

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 28, 1993 Hearing Room E 1:30 p.m. Tapes 05 - 06

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Carolyn Oakley, Chair Rep. Jim Whitty, Vice-Chair  
Rep. John Meek Rep. Patti Milne Rep. John Schoon Rep. Larry Sowa Rep.  
Sharon Wylie

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Sample Brown, Committee Administrator  
Carolynn Gillson, Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB - 2093 - Deletes requirement for statewide  
accounting system to identify certain costs - PH HB - 2064 - Modifies  
21st Century Schools plan - PH

[--- Unable To Translate Graphic ---]

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. [--- Unable To Translate Graphic  
---]

TAPE 05, SIDE A

004 REP. CAROLYN OAKLEY, Chair: Calls meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Public Hearing on HB 2093 Witnesses: Rick Burke, Department of  
Education (DOE) Greg McMurdo, DOE

023 RICK BURKE, deputy superintendent, DOE: Reviews the background  
on the bill which deletes the requirement for statewide accounting  
system to identify costs of a basic education program. > Reported the  
situation to the Legislative Counsel Committee and it agreed the  
statute should be repealed.

049 REP. JOHN MEEK: Why are you just deleting the word "basic"? Is  
this just a play on words?

BURKE: No. In HB 3565, the focus of education moved from input to  
output. The whole idea of a basic education is in the input mode.

089 REP. JOHN SCHOON: It would be valuable to know the costs  
of education programs. Has any thought been given to having a budget  
system based on outcomes?

BURKE: I think that is what the future holds for us. > The system in  
place today does not produce program information. > If you were to make  
a legislative decision to change the accounting system, it would take  
three years to get the first audited output. > Difficult to impose an  
accounting change when so many school districts are in the middle of  
consolidation. 131 REP. PATTY MILNE: Will this leave a perception  
with the general public that there is no accounting system?

BURKE: Every dollar is accounted for now but not in a way that  
shows a program related budget.

REP. JIM WHITTY: Who cares how much it costs to teach each subject? How  
are you going to compare one school to another in terms of variable

costs such as the salary of teachers which varies greatly.

REP. SCHOON: Knowing the cost of programs is a better way of doing business.

REP. WHITTY: How valid will the numbers be and what will they be compared with? Are all the fixed costs going to be included? Obtaining the information and keeping it year after year does not seem like a valid expenditure.

212 REP. LARRY SOWA: For years citizen groups and citizens have been complaining about how school district budgets are structured and how money is transferred from one program to another. > Believes a law should be implemented requiring uniform accounting practices.

BURKE: If the bill had been implemented, we would have installed a cost-accounting system. DOE now gets audited reports every year based on seven subject programs. Passing this bill would neither enhance or detract from the way local governments are accounting for revenues and expenditures.

267 REP. SHARON WYLIE: Reviews the problem the bill addresses.

BURKE: There is a standard accounting system now but it provides no particular information about outcomes. It also does not address the cost of a basic education.

REP. WYLIE: This may not be useful language, but I still think the question regarding program costs needs to be addressed.

BURKE: It is the local school board's responsibility to answer those questions in their own school district rather than the Department of Education. The Legislature addressed that issue in 1991 when it established the school funding system in SB 814.

354 REP. MEEK: Is there any language requiring this be done within a certain time frame?

BURKE: Not that I know of.

REP. MEEK: Local districts need some direction in scrutinizing costs.

REP. WHITTY: Explains why it would be difficult to determine costs of basic programs from one school to another.

TAPE 6, SIDE A

020 GREG McMURDO, deputy superintendent, DOE: One other factor is that the cost of doing this is prohibitive because the Committee on Ways and Means did not fund it during the 1991 session. Public Hearing HB 2064 Witnesses: Greg McMurdo, DOE Joyce Reinke, DOE Victoria Totten, Oregon School Boards Association (OSB A) Don Shore, Oregon Education Association Don Steely, from Cottage Grove

036 GREG McMURDO, deputy superintendent, DOE: Talks about some of the changes put into HB 2064 that modifies the 21st Century Schools Plan (HB 3065 - 1991 Session).

064 JOYCE REINKE, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Education: Goes through the changes HB 2064 will make to the 21st Century Schools

Plan. > Talks about an additional amendment which would explaining the responsibilities of a site counsel.

225 REP. SCHOON: Does Section 9 prevent someone from re-enrolling in a public school after they have graduated?

REINKE: This section addresses students who have not received their diploma. Special education students are allowed to go to school until the age of 21. It is a requirement to comply with federal law.

251 VICTORIA TOTTEN, OSB A: Reviews the amendments proposed to HB 2064 by the OSB A (EXHIBIT A). > On line 21, page 5, OSB A proposes the local school district be the one that determines the configuration of the counsel because it should be a local decision and it would be a quicker decision. > Refers to the change on page 6, line 2 and explains what the local school committees do.

TAPE 5, SIDE B

022 REP. MILNE: How do site committees work with local school committees and the local school board?

TOTTEN: Currently in Oregon, there are nine legal local school committees. They are the result of school districts that have merged. > The people who serve on these committees are elected by the voters of the school district. School committees have the authority to make recommendations about school buildings and teachers to their school board. The board is not obligated to honor those recommendations. > We want to make their duties clear because of more committees may be formed as the result of unification. > They serve a term specified in statute. It is for districts who have already be established through a merger plan or will be established through a merger plan. > DiSB anding the committee requires a vote.

058 REP. WYLIE: Should there be additional language added to the amendment to prevent confusion between the role of the site committee and the role of the school board?

TOTTEN: Yes, I think so. I just wanted to alert this committee and other to a problem in HB 2061 which reorganizes the education statutes. > Explains how HB 2061 will affect HB 2064 in regards to site counsels. Site counsels need broad flexibility to make decisions about programs.

093 DON SHORE, OEA: OEA is more in favor of bill than against it. > OEA supports site-based decision making in schools. > Addresses the rumor that the OEA has tried to influence site counsels through collective bargaining. OEA wants to make sure every teacher and classified employee has a chance to serve on their counsels. It does not intend to limit their role or scope. > Talks about the costs associated with running school counsels. Without funding the production of the counsels decreased. > Explains the need for a district council for the purpose of coordination. It should be made mandatory not permissive. > Refers to Section 8, line 32, and proposes leaving in the language being deleted and change "district may" to "district shall" and add language "to coordinate site counsel's activities in the district".

184 REP. WHITTY: Explains how difficult is to get a group of teachers to agree on everything.

SHORE: Agrees because teaching styles vary. Finding time to meet is

the biggest problem. > Site counsels sometimes need intervention from outside the building. > Often times there is a contract issue and the OEA needs to be involved.

283 SHORE: Comments on OSB A propose amendments: > Refers to page 5, line 18 - proposes leaving in active classroom teacher. > Agrees with DOE on lines 30-31 on page 5 - OSB A believes the powers of the counsel should left to develop as they are going to develop. > Refers to the OSB A proposed changes at the bottom of p. 5 and on page 6 - OSB A believes if there is any conflict between a school committee and school counsel, the school counsel should be empowered to make the final decision.

397 DON STEELY, school board member from Cottage Grove: Reviews his background in education. > Summarizes the areas of concern outlined in his handout regarding student assessment, programs based on research and proven practices, and the role of site counsels in the state management of teachers (EXHIBIT B).

TAPE 6, SIDE B

046 STEELY: Talks about National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC) guidelines the Non-Graded Primary Task Force proposes adopting. Research does not support mandating these guidelines to the school district. > Continues his testimony concerning the non-graded primary, the role of site committees and whether the DOE should be prescribing teaching practices. > Suggests moving more slowly on implementing the Oregon Education Act.

155 REP. SCHOON: Why even consider letting an organization try something that failed nationally?

STEELY: I don't know how they can mandate what has to be done. It seems unworkable.

REP. WHITTY: Refers to page 1, line 11. Why would the Department not want to do an assessment after grade 3 and not after grade 4?

REP. MILNE: Agrees grade 3 seems the appropriate logical place to do testing. 197 REP. WYLIE: Points out that kids in third grade do not know how to take tests.

208 CHAIR OAKLEY: Adjourns meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Carolynn Gillson Assistant

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Amendments on HB 2064 - OSB A - 8 pages B - Testimony on HB 2064 - Don Steely - 17 pages