

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

May 27, 1993 Hearing Room E 1:30 p.m. Tapes 84-87

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 3191 - Noncontiguous sch. dist. part of
contiguous dist., PUB HB 3332 - Est. curriculum stds. for sex education
courses, PUB

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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
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TAPE 84, SIDE A

005 REP. CAROLYN OAKLEY, chair: Calls the meeting to order at 1:36
p.m.

Public Hearing on HB 3191 Gina Houston, Jennings Lodge Organization Rep.
Ken Baker Mike Rice, from Milwaukie Jeri Gedrose, Jennings Lodge
Organization Marge Woodall, Jennings Lodge Organization Gordon Borse,
Oregon City School Board Judy Martin, Concerned Parents of Jennings
Lodge Meagan Whitaker, student from Jennings Lodge Don Tank, Oregon City
School District Kevin Williams, Concerned Parents of Jennings Lodge Mike
Vermillion, Gladstone School District Audrey Winestein, Concerned
Parents of Jennings Lodge Roger Whitaker, Concerned Parents of Jennings
Lodge Gary McCormick, Redland School District

020 CHAIR OAKLEY: Reviews background information on the Jennings
Lodge issue.

048 GINA HOUSTON, president of Jennings Lodge Organization for
Quality Localized Education: Reviews her testimony in support of HB 3191
(EXH. A) because it is fair to all parties involved in their struggle to
have their secondary school students attend school in a district closer
to their homes and not in Oregon City. > Illustrates on a map where
different school districts are located near Jennings Lodge island. >
Reviews what the bill would do.

110 REP. JOHN MEEK: Before the 1997 merger deadline, can students
elect to finish out their high school years at Oregon City School
District or at Gladstone High School?

HOUSTON: Exactly. The school support money would follow the student.
The dates are the same as those in SB 917 which passed during 1991
session. > Continues reviewing her written testimony. > This is a money
issue to Oregon City School District and a child/community issue to us.

157 REP. KEN BAKER, District 10: Talks about his history with the Jennings Lodge issue. > Feels the Jennings Lodge residents are isolated from Oregon City and more closely tied to the North Clackamas area. > Believes students of Jennings Lodge are not well-served by being transferred away from their neighborhoods. > It is an issue of allowing local citizens to support their local school and community. > Jennings Lodge people have decided they would rather have their students go to Gladstone.

HOUSTON: Decision was reached by petition.

REP. BAKER: We are asking the Legislature to micro-manage in an unfortunate, unique situation.

249 CHAIR OAKLEY: Would Gladstone High School have room for these students?

REP. BAKER: It is almost a student for student match for the kids that are leaving Gladstone School District.

259 MIKE RICE, Milwaukie: Reviews his written testimony telling why HB 319 1 is needed (EXH. B). > Refers to samples of materials he considers to be biased that are being distributed to voters by the Oregon City School District.

387 JERI GEDROSE, Jennings Lodge Organization for Quality Localized Education: Reviews her written testimony in support of the bill (EXH. C). > Talks about the student choice plan and why it will not solve the problem.

TAPE 85, SIDE A

020 MARGE WOODALL, Jennings Lodge resident: Reviews her testimony in support of the bill (EXH. D). > Feels the situation can only be resolved through legislation and a local solution is next to impossible.

081 REP. JOHN SCHOON: It is my understanding the people of Jennings Lodge voted to join the Oregon City School District?

WOODALL: It was thirty years ago before Putnam or Gladstone High schools were built.

REP. SCHOON: I believe an area can go through steps to secede from a district.

WOODALL: Yes, in fact Gladstone has overwhelmingly voted to accept us through the ESD boundary change. A mail-in ballot including all of the Oregon City School District will come out on June 12 and returned by June 29. We have no chance of winning that vote.

GEDROSE: It is a remonstrance vote. The smaller district, Gladstone, votes first and the larger district, Oregon City, votes second. The losing district votes at the same time as the part that wants to leave gets to vote.

WOODALL: Jennings Lodge high school kids are missing out on extracurricular activities and sports because of the inconvenient distance to Oregon City.

149 GEDROSE: Reviews information on the student option program which is outlined in her written testimony. > Explains how she was told the Jennings Lodge students names would be pulled out of a hat under the choice plan.

189 REP. JIM WHITTY: It makes sense to me if a majority of people in Jennings Lodge island area want to go to Gladstone they should be able to go. Long distances and extracurricular activities are important factors.

224 GORDON BOORSE, Oregon City School Board member: Reviews his written testimony (EXH. E) containing background information on the situation. Outlines the issues involved in reaching a local solution and expresses support for the choice plan which begins September 1995, assuming Redland merges with Oregon City.

372 REP. WHITTY: I don't see Jennings Lodge mentioned in your letter as being involved in any of the meetings held concerning the choice plan.

BOORSE: It was a meeting between school personnel and board members of the three school districts. > Explains how the Jennings Lodge area has been represented. > Goes in further detail concerning the choice plan.

TAPE 84, SIDE B

031 REP. WHITTY: Agrees accommodations should be made for those students already going to Oregon City High School. Has no sympathy for Oregon City's High School wanting to maintain it's curriculum offerings on the backs of the Jennings Lodge people.

BOORSE: Talks about the continued loss of revenue in the Oregon City School District and how the loss of students from Jennings Lodge will only add to that.

071 JUDY MARTIN, Jennings Lodge resident: Reviews testimony in which she points out the bill will take away their local control of the situation (EXH. F).

110 MEAGAN WHITAKER, student from Jennings Lodge: Reads her testimony explaining why she wants to continue attending Oregon City High School (EXH. G).

173 REP. WHITTY: Students who live in the island area could improve Gladstone High School's curriculum. WHITAKER: The small number of students from the island will not pull up programs at Gladstone.

CHAIR OAKLEY: Has there ever been a vote in Jennings Lodge on whether they want to stay with Oregon City or go to Gladstone?

BOORSE: Not to my knowledge.

275 REP. MEEK: Have you sent out 66 pink slips to teachers?

BOORSE: Because of budget restrictions, we will lose 66 teaching positions. We would lose an additional 44 teachers if HB 3191 passes.

REP. MEEK: How will you lose teachers if you gain students from Redland?

335 DON TANK, superintendent, Oregon City Schools: Talks about the number teachers who would be affected by a boundary change. When Redland merges with Oregon City, their teachers will become employees of the Oregon City School District.

REP. MEEK: Talks about transfer of public employes.

TANK: The State Department of Education got a ruling from the Attorney General that the teachers affected by the boundary change are employes of Oregon City School District and would not necessarily be put into the Gladstone School District. A boundary change is totally different than a merger.

428 REP. MEEK: The testimony concerning the choice plan was that it is a one-for-one exchange and if there are students who want to go to Gladstone it becomes a lottery.

TANK: The goal was that no school district should gain or lose as a result of what we are trying to do. The Jennings Lodge students get the first option for the openings when Redland students leave Gladstone and begin to move to the Oregon City School District. The lottery seemed the most fairest way to select those students.

TAPE 85, SIDE B

042 TANK: Believes students should have a choice of where they want to attend high school. The student population will balance itself out.

BOORSE: This is a local solution that deserves an opportunity.

085 KEVIN WILLIAMS, Concerned Parents of Jennings Lodge: There are 760 students in the Redland School District and about 813 in the Oregon City School District who come from Jennings Lodge. > Reviews his testimony in support of HB 3191 (EXH. H).

131 REP. SCHOON: What about the students in Jennings Lodge that do not want to go to Gladstone?

WILLIAMS: The choice plan is still there for the students who do not want to go to Gladstone. The choice plan does not address the issue of our middle school age children being bussed out of their neighborhoods for no good reason. 160 REP. SHARON WYLIE: Has any thought be given to a transition fix to equalize the loss of students?

TANK: There needs to be an agreement among the school districts concerning the division of assets and liabilities.

198 MIKE VERMILLION, superintendent, Gladstone School District: The provision for distribution of assets is unclear and needs further clarification.

WYLIE: Does any arbitration mechanism exist?

TANK: Reviews what is provided in current law for arbitration.

257 HOUSTON: Explains why an arbitrator is not going to want to help one school district over another. > Reviews the provision in the bill concerning the division of assets within noncontiguous areas.

289 VERMILLION: Reviews his testimony containing background

information on the issue and supporting HB 3191 (EXH I). > Describes a number of things that are going on locally to address the issues. > Reviews concerns with language in HB 3191.

373 REP. SCHOON: Have you considered swapping students?

TANK: The choice plan is a cooperative effort to swap students. We think it will work if it is given an opportunity.

VERMILLION: Objective is to maintain enrollments at Oregon City High School and Gladstone High School and accommodate as many students as possible.

TAPE 86, SIDE A

008 AUDREY WEINTZ, Concerned Parents of Jennings Lodge and Oregon City School District employe: Explains how the choice plan does not solve the problem at Jennings Lodge and does not address bussing issue. Educate children in the community where they belong. Try the choice plan on fewer kids. > Submits written testimony (EXH. J).

042 ROGER WHITAKER, Jennings Lodge resident and Oregon City School Board member: Reviews his written testimony in support of the choice plan instead of HB 3191 (EXH K). > Supports the Oregon City School District and represents the people from Jennings Lodge area.

089 GARY McCORMICK, Redland School District superintendent: Explains how Redland has been tuitioning it's high school students to Gladstone High School for eight years and because of the unification legislation passed last session, they are forced to break their relationship with Gladstone since they are not contiguous. > Has submitted petition to merge with Oregon City. If Jennings Lodge students take the slots in Gladstone High School, the choice plan will not work and the merger will not pass. > Reviews his testimony explaining how the choice plan would effect them (EXH. L).

Written testimony opposing HB 3191 was submitted by Steven, Cynthia and Kelly Brockney (EXH. M) and by Brian and Jessica Oakes (EXH. N).

139 Committee takes recess for 10 minutes.

Public Hearing on HB 3332 Rose Fuller, Parent's Education Assoc. Tim Mashoff, Parent's Education Assoc. Karen Hemingsone, Eugene School District

141 SAMPLE BROWN, Committee Administrator: This bill is to make sure abstinence curriculum is stressed in the schools even though it is in administrative rule. > Explains how the HB 3332-1 amendments were arrived at and what they address (EXH. O).

191 ROSE FULLER, Parents Education Assoc.: Agrees with the compromises in the amendments. > Even though measuring success of abstinence education would be nice, it would be expensive.

REP. WHITTY: Refers to language beginning on page 1, line 22 of the amendments, and asks if it means that abstinence education has a priority over any contraceptive instruction? Everything should be treated equally and if it is not, then religion seems to be included in the process.

BROWN: The original bill was modeled after the California law. The language in the amendment is based on recommendations from California and language that already exists in Oregon Administrative Rule.

289 REP. WYLIE: Language is different from what was discussed earlier on the bill. Convinced there is a problem that needs to be addressed by a comprehensive mandated curriculum approach but uncomfortable writing curriculum directions during the middle of a legislative session. It is worth working on during the interim.

CHAIR OAKLEY: The intent is to realize young people are sexually active and it cannot be ignored.

REP. WHITTY: Tough to deal with sexually active kids in abstinence curriculum.

325 FULLER: Explains how abstinence education can benefit those kids who have been sexually involved.

358 TIM MASHOFF, Parents Education Assoc.: Refers to Section 4 concerning annual reporting and points out that the DOE has reporting cycles that may not fit this reporting requirement. Plans to look at the language on the Senate side.

405 KAREN HEMINGSONE, Eugene School District: Eugene's sex education program is for students in K-12. Concerned codifying such a detailed curriculum in statute will bring about legal challenges if they do not meet all the requirements. > Age-appropriate education is difficult to determine. > Suggests having overall guidelines subjected to periodic review during state standardization visits. Give local districts latitude to tailor the curriculum to the needs of the community. > Concerned the 30-day review period in Section 2(b) will be used as a stalling and delaying tactic.

TAPE 87, SIDE A

011 HEMINGSONE: Suggests striking the 30-days but still give parents the opportunity to review the curriculum. > Explains why it would be difficult to send out a standardized form to all parents with kids in K-12. Notice of the instruction usually goes out just before the program is offered.

049 REP. MEEK: Usually you get the information a few days before the instruction is scheduled to occur.

HEMINGSONE: Concerned about placing a more detailed mandate on school districts and meeting the 30-day time line because registration for classes does not occur 30 days before the start of the semester. > Recommends accomplishing the annual report by including a one-line checkoff in the list of state standards every school district needs to comply with and send to the DOE by January 15.

CHAIR OAKLEY: In the Senate, the words "in advance" could be suggested to replace the 30 days.

REP. SCHOON: Too much detail in the bill. It would be better to not be so specific.

MASHOFF: We would like stronger language, but the spirit is to create abstinence education on a school district level.

137 HEMINGSONE: The detailed curriculum may not be appropriate for every level it is taught at. Mostly concerned with advance notice and level of reporting.

MASHOFF: Abstinence balances out the curriculum already in place. It does not require anything new.

CHAIR OAKLEY: Much of the language in the amendment is already in administrative rules.

> Testimony was submitted for the record on HB 3332 from Traditional Values of Oregon (EXH. P).

224 CHAIR OAKLEY: adjourns meeting at 4: 30 p.m.

Reviewed and submitted by,

Carolynn Gillson Assistant

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Testimony on HB 3191 - Jennings Lodge Organization - 1 page B - Testimony on HB 3191 - Mike Rice - 20 pages C - Testimony on HB 3191 - Jennings Lodge Organization - 3 pages D - Testimony on HB 3191 - Jennings Lodge Organization - 1 page E - Testimony on HB 3191 - Oregon City School Board - 3 pages F - Testimony on HB 3191 - Judith Martin - 1 page G - Testimony on HB 3191 - Meagan Whitaker - 2 pages H - Testimony on HB 3191 - Concerned Parents of Jennings Lodge - 2 pages I - Testimony on HB 3191 - Gladstone School District - 5 pages J - Testimony on HB 3191 - Concerned Parents of Jennings Lodge - 1 page K - Testimony on HB 3191 - Roger Whitaker - 2 pages L - Testimony on HB 3191 - Redland School District - 1 page M - Testimony on HB 3191 - Steven, Cynthia and Kelly Brockney, 2 pages N - Testimony on HB 3191 - Brian Oakes - 3 pages O - HB 3332-1 amendment - committee staff - 2 pages P - HB 3332 - Traditional Values of Oregon - 1 page