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SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 24, 1997 Hearing Room 343

3:00 P.M. Tapes 9 - 10

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tom Hartung, Chair

Sen. Marylin Shannon, Vice-Chair

Sen. Ken Baker

Sen. Cliff Trow

Sen. Susan Castillo

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Sen. Gary George

STAFF PRESENT:

Jan McComb, Administrator

Shirley Spendal, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

Public Hearing SB 290

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 9, A		

SB 290 - PUBLIC HEARING

005 Chair Hartung Calls meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. Announces there will not be Friday hearings until bill load is heavier. Opens public hearing on SB 290.

007 Richard Meinhard Resides in Portland. Parent in Portland Public School District. Supports charter school legislation, Submits (**EXHIBIT A**), proposed amendments and testimony. Will not go over amendments today. Reason here to discuss three items. Discusses closed charter schools around the country.

046 Chair Hartung Questions about location of Windows Charter School and charter schools in Colorado.

047 Meinhard Answers yes. Continues discussion of closed charter schools.

061 Meinhard Makes point that out of 480 charter schools known nationwide, 4 have closed, giving failure rate of .08%, much better than starting a small business.

065 Chair Hartung If 25 states have charter schools, what is your "read" on how many schools closed. Asks when first charter school open.

069 Meinhard Answers City School on Hill in Minnesota. Thinks opened fall of 1992.

078 Sen. Trow States not fair to compare charter schools to small business.

079 Meinhard Points out none closed for lack of achievement for educational reasons.

082 Sen. Trow Asks if long enough track record for educational goals.

084 Meinhard Federal government conducting study. Not available yet. Anecdotal evidence "wonderful."

089 Sen. Shannon Asks if Colorado has successful charter schools.

091 Meinhard Yes.

092 Sen. Shannon Asks if Colorado has sole sponsorship of school boards.

093 Meinhard Colorado is case where compromised open sponsorship provision. Discusses process in Colorado.

105 Sen. Shannon Asks what state is handling charter schools the best in regards to sponsorship. Asks his definition of "open sponsorship."

108 Meinhard Indicates means multiple sponsors. Adds giving local district right of first refusal. Small districts can say go to another district to get charter. Buildings are a big problem for charter schools.

117 Chair Hartung States what wanting committee to look for is state charter that is working well. States Lowell Smith submitted (**EXHIBIT B**), which is the same as Meinhard's initiative. Asks if Meinhard knows of any state charters.

124 Meinhard States yes. Arizona law is closest to model charter school principles. Problem because Arizona state got caught by surprise. Now working out technical support. Michigan, Massachusetts, Colorado - about 10 schools.

136 Chair Hartung Asks how Meinhard's initiative differs from Arizona law.

138 Meinhard States model legislation we drafted not initiative; submitted second one as part of his testimony other day. States things left out of initiative which need are first refusal for the local districts, need public information system. Should be attention paid to accountability on reporting. States Arizona most open honest bill.

153 Sen. Trow Asks cited by whom.

156 Meinhard Nobody has cited as best bill; should be cited as a good bill.

158 Sen. Trow You state it has been cited.

159 Meinhard States Lou Ann Bierlin in Louisiana governor's office has a research report on all charter schools bills. Took principles in bill and ranked states.

164 Sen. Trow Asks how did she know which to chose.

165 Meinhard States came from Ted Kolderie.

167 Sen. Trow Asks about group.

168 Meinhard Discusses Ted Kolderie.

169 Sen. Trow Would like to get Kolderie information. Asks if have.

170 Chair Hartung States no, but knows House has five most important questions.

161 Sen. Trow Asks who Kolderie is.

172 Meinhard Discusses Kolderie's history regarding charter schools.

179 Chair Hartung States will contact Kolderie to ask him to send pertinent materials.

184 Sen. Shannon Asks if going through Meinhard's bill?

186 Chair Hartung States receiving testimony. Looking at main differences in state laws.

195 Sen. Baker Asks about Bend Community School; understands opened with one certified teachers. Suggests update information.

203 Meinhard Discusses skimming and Bend Community School. Alternative schools generally set up referral committee. In case of Bend, district screened kids and put cap on enrollment. No skimming. Cannot take out-of-district students. Alternative education law has restrictive conditions which need to be looked at. States all schools should be open not to have two classes of school

218 Meinhard Discusses minority enrollment rates. Charter schools are attracting minorities at much higher rate. Also over 50 percent of students identified as at-risk.

228 David Myton Executive Secretary of Teachers Standards and Practices Commission. Resides in Dundee. Submits (**EXHIBIT C**).

232 Myton States here at request of commission to comment on one section of bill. States Commission supports concept of alternatives for students and alternatives for persons entering teaching profession.

239 Myton States one point of disagreement with SB 290 is section 11, part 4. which only requires one licensed educator for a charter school. Discusses **EXHIBIT C**. States studies over 30 years consistently show teacher preparation does make difference in ability of teachers to work in schools.

265 Myton Discusses "pervasive myth" that teacher education does not really make a difference.

268 Chair Hartung Discusses teachers who are trained, but not good teachers. Discusses finding way to allow us to give parents a choice to send children to school with unlicensed teachers like those at Portland Saturday Academy. He thinks we can do better and wants this to be new choice. States wanted greater parental participation in schools through school reform and site counsels. Stated looking for way to maintain good quality, experience, licensed, but at the same time give options for parents to have a choice.

TAPE 10, A

020 Sen. Trow States this is one of key issues. Fees very important for teachers to be well educated and feels licensing absolutely essential. Does recognize some can teach well without a license. Feels need to make sure charter schools have licensed. Thinks we should make sure licensed teachers at charter schools.

029 Sen. Baker Discusses blending non-certified with certified teachers. Would like to get the Commission's feelings later regarding a percentage being certified.

047 Myton Discusses process of professional technical license. Refers to **EXHIBIT C**, brochure. Will be back to testify when SB 124 comes up. States are attempting to address alternative entry. Discusses people who come in as guest instructors and those who are instructional assistants. States Commission recognizes some schools have special needs not addressed by traditional programs. Goal is to give more recognition.

068 Sen. Baker Asks if would you envision that for charter schools.

069 Myton Yes, if licensed personnel were required.

070 Sen. Baker Not necessarily going through the process certified teachers go through.

073 Myton States yes. Discusses creating fee structure for beginning teacher assessment program.

086 Chair Hartung Discusses handout, first page of brochure, change to "greater parental participation."

094 Sen. Trow Discussion regarding participation.

100 Rebecca Black Executive Director of Oregon Outreach, Inc., non-profit agency located in Portland. We provide alternative educational programs to 9 school districts at 7 separate locations. Submits **(EXHIBIT D)**.

106 Black Indicates came back to testify to share figures and share recommendations.

109 Black Issue of equity. Greatest concern funding not following students. Discusses funding and her school. Urge to look at charter schools as means to achieve more equitable funding for all students in state.

130 Sen. Trow Question regarding contracting with Portland Public Schools and making case for more money.

Black Answers they do and some districts are equitable; some are not.

Sen. Trow Asks if they find her school valuable.

Black Answers no.

Sen. Trow Asks why they negotiate with her.

140 Black Answers in terms of drop-out procedure, no negotiation.

142 Black Discusses Ted Kolderie and his history regarding charter legislation. States he indicates nine things important. Number one, he suggests there be at least one other public authority besides local school board that can sponsor a charter school. Asks the committee to seriously consider this. Discusses example of her history of starting schools.

Black Discusses Colorado legislation and Peggy Kerns. States Peggy Kerns and Ted Kolderie willing to come to Oregon to provide assistance.

179 Sen. Trow Asks who would pay for it.

180 Black States she heard they had agreed to do this and it would not cost the state, but cannot say who would.

182 Sen. Trow Discussion about who could pay for it.

185 Black Discusses concern that charter schools would be exclusive. States research shows majority being served are disadvantaged students who cannot be adequately served in public school. Feels also frees public school system up to serve those students they are best suited to serve. Be working partners. Feels unfair to have adequate funding for some and sub-adequate for others. Urges committee to look at formula we now have.

199 Chair Hartung States as chairman, he would like to have Ted Kolderie come. Asks her to check with Jan McComb to find the earliest date. Wants to explore every expert's opinion.

204 Sen. Shannon Refers to Kolderie's recommendation number 6. Asks about defining outcome accountability.

220 Black States as prepare charter, ability to add what you want. In terms of number 6 wants accountability, high standards.

225 Sen. Shannon Discusses choice regarding accountability. Also feels if good enough for charter schools, we should look at public schools.

235 Black Agrees. Discusses charter schools continuing to receive less funding per student, and also have to look at equality in funding.

242 Sen. Trow Asks to what extent charter schools are public schools.

241 Black States it is a question being debated state-wide. States if receive public funds, considered public school.

247 Sen. Trow States charter schools are just going to be another form of public schools.

248 Black States as she understands.

249 Sen. Trow Asks if rules also would apply.

251 Black States it is her understanding.

252 Sen. Baker Discusses other authorities authorizing charter schools. Asks if she feels anyone besides local school board would have aptitude to deal with charter schools.

262 Black States there would have to be training in any instance. States need to look at what agencies in which states have most success. States there needs to be state guidelines those chartering agents have to follow.

278 Sen. Baker States need two sets of criteria, one for charter, one for chartering organization.

281 Black States needs to have appeal process and training "up front."

286 Chair Hartung Meeting adjourns at 3:58 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Shirley Spendal, Jan McComb,

Administrative Support Administrator

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - Testimony, Initiative, Richard Meinhard, 21 pg.

B - Initiative, Lowell Smith, 5 pg.

C - Testimony, David Myton, 2 pg.

D - Testimony, Rebecca Black, 5 pg.
