

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

Hearing Room  
Tapes - 54

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Tom Hartung , Chair  
Sen. Ken Baker  
Sen. Shirley Gold  
Sen. Marilyn Shannon  
Sen. Cliff Trow

STAFF PRESENT:

Fallie Calder, Committee Administrator  
Carolynn Gillson, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD:

SB 467 - Relating to merger of school districts, PUB  
SB 507 - Relating to merger of school districts, PUB

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize  
statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks

report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings,  
please refer to the tapes.

TAPE A

005 SEN. TOM HARTUNG, CHAIR: Calls meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 467 & SB 507

Witnesses: John Marshall, Oregon School Boards Association (OSB A)  
Sen. Gene Timms, District 30  
Sen. Linn Hannon, District 26  
Jane O-Keeffe, Adel School District  
Jonathan Hill, Lake County ESD  
Jean Snider Schadler, Adel School District  
Roger OSB orne, Plush School District  
James Titus, Pinehurst School District  
Jeanne Randall, Pinehurst School Board  
Allison King, Pinehurst School Board  
Dan Nichols, Rural Schools for Exemption  
Susan Hammond, Frenchglen School  
Dan Barnhardt, Diamond School Board  
Gary Marshall, Harney County School Board  
Geren Moon, Harney County School Board  
Runida McCormack, Brother School Board  
Bill McCormack, Brothers School Board  
Sen. Mae Yih, Dist. 19

Witnesses: (cont.)

Richard Lehnert, Hamilton Creek School Dist.  
Eric Bowers, Harris School Board

Polly Wilson, Harris School Administrator  
Tim Auw, Annex School Dist.  
Greg Panicky, Annex School Board  
Sen. Neil Bryant, Dist. 27  
Becky Johnson, Black Butte School Dist.  
Howard Fetz, PeterSB urg School Dist.  
Bill Mead, PeterSB urg School Dist.  
Richard Remington, PeterSB urg School Dist.  
Toni Foster, Black Butte School Dist.  
Lauri Adams, Black Butte School Dist.  
Kent Gill, Black Butte School Dist.  
Greg Loberg, Sublimity School Board  
Greg Brown, North Plains Elementary School Dist.  
Ken Seifert, Wyatt Elementary School Dist.  
Debbie Magnuson, Wyatt Elementary School Dist.

020 JOHN MARSHALL, OSB A: Reviews information on school district unification and mergers since SB 917 passed in 1991 which required all school districts to be unified by Sept. 1, 1996 (EXH. A) .

117 SEN. GENE TIMMS, Dist. #30: Testifies in support of SB 467-4 which sets up a 20 mile limitation and gives the DOE the prerogative to decide if schools under the 20 mile limitation have to unify (EXH B).

168 SEN. LINN HANNON, Dist. #26: Explains how mandatory unification would affect rural school districts in his area. Want to give DOE the ability to set reasonable guidelines on unification and make decisions concerning individual school district requests. Unification is entirely appropriate in many instances but not in all instances.

210 JANE O'KEEFFE, Adel School District: Urges the committee to consider and pass out a bill that would allow rural communities to keep their schools under local jurisdiction (EXH. C)

315 JONATHAN HILL, Superintendent, Lake County E.S.D.: Reviews testimony urging the committee to pass legislation so small school districts would not be forced to consolidate against the expressed will of local constituents (EXH. D).

> Supports SB 467-4 amendment from Sen. Timms.

TAPE 52A

008 JEAN SNIDER SCHADLER, Chair of Lake County School Board: Reviews testimony opposed to forced merger with District #21 (EXH. E).

072 ROGER OSB ORNE, Dean of Students at Union School: Reads letter from Theresa Taylor from Plush (EXH. F).  
> Describes Union School and the community.

124 JAMES TITUS, Administrator of Pinehurst School District: Reviews testimony opposed to mandatory unification (EXH. G).

165 JEANNE RANDALL, Pinehurst School Board: Reviews testimony listing the reasons why they are opposed to mandatory unification (EXH. H).

224 ALLISON KLING, Pinehurst School Board: Reviews testimony (EXH. I) on

how SB 917 did not take into consideration the unique circumstances of some of Oregon's remote school districts.  
> Supports SB 467 with the -4 amendments.

293 DAN NICHOLS, Rural Schools for Exemption: Reviews testimony urging the committee to consider their request for exemption from unification (EXH. J).

363 SUSAN HAMMOND, Frenchglen School Board: Reviews testimony in support of mileage exemption legislation such as SB 467 (EXH. K).  
> Testimony submitted by Ed Hultz, Pinehurst School Dist. (EXH. L)

398 DAN BARNHARDT, Diamond School Board: Testifies in opposition to unification in Harney County.  
> Supports local school administration and school boards.

TAPE 51B

031 GARY MARSHALL, Harney County School Board: Reviews testimony in support of SB 507 that will end mandatory unification of schools (EXH. M).

066 GEREN MOON, Harney County School Board: Reviews testimony explaining how unifying rural schools in Harney County would be a major threat to their education system (EXH. N).

103 RUNIDA McCORMACK, Brothers School Board: Reviews testimony in support of SB 467-4 (EXH O).

125 BILL McCORMACK, Brothers School Board: Reviews testimony supporting SB 467-4 (EXH. P).

160 SEN. MAY YIH, District 19: Reviews testimony in support of SB 507 with the proposed -3 amendment (EXH. Q).

197 RICHARD LEHNERT, Hamilton Creek School District: Testifies in support of SB 507 which would allow independent school districts the opportunity to vote on whether or nor they wish to merge with larger unified school districts (EXH. R).

305 ERIC BOWERS, Harris School Board: Reviews testimony in support of SB 507 and explains why small size schools are a key to success (EXH. S).

333 POLLY WILSON, Harris School Administrator: Testifies in support of SB 507 and lists the advantages of small schools.

TAPE 52B

019 TIM AUW, Annex School District: Testifies in support of SB 507 because unification of their school district would most likely terminate their long-standing traditions with loss of local control (EXH T).

055 GREG PANICKY, Annex School Board: Would like to maintain local control and supports SB 507.

070 SEN. NEIL BRYANT, Dist. 27: Talks about the Black Butte School District which is one of three school districts in his legislative district affected by SB 507.

096 BECKY JOHNSON, Black Butte School Dist.: Reviews her testimony in support of SB 507 because it would permit some small unified elementary districts if they oppose a merger to vote on consolidation (EXH. U).

200 HOWARD FETZ, PeterSB urg School Dist. #14: Testifies in support of SB 507 because it would allow for local decisions on mergers based on distance, size, financial, social and educational nuances. Provides written testimony, a pamphlet describing the Peterburg School District and copies of student letters (EXH. V).

310 BILL MEAD, PeterSB urg School Board: Talks about merging with The Dalles where there are several existing problems. Like to save their kids from those problems. Consider any small school as the best education for the community and the kids.

348 RICHARD REMINGTON, PeterSB urg School District: Reviews written testimony listing the advantages of smaller elementary schools and supporting SB 507 (EXH. W).

397 TONI FOSTER, Black Butte School District: Reviews written testimony in support of SB 507 because a merger with a larger school district would mean the loss of opportunity to make community-based spending choices for their children's education (EXH. X).

TAPE 53A

030 FOSTER: Talks about compensation of teachers. Notes the cost per student is \$4066.

055 LAURI ADAMS, Black Butte School District: Reviews testimony in favor of SB 507 and explains how small schools are more beneficial for students (EXH. Y).

118 KENT GILL, Black Butte School Dist.: Reviews testimony in support of SB 507 and urges the committee to permit small districts to choose whether or not to consolidate (EXH. Z).

172 GREG LOBERG, Sublimity School Board: Reviews testimony in favor of SB 507 and urges the committee to give school districts the choice of how to manage local education (EXH. AA).

238 GREG BROWN, North Plains Elementary School District: Reviews testimony in favor of SB 507, refers to summary of test data from the districts affected by SB 507 (EXH. BB).

> Explains the cost savings of eliminating school districts is difficult to pinpoint.

348 KEN SEIFERT, Wyatt Elementary School District in Linn County: Reviews testimony in support of SB 507 so the choice of unifying into a larger

district can be determined at the local level (EXH. CC).

412 DEBBIE MAGNUSON, Wyatt Elementary School District: Reviews testimony in support of SB 507 so they would have the opportunity to vote to unify or not (EXH DD). Lists the advantages of a small school.

TAPE 54A

030 MAGNUSON: Concludes her testimony.

Testimony submitted for the record - EXH. EE - EXH. NN.

060 CHAIR HARTUNG: Adjourns meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Reviewed and submitted by,

Carolynn Gillson  
Committee Assistant

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

A	-	SB 467	OSB A	21 pages
B	-	SB 467	Sen. Timms	2 pages
C	-	SB 467	Adel Sch. Dist.	2 pages
D	-	SB 467	Lake County ESD	6 pages
E	-	SB 467	Adel Sch. Dist.	2 pages
F	-	SB 467	Plush Sch. Dist.	1 page
G	-	SB 467	Pinehurst Sch. Dist.	7 pages
H	-	SB 467	Pinehurst Sch. Dist.	2 pages
I	-	SB 467	Pinehurst Sch. Board	2 pages
J	-	SB 467	Rural Sch. for Exempt.	2 pages
K	-	SB 467	Frenchglen School	5 pages
L	-	SB 467	Pinehurst School Board	1 page
M	-	SB 507	Double O Sch. Dist.	2 pages
N	-	SB 507	Double O Sch. Dist.	2 pages
O	-	SB 467	Brothers Sch. Board	1 page
P	-	SB 467	Brothers Sch. Board	1 page
Q	-	SB 507	Sen. Mae Yih	9 pages
R	-	SB 507	Hamilton Crk Sch. Dist.	10 pages
S	-	SB 507	Harris Sch. Bd.	3 pages
T	-	SB 507	Annex Sch. Dist.	1 page
U	-	SB 507	Black Butte Sch. Dist.	5 pages
V	-	SB 507	PeterSB urg Sch. Dist.	122 pages
W	-	SB 507	PeterSB urg Sch. Dist.	1 page
X	-	SB 507	Black Butte Sch. Dist.	5 pages
Y	-	SB 507	Black Butte Sch. Dist.	1 page
Z	-	SB 507	Black Butte Sch. Dist.	1 page

EXHIBIT SUMMARY (cont.)

AA	-	SB 507	Sublimity Sch. Board	2 pages
BB	-	SB 507	North Plains Elem. Sch. Dist.	9 pages
CC	-	SB 507	Wyatt Elementary Sch. Dist.	3 pages
DD	-	SB 507	Wyatt Elementary Sch. Dist.	3 pages
EE	-	SB 507	Butte Creek Elem. Sch. Dist.	4 pages
FF	-	SB 507	Curry County Sch. Dist.	3 pages
GG	-	SB 507	Hamilton Creek Sch. Dist.	2 pages
HH	-	SB 507	Sodaville Sch. Board	2 pages
II	-	SB 507	April Jossy	7 pages
JJ	-	SB 507	Pinehurst Sch. Board	1 page
KK	-	SB 507	Lourdes Elem. Sch. Dist.	4 pages

LL	-	SB 507	Scio Sch. Dist.	2 pages
MM	-	SB 507	Lourdes Elem Sch. Dist.	4 pages
NN	-	SB 507	HarriSB urg Elem. Sch. Dist.	2 pages