

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 19, 1999 Hearing Room E

1:00 PM Tapes 41 - 43

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Ron Sunseri, 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: Rep. William Morrisette, Vice-Chair

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 41, A		

005	Chair Sunseri	Calls meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 100A
<u>SB 100A PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
008	Kathleen Shelley	Education Chair, League of Women Voters of Oregon. Opposes SB 100A. (EXHIBIT A)
034	Chair Sunseri	Asks if League is opposed to uncertified teachers.
038	Shelley	Responds the League is not asking that 100% of the teachers be certified.
040	Chair Sunseri	Asks what percentage of the General Purpose Grant per student would be acceptable.
049	Shelley	Responds it depends on the local school district; 85% seems more reasonable.
055	Chair Sunseri	Asks what kind of services would be provided by the district.
058	Shelley	Responds that would be categorized as administrative overhead.
062	Chair Sunseri	Comments that in SB 100A the only oversight that is required is reviewing the charter. Explains the charter school would then pay for any other services from the district.
064	Shelley	Agrees that the administrative overhead could be negotiated.
067	Arthur Anderson	Superintendent, Willamina School District. Opposes SB 100A. (EXHIBIT B) Explains the present educational system is inadequately funded. Asks how SB 100A makes the educational system better. Asks where do start up costs come from.
128	Anderson	Discusses teacher certification. Explains 50% of the teachers should be certified.
176	Anderson	Suggests changes to SB 100A.
181	Rep. Hopson	Asks is he aware of any denials of charter schools.
201	Anderson	Responds that he does not know of any superintendents who have denied a charter school. Discusses school focus, accountability and expertise of charter organizers.
209	Rep. Hopson	Asks on what basis would the charter school be accountable.

215	Anderson	Explains how all schools are held accountable.
225	Rep. Close	Asks do school boards rely on their superintendents to make decisions.
230	Anderson	Responds that clear policies must be drafted for school boards.
253	Francis Charbonnier	Private Citizen, McMinnville. Comments he is neutral on SB 100A. States he is in favor of a charter school bill, but SB 100A should be changed. (EXHIBIT C)
298	Charbonnier	Indicates charter schools can be "customized" for specific groups of students. States charter schools should have a focused purpose.
348	Charbonnier	Suggests changes to SB 100A: sponsorship, licensure of teachers, funding, conversions of private schools to charter schools, and maximum number of students in a charter school.
TAPE 42, A		
002	Charbonnier	Discusses appeal procedures and alternate sponsors.
016	Chair Sunseri	Asks if the local school board should have the first right of refusal to a new charter school.
018	Charbonnier	Responds affirmatively.
019	Chair Sunseri	Asks what other options could be considered.
022	Charbonnier	Responds there should be a procedural appeal to the State Board of Education.
026	Chair Sunseri	Asks would the State Board overturn the ruling of the local school board.
029	Charbonnier	Responds that the application should be returned for a second review.
031	Chair Sunseri	Asks would not this create an adversarial relationship.
035	Charbonnier	Explains that there would be "limited chances to be successful," if there is no cooperation with the local school board. Suggests that the charter school could be relocated.
041	Chair Sunseri	Asks if that would that involve a contiguous school district.

050	Charbonnier	Explains reasons for denying a charter.
055	Chair Sunseri	Asks is he opposed to alternate sponsors.
061	Charbonnier	Explains that the ultimate sponsor should have jurisdiction in the area where the charter school is located. Discusses licensure of teachers.
109	Rep. Beck	Asks is he familiar with alternative entry licensure.
115	Charbonnier	Responds affirmatively.
123	Rep. Beck	Explains Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) alternative entry licensure effective January 15, 1999.
145	Charbonnier	Comments it is a pragmatic system, but alternative or emergency license has to be for a specific intent or commitment.
157	Rep. Beck	Suggests this might be an alternative form of licensure applied specifically to charter schools. Asks what is his opinion on different standards for charter school teachers.
171	Charbonnier	Shares his opinion of certified teachers' reaction to non-certified teachers. Cautions that care must be taken when "tampering" with a school system of 500,000 students.
209	Charbonnier	Clarifies funding and distribution formulas. Comments on the proposed percentage of funding for charter schools. Discusses special education costs.
265	Charbonnier	Discusses section 3, (8) of SB 100A; conversion of a private school to a public charter school.
270	Chair Sunseri	Asks if the local school board could deny the conversion.
317	Charbonnier	Responds affirmatively, but the school board should be held accountable for their decision.
325	Chair Sunseri	Comments that any private school converting to a charter school becomes a public school, and religious doctrine cannot be taught.
331	Charbonnier	Comments on last session's charter school bill which had a conversion provision. Explains that bill did not make it out of committee.
347	Chair Sunseri	Explains the conversion of a private school to a public school is the only instance

		where charter schools take funds from public schools.
353	Charbonnier	Discusses a voucher system and private schools.
360	Rep. Close	Asks does not a school district gain funds, if a private school is converted to a public school.
373	Charbonnier	Responds affirmatively. Explains the local school district would not be affected, but the state as a whole would incur increased expenses.
385	Rep. Close	Comments that as a mother of a private school student, she is paying taxes, but not benefiting from it.
393	Charbonnier	Responds that is a separate issue.
TAPE 41, B		
002	Rep. Winters	Asks if alternative schools should become charter schools.
017	Charbonnier	Explains a public school district can do most of the things that charter schools do by developing alternative schools. Explains efforts in McMinnville.
031	Charbonnier	Explains there should be a "cap" on the maximum number of charter school students. Comments on the Charter School Expansion Act signed by President Clinton which addresses charter schools.
065	Anderson	Rebuts testimony from previous witness regarding numbers of students and funding.
088	Chair Sunseri	Asks for suggestions for getting home school and private school students into the system.
101	Anderson	Responds that the system should be adequately funded first.
120	Rep. Lundquist	Comments that the Legislature needs to consider the increases in students when budgeting for education.
132	James Ford	Superintendent, Creswell School District. Supports educational choice and alternative schools. (EXHIBIT D)
154	Rep. Knopp	Asks if choices are offered in his district, why would anyone start a charter school.

159	Ford	Responds there is no fear of charter schools in his community. Recommends solutions be sought within the present system.
165	Rep. Wilson	Asks if there was a charter school in your community, would "haves" or "have-nots" attend.
168	Ford	Responds it would be the "haves."
172	Rep. Beck	Asks could an adjacent district set up a charter school and draw students from his district.
180	Chair Sunseri	Explains SB100A allows 20% of students from outside a district to enroll in a charter school.
182	Rep. Beck	Asks what effect would that have on his district.
189	Ford	Comments that could happen; students could cross districts. Explains percentage of students who attend school outside his district.
198	Rep. Wilson	Asks if students attend a charter school in his district, would funds be lost.
202	Ford	Explains the effect of "loosening up" the one-for-one student trade system.
207	Larry Chamberlain	Superintendent, Mapleton School District. Opposes SB 100A. (EXHIBIT E) Discusses the Governor's Budget and the effects of a charter school in his district. Explains in his district he has only one school comprised of 303 students.
TAPE 42, B		
002	Chamberlain	Explains if some of the rules and regulations were eased he could operate his school as a charter school.
029	Chamberlain	Discusses certification through TSPC. Comments you cannot improve a product by introducing something unregulated.
042	Harold Maler	Superintendent, Marcola School District. Opposes SB 100A. Explains overview of his school district and the cuts in services his district has experienced.
059	Maler	Comments if one charter school opens up in his district, his one school would close. Suggests a contingency plan.
074	Maler	Explains if his district loses any more funds, his school will be a "substandard"

		school. Explains for every five students he loses, he loses one teacher.
101	Chair Sunseri	Comments that 34 states are operating charter schools with small school districts. Comments he does not see any problem.
111	Chamberlain	Responds that he has no fear of charter schools in his district, if the local school board has the final authority.
115	Chair Sunseri	Asks for clarification.
119	Chamberlain	Responds the local school board knows the district very well. States circumventing the process is not an option.
125	Chair Sunseri	Asks if he is "laterally opposed" to charter schools.
130	Chamberlain	Clarifies that he is not. Comments that small schools have advantages. Explains teachers prefer small schools, but salaries are too low in his district. Advocates open enrollment.
165	Maler	Refers to the financial condition of his school district; started out the year at (\$5,000.00). Invites committee to visit his school.
184	Rep. Lundquist	Discusses options for charter schools and a contingency plan.
210	William Haburn	Private Citizen, Marion County. Supports charter schools. Suggests more parental control. Discusses teacher credentials. (EXHIBIT F)
269	Haburn	Discusses unionism. Comments that the union has treated teachers like employees and not professionals.
315	Haburn	Urges the state to make union membership voluntary.
337	Betty McChesney-Haus	Representative, American Association of University Women. Opposes SB 100A. (EXHIBIT G) Explains she has concerns with sponsorship of charter schools, funding, and staff certification.
TAPE 43, A		
019	Rep. Hobson	Asks if she represents an official position with AAUW on SB 100A.
022	McChesney-Haus	Responds that her organization has chosen to focus on three issues in SB 100A. Suggests HB 2621 in combination with SB 100A would be a better bill.

026	Rep. Hobson	Asks does AAUW represent a wide range of parents.
028	McChesney-Haus	Responds their membership is 3500.
036	Rep. Wilson	Asks is she familiar with Howard St. Charter School.
038	McChesney-Haus	Responds affirmatively.
042	Rep. Wilson	Asks if charter schools are setting up a universe of "haves" and "havenots." Asks is that the case with the Howard St. Charter School.
051	McChesney-Haus	Concedes that the local school district is on the "better side" of town. Explains socio-economic component of Howard St. Charter School.
054	Chair Sunseri	Closes public hearing SB 100A.
063	Rep. Beck	Asks for information from Department of Education (DOE) regarding alternative schools. Asks if TSPC could testify before a work session.
069	Chair Sunseri	Discusses upcoming schedule with the committee.
074	Norm Fox	Committee Administrator. Explains Monday's meeting in Portland.
080	Chair Sunseri	Adjourns at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Joan Diaz, Norm Fox,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Kathleen Shelley, 1 p

B ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Arthur Anderson, 3 pp

C ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Francis Charbonnier, 4 pp

D ñ SB 100A, written testimony, James Ford, 2 pp

E ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Larry Chamberlain, 1 p

F ñ SB 100A, written testimony, William Haburn, 1 p

G ñ SB 100A, written testimony, Betty McChesney-Haus, 1 p