

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 05, 1999 Hearing Room E

1:00 PM Tapes 21 - 24

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Ron Sunseri, Chair

Rep. William Morrisette, Vice-Chair

Rep. Betsy Close

Rep. Elaine Hopson

Rep. Bob Jenson

Rep. Lynn Lundquist

Rep. Carl Wilson

Rep. Jackie Winters

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Chris Beck

Rep. Tim Knopp

STAFF PRESENT: Norm Fox, Administrator

Joan Diaz, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: Informational Meeting ñ Charter Schools

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 21, A		

005	Chair Sunseri	Calls meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Opens informational meeting.
<u>INFORMATIONAL MEETING</u>		
007	Stan Bunn	Superintendent, Public Instruction. Explains his perspective on charter schools in relation to the public school system.
044	Bunn	Comments that in his campaign for office, he observed little demand from the public for charter schools. Explains the need for the legislature to be united on this issue.
067	Bunn	Discusses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsorship by local school district/local school board • A straightforward appeal process • Collective bargaining • Licensure of teachers • Fiscal accountability • Equal opportunity for students
137	Bunn	Explains his office will provide assistance in drafting amendments.
142	Rep. Morrisette	Asks for further clarification on charter school funding.
155	Bunn	Explains that "a reasonable level of charges" needs to be established between the district and a charter school.
163	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if a charter school would receive the same funding as any other school in the district.
175	Bunn	Explains administrative costs. Explains that charter schools should share in those costs.
180	Rep. Wilson	Asks what is the chief concern from an adjacent school regarding chartering "bodies."
185	Bunn	Responds that decisions should come from the local community.
195	Rep. Wilson	Asks how would the Department of Education (DOE) handle any problems between individuals organizing a charter school and a local school board.
198	Bunn	Discusses the DOE's appeals process.
226	Rep. Close	Explains her qualifications as an educator, but states her certification has lapsed.

		Asks why not allow her to teach.
250	Bunn	Responds that the current system can be reviewed for flexibility.
257	Rep. Winters	Asks if an individual held licensure from another profession, would that individual be allowed to teach.
265	Bunn	Explains the "license of accomplishment" and the "professional technical alternative."
281	Rep. Jenson	Asks is it state law that contract teachers at Howard Street School cannot give grades.
298	Bunn	Responds he is unsure, but will check on that for the committee.
326	Rep. Hobson	Asks what currently prohibits a district from establishing charter schools.
329	Bunn	Discusses establishment of alternative schools versus charter schools..
330	Chair Sunseri	Comments there is no appeal process at this time.
357	Rep. Hobson	Asks if there could be a charter school that would be funded at 100% by the district.
361	Bunn	Responds there is room for flexibility in funding.
375	Rep. Wilson	Asks could he teach in a charter school based on his professional experience.
376	Bunn	Responds he will research current status of certification and will forward that information at a later date.
385	Bunn	Responds to previous meeting's questions regarding national testing and state assessments. Explains he will forward statistics to the committee within the next week.
390	Chair Sunseri	Comments that information will be helpful when the committee reviews standards and assessments as they relate to charter schools.
404	Rep. Lundquist	Asks if at the end of an appeal process, would the DOE charter a school or direct the application back to the local district.
TAPE 22, A		

005	Bunn	Responds that the DOE should not be "in the business of chartering schools." States that the DOE would refer it back to the local district.
010	Rep. Morrisette	Asks what would be the result if the district declined the application.
012	Bunn	Responds there should be sound reasons for denying the application.
015	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if there would be sanctions against that district.
018	Bunn	Responds if there was evidence of bias, there could be financial sanctions against school districts.
020	Chair Sunseri	Extends thanks to witness. Comments the committee will be looking forward to the information requested.
024	Rep. Lynn Snodgrass	Speaker of the House. Explains she will return and testify officially at a later date. Expresses thanks to committee for its hard work and long hours that will be spent hearing this bill.
041	Joan Craig	Principal, Mid Valley Learning Center, a private alternative education program. (EXHIBIT A) Supports SB 100A with some changes. Explains that the Center is an alternative school, but has been denied funding by the local school district.
110	Craig	Shares experience in teaching students with dyslexia.
124	Craig	Urges committee to permit other entities besides the local school district to approve charter schools. Explains difficulty in dealing with the local school district.
161	Rep. Morrisette	Asks why not apply to the city council or school board.
165	Craig	Responds the office of the superintendent directed her to that office. Explains that special education students are divided into numerous classifications, but that dyslexic students "fall through the cracks."
189	Rep. Close	Asks the cost of a student attending the Center.
195	Craig	Responds it costs \$30 a session; private teaching for one hour.
198	Rep. Winters	Ask if she had a contract, how many more students could be served.
205	Craig	Responds that if they received the funding, they could have an entire school specifically for language skills.

210	Chair Sunseri	Comments on written statement submitted that the Center is eligible to receive funds.
215	Craig	Explains the Center is not receiving any funds from the school district at present.
218	Chair Sunseri	Asks what would be the difference between a charter school versus an alternative school.
220	Craig	Explains if they were chartered, they could train teachers and accept full time students.
225	Chair Sunseri	Clarifies expenses of the parents.
227	Rep. Morrisette	Comments that he will contact the assistant superintendent in Albany.
235	Chair Sunseri	Comments the committee is seeking both sides of the issue.
245	Rep. Hobson	Asks to explain "eligible for funds" from the district.
249	Craig	Explains alternative schools can receive funds per 329.485 ORS.
285	Suzanne Wright	Teacher, Mid Valley Learning Center. Shares experience on lack of sensitivity by public school teachers.
315	Rep. Winters	Asks if she has the financial resources to access the entire appeal process.
327	Craig	Responds she does not.
335	Rep. Wilson	Asks if the local school board does not charter a school, who should be the chartering authority.
340	Craig	Responds the DOE or the Education Service District (ESD).
345	Chris Howser	Parent, Albany. Explains her child's experience in public schools.
TAPE 21, B		
002	Houser	Explains the level of frustration and financial burden in evaluating her child's learning disability.
022	Rep. Morrisette	Asks for more information on dyslexia. Asks if a charter school should be

		designated for dyslexia students only.
049	Craig	Responds that dyslexia is "in a category by itself," and is a "major public health threat."
055	Rep. Morrisette	Asks why is dyslexia difficult to diagnose.
060	Craig	Responds there are no tools to test for it.
070	Sandy Babcock	Parent, Albany. Shares experience of her child.
089	Chair Sunseri	Asks is class size an issue in diagnosing the problem.
092	Babcock	Comments the problem could be due to a large class size, which would delay diagnosing the specific learning disability.
108	Craig	Explains how a dyslexic student processes a typical question.
110	Babcock	Shares information on a video which illustrates the dyslexic's thinking process.
115	Craig	Demonstrates how a dyslexic student recognizes the alphabet.
141	Rep. Winters	Asks is the problem described unique to the Albany school district or is it widespread.
145	Craig	Responds her only experience has been with the Albany school district.
147	Stan McGehee	Parent, Albany. Shares experience of his son.
188	Allison Anderson	Parent, Albany. Shares experience of her daughter. Explains child is going without help in the public school system and is now in counseling.
210	Ann Propst	Grandmother, Albany. Shares experience with her son and grandson for the past 30 years.
260	Craig	Expresses thanks to the committee and hopes the committee realizes the problem. States she has written a booklet on dyslexia (EXHIBIT B).
270	Chair Sunseri	Asks why would a charter school be better than an alternative education contract school.

295	Craig	Explains the difficulty the parents have integrating specialized classes into their children's regular school day.
315	Chair Sunseri	Asks is witness aware that if she organizes as a charter school, she would be responsible for math, history, science, and other subjects.
325	Craig	Responds she is aware of it. Asks committee to consider modifying standardized tests for dyslexic students.
330	Chair Sunseri	Responds the committee will be reviewing testing later.
344	Rep. Lundquist	Comments that another important issue is identifying the kind of learning disability.
375	Chair Sunseri	Thanks witnesses for the "beneficial" information provided to the committee.
390	Rob Kremer	President, Oregon Education Coalition. Explains it is "critical" that the local school district should not be the only charter school sponsor.
TAPE 22, B		
005	Kremer	Cites performance measures of Oregon students. (EXHIBIT C)
043	Chair Sunseri	Asks should a local school board have the first right of refusal.
046	Kremer	Responds that he has no problem with that. Explains that 34 states now have charter schools. States charter schools are not "skimming the best and the brightest;" they are taking the "at-risk" students
063	Rep. Morrisette	Asks for data of the other 34 states.
065	Kremer	Responds he will provide that information.
070	Rep. Lundquist	Asks is there information on a school-by-school basis.
075	Kremer	Responds he will provide that information. Clarifies that charter schools are a reflection of the community and do not try to segregate students.
085	Chair Sunseri	Asks if there are charter schools exclusively for one ethnic group.
090	Kremer	Responds there are some in California.

097	Rep. Hobson	Asks if he is advocating for a charter school system that serves the 20% of students who are not being well served in the public school system.
100	Kremer	Responds that that will be the situation ultimately. Concludes that charter schools are not "damaging" existing schools.
122	Rep. Jenson	Asks what is the state of Arizona study.
125	Kremer	Responds that it is Education Policy Analysis Archives, Arizona State University which can be found online. Comments he can supply that information to the committee administrator.
130	Rep. Jenson	Asks where is the evidence that public schools' teaching methodology is changing due to charter schools.
135	Kremer	Responds it is mostly anecdotal information.
150	Rep. Close	Asks what is the amount of money that is left with the district when a student moves to a charter school.
160	Kremer	Explains that there is no difference when transferring to a charter school. Explains how the funding from the school district should be allocated.
187	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if the "at risk" students include special education students.
198	Kremer	Responds that he is not sure of the percentage in the study he cited.
205	Rep. Morrisette	Cites the percentage of special education students in his district.
210	Kremer	Explains that the special education regulations need to be reviewed carefully for charter schools.
229	Chair Sunseri	Asks how much do other states pay charter sponsors for oversight.
230	Kremer	Discusses the percentage that California specified in statute.
240	Chair Sunseri	Asks if a minimum percentage could be set with provision for negotiation.
255	Kremer	Responds his preference would be that 100% of the funds go to the charter school, who will then contract out necessary services. Explains a 5% fee cost is reasonable.

264	Rep. Lundquist	Asks for clarification if a 5% fee would also include a building.
268	Kremer	Responds negatively.
275	Chair Sunseri	Clarifies the 5% would just be the oversight fee.
280	Rep. Jenson	Asks if SB 100A addresses the special education issue sufficiently.
285	Kremer	Responds that he does not know enough about it.
294	Rep. Jenson	States that if the state passes legislation making it more difficult for special education students, there is a risk in violating federal laws.
295	Kremer	Responds that he agrees with that.
308	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if there are charter school boards in other states.
315	Kremer	Responds affirmatively.
321	Warren Thompson	Accountant, Salem. Explains concern with the requirement that only teachers who are certified should teach in charter schools.
350	Chair Sunseri	Asks how should the professional be qualified.
390	Thompson	Responds the person should be knowledgeable in the area in which they are teaching.
395	Rep. Jenson	Comments on his experience with certified and non-certified teachers.
TAPE 23, A		
005	Rep. Jenson	Comments he is concerned that the teacher should be qualified and not just knowledgeable in the subject they are teaching.
015	Thompson	Responds he agrees.
030	Rep. Jenson	Cites an example of a Ph.D. in anatomy performing surgery.
059	Rep. Wilson	Comments that parents involved in charter schools will be very careful in hiring teachers.

082	Rep. Morrisette	Comments that "certification does not mean a whole lot" in some instances.
095	Barbara Pearson	Parent, Corvallis. Explains efforts to establish an alternative school.
124	Karen Combs	President, Academy of Childhood Excellence. Explains experience with three school boards. (EXHIBIT D)
167	Combs	Refers to Brownsville Charter School experience, their financial problems and the resultant lawsuit.
194	Combs	Comments that they would not be able to find a sponsor the way SB 100A is written. Suggests that community colleges be sponsors.
250	Combs	Comments there should be no fear that numerous charter schools would be formed as it takes an "enormous amount of work."
270	Rep. Hobson	Asks for clarification on how a public school would be changed into a charter school.
280	Combs	Cites instance of one school in her district.
343	Combs	Cites sections of SB 100A with which she disagrees.
365	Chair Sunseri	Asks what percentage of the funding would be sufficient to accommodate students' needs.
372	Combs	Responds that the alternative education law states 80%, but a higher percentage would be better.
TAPE 24, A		
003	Combs	Suggests changes to specific sections of SB 100A.
030	Chair Sunseri	Asks that written documentation on statewide assessments be provided to the committee administrator.
035	Combs	Responds that she will provide that information. Continues suggesting changes to SB 100A. Thanks the committee.
078	Rep. Jenson	Thanks witness for her careful analysis.
086	Rep. Hopson	Asks if any community college expressed interest in becoming a sponsor.

090	Combs	Responds no, since the current law does not permit that sponsorship.
093	Rep. Hopson	Seeks clarification of 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders taking courses at community colleges.
101	Combs	Responds she would be offering classes to home school students but there is only one 12 th grader who would be taking community college level courses.
105	Rep. Hopson	Asks is the school's intent to be a college preparatory school.
115	Combs	Responds she will be offering college preparatory courses as well as vocational courses.
127	Chair Sunseri	Closes informational meeting. Adjourns at 3:25 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Joan Diaz, Norm Fox,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ Informational Meeting, written material, Joan Craig, 15 pp

B ñ Informational Meeting, written material, Joan Craig, 14 pp

C ñ Informational Meeting, written material, Rob Kremer 1 p

D ñ Informational Meeting, written material, Karen Combs, 5 pp