

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 18, 1999 Hearing Room B

1:00 PM Tapes 7-9

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Tom Hartung, Chair

Sen. Susan Castillo, Vice-Chair

Sen. Peter Courtney

Sen. Verne Duncan

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Avel Gordly

Sen. Marylin Shannon

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Jan McComb, Administrator

Karen O'Kelley, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: SB 100 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 7, A		
005	Chair Hartung	Calls meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and opens public hearing on SB 100.
<u>SB 100 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
015	Rob Kremer	President, Oregon Education Coalition. Submits (EXHIBIT A) .
		Shares the findings from the UCLA study about charter schools:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> California is struggling with the accountability piece.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many schools have non-academic goals.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School boards are not supportive in many cases.
		States that charter schools should not become an avenue to segregate the public school system. Adds that charter schools should have the freedom to have certain types of enrollment provisions.
065	Kremer	Refers to report on Arizona's charter schools which conclude that they are not racially reflective of the district totals.
110	Linda Duman	Administrator and part-time teacher at the Lourdes School. Testifies in support of SB 100 (EXHIBIT B).
		Discusses the Lourdes School which is registered as a private alternative school. States that the school has the same philosophy as they did when they were a regular public school.
		States that due to the merger laws in 1997, the Lourdes School was forced to merge with the Scio district. Explains that in June of 1998, the superintendent of Scio announced that the school district planned close the school. States that the Lourdes School used the ORS 336 law to start a new school to meet the learning needs of students.
185	Duman	States that the Scio School Board decided not to contract with the Lourdes School because they were not able to serve the needs of special education students. Comments that the real reason was that they did not want parents requesting placement of their children into alternative schools.
		States that the Lourdes School is currently running as a private alternative school. Adds that the school has two and a half certified staff members, and two teachers' assistants that are working without pay. States that the school has procured about \$60,000 in cash and donations to keep the school running.
		States that the community of Scio is anxiously awaiting a charter school bill.
245	Duman	States that the Lourdes School would like to have the following points considered in the bill:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local school boards should not be used to grant charters.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monies should go directly to the school.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charters should be granted for a minimum of three years.
300	Chair Hartung	Asks if Duman agrees that there needs to be a charter school law.
304	Duman	Responds that she agrees.
320	Sen. Courtney	Asks why the Lourdes School only has 40 students enrolled.
324	Duman	Responds that the teachers are working for nothing right now and they cannot afford to accept any more students at this time.
346	Sen. Courtney	Asks if the school has a band or a yearbook.
350	Duman	Responds that they do not. States that they do have two musicals per year.
375	Sen. Duncan	Asks if after the merger any of the students choose to go to the Scio district.
380	Duman	Responds that none did.
TAPE 8, A		
018	Duman	States that the Lourdes School is offering a different system than the neighboring districts are.
037	Sen. Gordly	Asks if there have been special needs students that the Lourdes School was not able to admit.
040	Duman	Responds that there was only one.
048	Sen. Gordly	Asks for examples in the school's curriculum that would expose the students to a multi-cultural world.
056	Duman	Responds that internet has played a role. Adds that they are offering French at the school.
084	Sen. Shannon	Asks if the Lourdes School meets the state standards for diversity.
090	Duman	Responds that it does.
097	Sen. Shannon	Asks if, when the Lourdes School merged, the school or the students benefited from the leftover money.

101	Duman	Responds that they did not. States that the Scio district used some of the money to pay off the bills from the year that the schools merged.
117	Vice-Chair Castillo	Asks for clarification on the earlier statement regarding the right kind of enrollment.
120	Duman	Responds that if enrollment gets too big, then they will lose the mobility they currently have.
130	Chair Hartung	Responds that he does not know how to facilitate giving money directly to a charter school.
167	Brad Avakian	Beaverton School District parent. Opposes SB 100 (EXHIBIT C).
		Makes the following points against SB 100:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charters deprive students, parents, and school personnel of their constitutional rights.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and students may not be given a choice.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some charter schools will become winners and some losers within the competitive model.
326	Chair Hartung	Asks if Avakian is aware that the Beaverton School Board does support a public charter school law.
340	Avakian	Responds that he does not believe the Beaverton School Board supports the bill as it is written right now.
357	Chair Hartung	Asks Sen. Courtney to check with the legal department about Avakian's concerns regarding constitutional rights.
387	Sen. Gordly	States that it is her understanding that the Beaverton School Board supports SB 100 if they can be assured of accountability.
411	Chair Hartung	Adds that the Beaverton School Board did not like the idea of an appeal to the Board of Education.
460	Vice-Chair Castillo	Asks if Avakian has spoken with any other attorneys about his concerns regarding constitutional rights.
465	Avakian	Responds that he has.

TAPE 7, B

032	Sen. Metsger	<p>Presents the -1 and -2 amendments (EXHIBIT D). States that the ñ1 amendments would require that a public charter school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be approved by a sponsor.• Be established as a nonprofit organization under the laws of Oregon.• Qualify as an exempt organization under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
		<p>Discusses the ñ2 amendments. States that certification for instructional staff is critical.</p>
075	Sen. Courtney	<p>Asks Sen. Metsger how much higher he wants to go with teacher certification.</p>
078	Sen. Metsger	<p>Responds that he wants the total to be 2/3 of the instructional staff.</p>
100	Steve McCrea	<p>Parent of children in the Portland public school system. Testifies in favor of charter schools (EXHIBIT E).</p>
		<p>States concerns with the current public school system.</p>
185	McCrea	<p>States that charter schools accomplish the following:</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address the needs of different students.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow choices.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not take funds away from public education.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are held accountable to students and parents.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage innovation.
250	McCrea	<p>Gives the following suggestions for charter schools:</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must not be elitist.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to directly receive 100% funding.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should have multiple sponsors.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should determine their own accountability measures.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should be subject to all non-discrimination laws.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should consider alternative forms of certification.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should learn from the other states that have charter school laws.
TAPE 8, B		
025	Halim Rahsaan	Co-Chair of the Community Monitoring Advisory Coalition (CMAC) (EXHIBIT F) . States that CMAC is concerned about the ethnic population at charter schools.
060	Richard Luccetti	Co-Chair of CMAC. States that CMAC supports improving student achievement in the Portland Public Schools.
090	Rahsaan	States concern that parent contracts at charter schools give schools a greater choice over the kind of parents they serve.
097	Sen. Gordly	Urges committee to take note of the research that CMAC is presenting. States that the issues of equity must be addressed.
135	Vice-Chair Castillo	Believes that energy should be going into improving the public school system, rather than creating new entities that only a few students would be able to enjoy.
147	Richard Meinhard, Ph.D.	Member of Charter Schools Task Force. Submits Task Force Report (EXHIBIT G) . States that this report is their attempt to honestly represent the charter school perspective.
190	Meinhard	States concern about equity and funding issues. Encourages the committee to look at the mechanism in the model bill at the end of the Task Force Report. States that the model bill has language to help write amendments to address certain issues.
239	William Conerly	Member of the Charter Schools Task Force. Submits testimony (EXHIBIT H) . States that competition would be beneficial to public schools.
282	Chair Hartung	Explains that there have been four charter school bills introduced so far, three in the Senate and one in the House.
290	Sen. George	Comments that 3/4 of charter schools have waiting lists that exceeded the capacity of the school.

299	Conerly	Responds that those would be the people who are not being well served by their local school.
313	Trisha Thompson	Member of the Portland chapter of Parents for Public Schools. Testifies on behalf of proposed charter legislation (EXHIBIT I).
		States that the committee must construct charter school legislation carefully so that new responsive schools will come to be.
395	Thompson	States that charter legislation should have:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full and direct funding.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple sponsors and a strong appeals process.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgetary provisions to address facilities costs.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment preference to returning students and siblings of students at the charter school.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban districts give priority to proposals serving minority, economically disadvantaged and special need populations.
TAPE 9, A		
030	Thompson	Discusses distinction that needs to be made regarding charter schools which are created to:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve an alternate vision.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve a specific population.
045	Chair Hartung	Adjourns the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Karen O'Kelley Jan McComb

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - SB 100, written testimony and charts, Rob Kremer, 7 pp

B - SB 100, written testimony, charts and brochure, Linda Duman, 15 pp

C - SB 100, written testimony, Brad Avakian, 6 pp

D - SB 100, proposed ñ1 and ñ2 amendments, Sen. Metsger, 2 pp

E - SB 100, written testimony, Steve McCrea, 2 pp

F - SB 100, articles, CMAC, 37 pp

G - SB 100, written testimony and report, Richard Meinhard, Ph.D., 67 pp

H - SB 100, written testimony, William Conerly, 4 pp

I - SB 100, written testimony, Trisha Thompson, 4 pp

J - SB 100, written testimony, John Nelsen, 3 pp