the charter.
256	Rep. Winters	Asks whether teachers should be certified.
264	Hempel	Responds that teachers' qualifications should be assessed before they become licensed. Comments on his experience as a teacher "evaluator."
298	Rep. Hobson	Asks why did the program not meet the criteria expected of traditional schools.
301	Salser	Responds the Center was denied accreditation, but she does not know which criteria were not met.
321	Rep. Hobson	Asks for clarification of a one-to-one teaching method versus a one-to-seventy six teaching method.
325	Salser	Explains the teacher is working with one student at a time. Explains curriculum is designed for this kind of interaction.
362	Hempel	Clarifies typical classroom size is approximately 45-50 students. Discusses teacher classroom preparation.
TAPE 36, A		
002	Hempel	Describes teaching method via pre-recorded lessons.

012	Rep. Hobson	Asks how are individual differences of students addressed.
020	Salser	Responds that teacher awareness of students is one way.
030	Hempel	States that if student is not attentive, teacher seeks other resources.
044	Rep. Beck	Asks for suggestions of supervising authority.
051	Hempel	Responds he does not know; suggests State Board of Education.
062	Rep. Beck	Asks about accountability of an alternative education program. Asks why not choose the local school board.
074	Salser	Responds that it is the charter school's responsibility to be accountable.
093	Hempel	Explains the need for flexibility and avenues for experimentation.
108	Rep. Roger Beyer	District 28. Introduces his constituents; teachers at Lourdes School.
115	Linda Duman	Teacher, Lourdes School. Supports SB 100A. Explains Lourdes School is an alternative school and shares statistics regarding her graduates. (EXHIBIT B)
189	Duman	Explains Lourdes School was to be merged with District 95C, Scio. States the school operates as an alternative school but no state funds have been forwarded to them; teachers work at no salary.
233	Duman	Discusses the effect of the Scio School Board and Stayton School Board's refusal to contract with them. Suggests universities be involved since local school boards are unable to create a competitive school environment.
274	Duman	Lists reasons why charter schools should be granted for five years; annual review is unrealistic.
283	Chair Sunseri	Asks who should sponsor a charter if not the local school board.
286	Duman	Responds the educational department of a university.
290	Rep. Morrisette	Asks how did the school get its name.
292	Duman	Describes rural characteristics of her community.

299	Rep. Morrisette	Asks the age of the school.
306	Duman	Responds that the district was established in 1899. Explains they merged with Scio School District in 1997.
310	Rep. Hobson	Asks have the same students remained at Lourdes since the merger.
315	Duman	Responds affirmatively.
317	Rep. Hobson	Asks how is school different from when it was part of the Scio School District.
320	Duman	Responds that the students are K ñ 10 th graders with a K ñ 8 th grade curriculum in ungraded classrooms.
326	DeAnne Sumpter	Teacher, Lourdes School. Supports SB 100A. Describes her students and the school's curriculum. Explains the size of her group is 2-5 students at a time. (EXHIBIT C)
TAPE 35, B		
002	Sumpter	Explains ungraded classroom allows students to work at own pace and there is no "stigma" if a child does not work at grade level.
015	Chair Sunseri	Asks witness to summarize balance of her testimony.
018	Sumpter	Explains parent/volunteers' duties.
048	Duman	Comments on distance students travel by bus.
052	Rep. Winters	Asks are there other schools where teachers have given up their salary.
055	Duman	Responds she does not know.
061	Rep. Lundquist	Asks what kind of relationship exists between Scio and Lourdes.
068	Duman	Discusses discomfort of Stayton and Scio school boards when parents requested placing their children rather than teacher placing students.
083	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if there are other small schools facing the same problem so that they may want to become a charter school.

091	Duman	Responds that Lourdes is unique in that it leases their building. Explains the district did not gain the building when they shut down the school.
096	Rep. Morrisette	Comments because of unification, travel became an issue for some elementary schools. Asks would passage of SB 100A afford the opportunity for these schools to become charter schools.
101	Duman	Responds it could, if the school district would cooperate.
105	Rep. Morrisette	Comments if there are a variety of sponsors, would small schools try to form a charter school.
108	Duman	Responds affirmatively, if a building was available from the sponsors. Comments on the Carnegie Foundation report which states a K ñ 8 grade school could not be successful unless it was located in a community.
111	Rep. Hobson	Asks how to address open enrollment.
123	Duman	Responds that students are accepted by date of application. Clarifies if they could not accommodate a handicapped student, they would have to refuse admittance to the school.
130	Rev. Knopp	Asks who owns the building.
132	Duman	Explains building is owned by a private property owner.
136	Jamon Kent	Superintendent, Springfield School District. Supports charter schools. Explains his school district has 4 alternative schools. Opposes SB 100A as written.
169	Sue McNair	Director of Curriculum, Springfield School District. Opposes SB 100A. Compares sections in SB 100A with existing laws. (EXHIBIT D)
222	McNair	Describes Gateways Learning Center, an alternative education high school.
236	Judy Land	Director of Finance, Springfield School District. Opposes SB 100A. Describes financial impact on her school district should SB 100A pass. Explains loss of revenue should school district lose 25 students. (EXHIBIT E)
340	Chair Sunseri	Asks if she reviewed the bill and noted anywhere that charter schools were not to be responsible for special education students.
345	Land	Cites section 11 (7) and section 18 (1).

347	McNair	Discusses other impacts of SB 100A. Cites timelines restrictions and how they impact the budgeting process.
383	McNair	Discusses financial impacts of out-of-district students.
TAPE 36, B		
002	McNair	Discusses transportation and home school students registration.
038	McNair	Discusses sections of SB 100A which addresses employees, unions and unlicensed teachers.
061	Chair Sunseri	Discusses unlicensed teachers.
065	McNair	Responds the bill is too vague regarding hiring employees.
072	Rep. Close	Asks for clarification that a district would not receive funding for a home school student a couple of years after entering public school.
085	Land	Explains the way the funding formula is adjusted.
094	Rep. Morrisette	Clarifies location of the schools and asks if parents are involved.
098	McNair	Responds parents were involved in the design and the ongoing workings of the two programs.
111	Chair Sunseri	Recesses public hearing on SB 100A. Reconvenes public hearing on SB 100A at 2:40 p.m.
113	Sen. Peter Courtney	Senate District 17. Comments on SB 100A. Cites sections of the bill which should be amended. Declares that a university should not be a sponsor of a charter school.
175	Sen. Courtney	Explains that there is a danger of a religious school closing down and re-opening as a charter school.
222	Sen. Courtney	Explains why bill is unconstitutional. Comments on Alsea's School District and the impact on funding a charter school.
260	Sen. Courtney	Asks committee to be concerned about the smaller school districts. Comments on the application process as stated in SB 100A.

308	Sen. Courtney	Discusses certified teachers versus non-certified teachers.
366	Sen. Courtney	Explains "teaching technique" is different from "knowledge of the subject."
385	Sen. Courtney	Comments on the "equitable lottery selection process."
TAPE 37, A		
002	Sen. Courtney	Discusses a hypothetical student/applicant in a charter school.
018	Sen. Courtney	Discusses grants and loans to public charter schools. States there is no bill in the Legislature that addresses those funds.
040	Sen. Courtney	Explains that throughout SB 100A, no rules or regulations will apply to charter schools that apply to other public schools.
065	Sen. Courtney	Refers to high schools in the state and discusses their large enrollment.
071	Rep. Morrisette	Comments on testimony from Lourdes School teachers.
075	Sen. Courtney	Responds Lourdes would not be eligible for a charter school.
078	Rep. Morrisette	Asks where in the bill does it address the size of a school.
084	Sen. Courtney	Cites page 2, line 42-45 and page 7, line 26. Explains a certain number of school districts would not qualify.
095	Chair Sunseri	Chair acknowledges those sections will be reviewed by the committee.
112	Rep. Knopp	Asks what is his suggestion regarding teacher licensure.
118	Sen. Courtney	Responds system should be flexible.
135	Rep. Knopp	Asks for input regarding teaching core subjects.
140	Sen. Courtney	Responds math, science, Spanish and special education is "in for a nightmare" due to teacher shortage. Comments that one half of core subject teachers should have licenses.
159	Rep. Knopp	Thanks witness for giving input to the committee.

170	Sen. Courtney	Comments on his experience in the Senate.
172	Rep. Knopp	Asks if he could put his additional concerns in writing for the committee.
176	Sen. Courtney	Responds that he will.
186	Rep. Close	Cites ORS (1998), page 790; "Ö state provide minimum level and not absolute equal opportunity for students."
200	Sen. Courtney	Responds this bill is neither minimal nor equal.
213	Rep. Winters	Thanks witness for input regarding SB 100A.
220	Sen. Courtney	Comments that some senators were unaware of the details in SB 100A. Suggests a legal opinion be obtained before voting on the bill.
239	Rep. Beck	Comments that the Senate did a disservice in passing SB 100A in this form. Asks if 95% of the funds should follow a student to a charter school.
258	Sen. Courtney	Responds that costs will vary from charter school to charter school.
285	Rep. Beck	Comments on state of Coloradoís method of funding.
293	Sen. Courtney	Discusses SB 100Aís process through the Senate Education Committee.
335	Barbara Casey	Board Member, The Bend Community School. Supports charter schools. Discusses The Bend Community School which operates like a charter school. Discusses school choice. (EXHIBIT F)
385	Casey	Comments that charter schools are public schools created to meet childrenís needs.
TAPE 38, A		
005	Casey	Discusses what a charter school bill should contain.
038	Casey	Discusses core curriculum and whether teachers will be teaching outside their subject area.
066	Casey	Discusses adequate funding.

080	Chair Sunseri	Asks are special education students provided for.
086	Casey	Responds that it is the Bend-LaPine School District's responsibility to ensure special needs of students are met. Discusses staffing at the Bend Community School.
127	Casey	Declares charter schools need the opportunity to exist. States that the Bend Community School has 45 students; the school district wants them to increase enrollment.
164	Casey	Discusses whether charter schools should teach a high school curriculum. Asks who would determine a student has achieved a diploma.
190	Casey	Discusses alternative chartering authorities other than the local school board.
235	Rep. Knopp	Thanks the witness and hopes more witnesses will attend the public hearing in Bend on February 24.
240	Chair Sunseri	Explains the testimony of Irv Fletcher, AFL/CIO, will be entered in the record. (EXHIBIT G)
250	Mike Ellis	Member, Tillamook School District, Board of Directors. Opposes SB 100A as written. (EXHIBIT H)
315	Ellis	Explains the local school board should charter a school and not any other agency.
340	Chair Sunseri	Asks if he is comfortable with a school board having the first right of refusal in chartering a school.
347	Ellis	Responds affirmatively. Discusses funding issues, licensure of teachers, state achievement tests.
389	Chair Sunseri	Comments that the Department of Education has testing standards in only three areas. Asks what would you suggest charter schools use for other subject areas.
399	Ellis	Responds he will research the question.
401	Rep. Winters	Asks if there are alternative schools in the Tillamook School District.
402	Ellis	Responds affirmatively.
TAPE 37, B		

004	Ellis	Describes alternative schools in a three-district area.
011	Rep. Winters	Asks what is the direction of those alternative schools.
018	Ellis	Responds there is a work experience combined with classroom time; less "seat time."
025	Rep. Winters	Asks if he is a certified teacher.
027	Ellis	Responds that he is not. Discusses teaching methods in the alternative programs in his district.
042	Ellis	Discusses challenges in the public school system. Declares charter schools should be approved by the local school board.
058	Rep. Winters	Asks would these programs exist in your schools today, if the excitement generated by charter schools had not occurred.
065	Ellis	Responds he is not sure. States there should be more in-service time for teachers; innovative ideas occur there.
074	Chair Sunseri	Closes public hearing on SB 100A. Adjourns at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Joan Diaz, Norm Fox,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Barbara Salser, 10 pp

B ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Linda Duman, 17 pp

C ñ SB 100A, written testimony, DeAnne Sumpter, 5 pp

D ñ SB 100A, written material, Sue McNair, 13 pp

E ñ SB 100A, written material, Judy Land, 9 pp

F ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Barbara Casey, 9 pp

G ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Irv Fletcher, 2 pp

H - SB 100A, written testimony, Mike Ellis, 2 pp

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 17, 1999 Hearing Room E

6:30 PM Tapes 39 - 40

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Ron Sunseri, Chair

Rep. William Morrisette, Vice-Chair

Rep. Chris Beck

Rep. Betsy Close

Rep. Elaine Hopson

Rep. Tim Knopp

Rep. Carl Wilson

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TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments

TAPE 39, A

005	Chair Sunseri	Calls meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 100A.
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SB 100 A PUBLIC HEARING

006	Richard Lane	Board Member, The Bend Community School. Explains success of that school. Explains that the school complements the public schools in his district.
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064	Lane	Discusses the focus on individualized learning at his school. States that the school is cross-grade level; students communicate with each other freely in a supportive environment.
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121	Lane	Explains that parents help students develop their learning plans in a non-structured class setting.
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155	Lane	Lists the faculty of the school and their professional background.
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169	Chair Sunseri	Asks how many of the teachers are certified.
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175	Lane	Responds the teachers are not certified.
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179	Chair Sunseri	Asks how many full time faculty does the school have.
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184	Lane	Responds that the teachers' schedules vary.
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187	Chair Sunseri	Asks is there a full time teacher who is teaching a core subject, such as math.
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192	Lane	Responds there is no one teaching a single subject throughout the day. Clarifies that blocks of time are assigned to the instructors.
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215	Chair Sunseri	Asks what is it he wants to do that he cannot do in a public alternative school.
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219	Lane	Indicates an option is to continue as they are, but operating as a charter school would help facilitate the charter school movement. Comments that not all charter schools will function in the same way.
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248	Chair Sunseri	Asks what would he like to see in a charter school bill.
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255	Lane	Discusses flexibility of alternative education. Explains that staffing must include the professionals in the community; in smaller schools it will not work if the bill requires 100% certified teachers. States that the teacher has a different role than
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		the traditional teaching role.
308	Rep. Beck	Asks if the school is getting public monies.
315	Lane	Responds that the school has 45 students in 5 th ñ 8 th grades funded through a contract with Bend-LaPine School District.
319	Rep. Beck	Asks if the students take the standardized tests.
325	Lane	Responds that they do.
326	Rep. Beck	Asks what assurance does he have that the teachers are aware of the state standards.
328	Lane	Responds that there is a screening process for potential teachers.
353	Rep. Beck	Suggests a hypothetical situation of a new teacher. Asks how would the Bend Community School ensure a teacher is competent.
382	Lane	Responds that the staff works with the parents, students, and their interests. Explains that their system of student-directed learning does not necessarily follow curriculum guidelines from the state.
TAPE 40, A		
002	Lane	Explains that the eventual goal is that they will continue to meet the guidelines, but at different intervals than the public school.
009	Rep. Beck	Comments that the goal is for students to earn a Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) and Certificate of Advanced Mastery (CAM).
011	Lane	Responds that he acknowledges that.
014	Chair Sunseri	Asks how do students perform on tests.
016	Lane	Responds that the school gives state assessments; the school does not give grades.
032	Rep. Wilson	Asks how would he replace a teacher who was unsatisfactory.
035	Lane	Responds it has happened, and the teacher was asked to leave. Discusses staffing issues.

061	Rep. Winters	Asks if his board is independent from the school board.
069	Lane	Explains the membership of the board.
071	Rep. Winters	Asks how are they chosen.
073	Lane	Responds they are elected by the school membership.
074	Rep. Knopp	Asks for comments on the lawsuit involving the school district.
082	Lane	Explains that at the founding of the school, there was an issue with the teachers' union. States that individual school board members were sued for misappropriation of public funds.
109	Rep. Knopp	Clarifies lawsuit involving "misappropriation."
111	Rep. Hopson	Asks when did the school open.
115	Lane	Responds four years ago.
118	Rep. Hopson	Asks how long have the current teachers been at the school.
121	Lane	Responds a year and a half; staff turnover has been an issue.
126	Rep. Wilson	Asks who determines the pay scale.
134	Lane	Responds it is competitive with the district.
145	Chair Sunseri	Asks are students scoring above average without specifically focusing on the state standards.
149	Lane	Responds affirmatively.
155	John Liljegren	Private citizen, Portland. Supports SB 100A. Discusses parental authority and accountability. Compares forming a charter school to crossing an "alligator-filled moat."
207	Liljegren	Discusses sponsorship of charter schools by adjacent school districts. Explains that the local school board should not be the only sponsor.
257	Liljegren	Presents argument that the state has been overriding parents' decisions regarding

		educational choice.
304	Liljegren	Discusses non-certified teacher versus certified teacher. Stresses that all schools should be held accountable and not just charter schools.
364	Kyle Liljegren	Student. Explains his experience in a charter school.
383	Rep. Morrisette	Asks is he cautioning against setting up charter schools "hastily."
	Liljegren	Responds he advocates "wide-open opportunities" for charter schools to begin.
TAPE 39, B		
002	Liljegren	Comments that a new charter school must offer attractive alternatives to students.
012	Rep. Morrisette	Asks how are students reintegrated back into the school system if an alternative school fails.
020	Liljegren	Responds that he agrees there is risk that a student might not be prepared for higher education.
036	Chair Sunseri	Asks if any other parents withdrew their children.
038	Liljegren	Responds yes, in the 6 th grade class.
049	Chair Sunseri	Comments on market demand for charter schools.
064	John McShane	Private citizen, Salem. Comments on his daughter's experience at Howard Street Charter School.
080	Rep. Close	Asks student to share her experience at Howard Street Charter School.
090	Patty McShane	Responds that the classes she enjoys are Art and Theatre.
092	Rep. Wilson	Asks does she think her experience at Howard Street Charter School is more "enjoyable" than another school would be.
098	McShane	Responds that the smaller environment makes school more enjoyable.
105	Rep. Winters	Asks why did she decide to go to Howard Street Charter School.

110	McShane	Responds that the school was close to home. Explains she wanted to know her teachers.
115	Rep. Winters	Asks are parents involved in the process.
122	McShane	Responds it was his daughter's decision to attend the school.
139	Rep. Beck	Asks if she would advise the Legislature to spend more money so more students could have smaller schools.
155	McShane	Responds that it is worth it, but there is no guarantee that another school would be the same as her school.
162	Chair Sunseri	Closes the public hearing on SB 100A. Adjourns at 7:40 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Joan Diaz, Norm Fox,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY