

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 05, 1999 Hearing Room E

1:00 PM Tapes 60 - 61

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

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Jackie Winters

STAFF PRESENT: Norm Fox, Administrator

Joan Diaz, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: HB 3042 Public Hearing

HB 2563 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 60, A		
005	Chair Sunseri	Calls meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Opens public hearing on HB 3042.

HB 3042 PUBLIC HEARING

023	Craig Roessler	Superintendent, Silver Falls School District 4J. Supports HB 3042 which repeals second language requirement of public schools; repealing ORS 329.487.
058	Rep. Wilson	Asks what is the benefit of learning a second language.
060	Roessler	Responds with discussion of diversity.
062	Rep. Wilson	Asks if the requirements are specific to choice of languages.
065	Roessler	Responds choice varies from high school to high school.
075	Rep. Beck	Asks if he supports the goals stated in ORS 329.487.
096	Roessler	Responds not necessarily; students planning to attend a four-year college may find it an advantage.
100	Rep. Beck	Asks would he support these goals if there were funding.
102	Roessler	Responds he is not sure; students have other competing needs.
123	Rep. Beck	Comments he represents a district with ambitious parents; very frustrated that the legislature does not provide resources for students to learn foreign languages. Asks if it would be reasonable to create a fund.
130	Roessler	Responds if resources are available, it would be a "great option." Comments on additional needs of students.
144	Rep. Close	Asks if there is any research into how many nations speak English as a first or second language.
152	Roessler	Responds he does not have that information.
158	Rep. Morrisette	Asks if he is aware of school districts that teach foreign languages in elementary schools.
165	Roessler	Responds he is; his district could not find a foreign language teacher.
170	Rep. Morrisette	Discusses language immersion schools in Eugene, teaching Japanese, Spanish, and French from 1 st grade to 12 th grade.

174	Roessler	Responds he is aware of the immersion schools.
178	Rep. Morrisette	Asks for clarification on use of resources. Comments that two years ⁱ instruction at the elementary level would encourage continued study.
188	Roessler	Responds he agrees.
205	Rep. Wilson	Asks if there is any research that the course elective system whereby a student studies a foreign language for two years is faulty.
210	Roessler	Responds he does not have that information.
215	Rep. Wilson	Discusses objective of the current law.
219	Chair Sunseri	Comments on the reactions of people when ORS 329.487 was enacted.
225	Rep. Knopp	Asks for the cost of implementing ORS 329.487.
230	Roessler	Responds he has not implemented yet; unsure of the cost. Comments that current 9 th graders must have 2 years of a foreign language; schools need waivers now.
242	Rep. Knopp	Asks if repealing this statute will affect diploma and Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) requirements.
247	Roessler	Responds it should have no impact on attaining a diploma; he is unsure of impact on CIM.
250	Norm Fox	Committee Administrator. Asks what part of the statute should be repealed.
265	Roessler	Responds that paragraph (2) could be eliminated.
269	Greg McMurdo	Deputy Superintendent, Department of Education (DOE). Clarifies that if the statute is repealed, it is repealed in its entirety.
275	Chair Sunseri	Asks what impact would it have on the CIM foreign language requirement.
277	McMurdo	Responds there would be no effect.
279	Rep. Jenson	Discusses U.S. educational system versus other countries ⁱ educational systems.
280	Roessler	Comments it is more common that in other countries several languages are

		spoken.
302	Rep. Jenson	Cites Germany's language requirements; not proposing Oregon require the same.
305	Chair Sunseri	Refers to Administrative Rules (sub b) relative to CIM. States by school year 2002-3 performance standards for the 2 nd language will be in effect.
310	McMurdo	Responds that would not be eliminated if HB 3042 is passed.
315	Chair Sunseri	Discusses the waiver requirement.
320	McMurdo	States leaving the waiver requirement, paragraph (3) in ORS 329.487 would not accomplish anything.
325	Rep. Beck	Comments that a two-year requirement to study a foreign language is "silly." Explains the study of a foreign language should be fully integrated in the curriculum from the first grade.
340	Rep. Roger Beyer	District 28. States he drafted the bill, but will defer testimony.
357	Ozzie Rose	Executive Director, Confederation Oregon School Administrators (COSA). Supports HB 3042. Clarifies statute as it relates to the CIM. (EXHIBIT A)
TAPE 61, A		
002	Rose	Discusses shortage of foreign language teachers. HB 3042 repeals statute that requires Oregon students to study a foreign language.
029	Rose	Discusses problems that mandates create for schools of various sizes.
031	Rep. Beyer	Advocates passage of HB 3042.
035	Chair Sunseri	Comments that the committee will bring bill the back. Closes public hearing on HB 3042. Opens public hearing on HB 2563.
<u>HB 2563 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
050	Jim Green	Legislative Representative, Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA), testifies against HB 2563. Discusses the 11 amendments distributed by staff. (EXHIBIT A) . Comments OSBA will probably offer another amendment.
088	Rep. Close	Expresses concern about wording, "unhealthy preoccupation with weapons."

		States serious collectors could be affected by this statute.
101	Green	Responds he agrees; needs amendment to define "unhealthy preoccupation."
102	Rep. William Morrisette	District 42. Supports HB 2563. Refers to Springfield student violence. Discusses ñ1 amendments.
170	Rep. Wilson	Discusses ñ1 amendments. Asks for information on schoolsí reporting policies.
181	Rep. Morrisette	Relates his experience as a former teacher.
199	Rep. Wilson	Asks would a teacher not want to get involved if they noticed an unhealthy preoccupation.
209	Rep. Morrisette	Responds that teachers would not want to get involved.
231	Rep. Jenson	Contemplates a proposed amendment that suggests that the principal investigate incidents after the initial reporting.
256	Rep. Knopp	Cautions against that; suggests not asking teachers to make a determination of unhealthy preoccupation.
279	Rep. Morrisette	Responds he agrees. Refers to cultural standards.
300	Rep. Knopp	Discusses violent video games and their psychological affect on children. Suggests language in the ñ1 amendments is too broad.
321	Rep. Morrisette	Responds that he agrees.
342	Rep. Close	Asks should the legislature not mandate things that are desirable because it would be "stepping on peopleís liberties." Asks hypothetical question regarding reading mandates.
349	Rep. Morrisette	Responds he would not enact such a mandate. Discusses wide intellectual ability of children; canít mandate a reading requirement.
370	Rep. Close	Discusses teachersí discretion; include special training in teacher preparation rather than mandate new reporting procedures.
375	Rep. Morrisette	Discusses including recognition of "unhealthy preoccupation with violence" in teacher training.

395	Rep. Hobson	Asks if teachers will read the statute should it become law.
399	Rep. Morrisette	Responds that school administrators will share new information with staffs.
TAPE 60, B		
005	Rep. Morrisette	Discusses how the information could be distributed.
012	Rep. Hobson	Comments that it is "almost impossible to quantify unhealthy."
029	Rep. Morrisette	Responds that teachers could review preoccupation with violence in writing compositions and art assignments. States teachers should be encouraged to report; should be in statute so that every school district is aware of a new reporting requirement.
058	Ozzie Rose	Executive Director, Confederation Oregon School Administrators (COSA). Comments that fundamental concern is what is "preoccupation." Urges caution due to potential lawsuits. Discusses child abuse statute which provides for immunity if you act in good faith. Encourages an amendment that includes immunity.
080	Rep. Close	Asks if this law were in effect, what would happen to a teacher who did not report it.
091	Rose	Responds he does not know. Discusses examples of writings he has received from students. Comments that the statute must be more specific.
102	Rep. Jenson	Comments his major objection is that there is no immunity clause.
105	Rose	Agrees and suggests that "preoccupation" be defined more clearly.
109	Chair Sunseri	Discusses options on wording of a new amendment.
123	Rep. Morrisette	Discusses activities regarding reporting child abuse. Acknowledges that he will include an immunity clause in a new amendment.
155	Rep. Knopp	Asks for provision for parents to become involved; include notification in new amendments.
165	Chair Sunseri	Agrees it should be included.
168	Tricia Smith	Government Relations Specialist, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA). Testifies against HB 2563. Discusses the n1 amendments.

212	Rep. Morrisette	Responds to comments and will consider suggestions for amendments.
225	Smith	States "employees" are school bus drivers, cooks, and custodians. Urges clarification of employees in any amendments.
235	Rep. Morrisette	Discusses school bus driver conference and possible violence on the buses. Declares all schools employees should be included in training to recognize unhealthy preoccupation with violence.
240	Smith	Explains all employees will attend training. Expresses concern with civil liability immunity. Asks which juvenile agency has authority and resources to deal with a student who has not committed a crime.
273	Rep. Lundquist	Asks what is the current policy.
280	Rep. Morrisette	Responds the juvenile justice agency is not equipped to handle a situation until a student commits a crime. Explains that changes may be forthcoming. Refers to HB 2262; disclosing student information.
290	Laurie Wimmer	Legislative Representative, Oregon Education Association (OEA). States that the law already requires conduct and student discipline policies be in place. Cautions against overreaction.
295	Chair Sunseri	Comments the committee will bring the bill back. Closes HB 2563. Adjourns at 2:25 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Joan Diaz, Norm Fox,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ HB 3042, written material, Ozzie Rose, 1 p

B ñ HB 2563, proposed ñ1 amendments, staff, 1 p

