

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 20, 1993 Hearing Room 343 3:15 p.m. Tapes 55 - 57

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Catherine Webber, Chair Sen. Stan Bunn,
Vice-Chair Sen. Ron Cease Sen. Shirley Gold Sen. Paul Phillips

STAFF PRESENT: Lee Penny, Committee Administrator Julie Mušiz,
Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: SB 630 - Relating to consolidation of
school districts

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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 ---]

TAPE 55, SIDE A

004 CHAIR WEBBER: Calls meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

(Tape 55, Side A) SB 630 - RELATING TO CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS - PUBLIC HEARING WITNESSES: GENE TIMMS, OREGON STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 30 ROSE OTTE, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT TO SEN. TIMMS GREG MCMURDO, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUE MCCrackEN, SENATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE JAMES TITUS, PINEHURST SCHOOL DISTRICT #94 WILL TUCKER, LACOMB SCHOOL MIKE KOHN, APPLGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT #40 LINDA DUMAN, LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT #124 DIANA CVITANOVICH, PARENT, LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT #124 DENNIS MILLS, HARNEY COUNTY ESD BOB SARI, CRANE HIGH SCHOOL SUSAN HAMMOND, FRENCHGLEN SCHOOL DISTRICT DAN NICHOLS, DIAMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT #7 LARRY OTLEY, DIAMOND GRADE SCHOOL, CRANE HIGH SCHOOL TONI FOSTER, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT BYRON BEACH, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL BOARD BECKY JOHNSON, BLACK BUTTE PETER HEDREN, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT JEAN SCHADLER, ADEL SCHOOL DISTRICT #21 JACK LORTS, ANNEX SCHOOL DISTRICT #29 DEBBIE SCOTT, REDLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT KEN ELLISOR, ASH VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #125 BILL MCCORMACK, BROTHERS SCHOOL DISTRICT #15 DONNA MCCORMACK, BROTHERS SCHOOL DISTRICT #15 RALPH FISHER, PARENT, VICTOR POINT HIGH SCHOOL MARTHA DALE, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT DON SCHELLENBERG, OREGON FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

010 GENE TIMMS, OREGON STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 30: Reviews SB 630 . Supports bill. It's important these schools be able to operate as they

have in the past.

056 ROSE OTTE, LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT TO SEN. TIMMS: Submits list of

schools exempted under SB 630, (EXHIBIT A). Reviews research done by Marjorie

Frank, (EXHIBIT B). Submits letters, (EXHIBIT C).

104 GREG MCMURDO, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Speaks in opposition to SB 630 . SB 917 won't close schools; it forces consolidation and unification of

districts. School closure will be up to the district once unification occurs. SB 917 wasn't intended to save a lot of money, but to allow a smoother curriculum among the school districts.

133 SEN. BUNN: Schools are going to close, regardless if the bill provides for it or not. Do you really believe they won't? Small schools have

some creative ways of implementing the Oregon Education Act for the 21st Century (HB 3565) that other schools have more difficulty with. Will

this take away their ability to do that? Finally, please comment on how the geographical problems of Eastern Oregon will be overcome.

161 McMurdo: I can't disagree with the fact that unification may result in some school closure. This is more true in the Valley than in Eastern

Oregon because of the proximity. I don't think this will close those small schools that have adapted well to HB 3565. I don't see this as impacting Eastern Oregon as it will Western Oregon but it will remove the local control around the school site. However, HB 3565 provides for school site committees.

184 SEN. PHILLIPS: The effect of consolidation is potentially different in Western Oregon than in Eastern Oregon and school closure is more likely in the Valley? There will be less on-site control in Eastern Oregon

schools, but there will be school site committees?

196 McMurdo: Yes. A school site committee is a local identity for each school site. Unification that occurs in more populous areas more often

result in school closures.

215 SEN. PHILLIPS: What language in the law differentiates between Eastern and Western Oregon?

McMurdo: There isn't any. It's a matter of geographic distances and the sparsity of population.

SEN. PHILLIPS: You concede there is a difference but the law doesn't

differentiate between the two.

McMurdo: Common sense and money will dictate. You can't close some of those schools because there would be no place for those children. There have been several districts that have unified, including Molalla and Vale. There hasn't been any unification votes that have failed since the passage of SB 917.

232 SEN. CEASE: How many districts will be within nine miles? The same argument can be made for those districts. I'm sympathetic to the

relationship between the schools and the community. Is the issue about saving money or something else?

McMurdo: I think it's a combination of things. There is money to be saved. The Department wanted to have more uniform curriculum.

269 SEN. PHILLIPS: Of the districts that have unified, have any schools closed as a result of unification?

McMurdo: None of those unifications have become final.

283 SUE MCCRACKEN, SENATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE: Senator Bradbury supports SB 630. Describes Pearl Beach situation.

SEN. CEASE: Some of these districts on this list, (EXHIBIT A), are less than 10 miles.

318 Otte: The intent of SB 917 is to exempt unified elementary districts and schools that are more than 10 miles from the nearest union high

schools.

350 JAMES TITUS, PINEHURST SCHOOL DISTRICT #94: Reviews written testimony in support of SB 630, (EXHIBIT D). Submits written testimony of Sam

Alvord, Pinehurst School District, (EXHIBIT E).

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071 WILL TUCKER, LACOMB SCHOOL: Submits and reviews written testimony in support of the bill, (EXHIBIT F).

124 MIKE KOHN, APPLGATE SCHOOL DISTRICT #40: Reviews written testimony in support of SB 630, (EXHIBIT G).

200 LINDA DUMAN, LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT #124: Submits and reviews packet, (EXHIBIT H). Testifies in support of bill. Submits testimony and

exhibits from DeAnne Sumpster, (EXHIBIT I).

272 DIANA CVITANOVICH, PARENT, LINN SCHOOL DISTRICT #124:
Describes personal experiences as a parent.

350 DENNIS MILLS, HARNEY COUNTY ESD: Submits and reviews written
testimony and maps, (EXHIBIT J & K). SEN. PHILLIPS: How big are these
schools in the terms of the number of

students?

Mills: They are very small schools ranging from 6-15 students.

400 BOB SARI, CRANE HIGH SCHOOL: Testifies in support of SB 630.

Tape 55, Side B

050 CHAIR WEBBER: We all make an effort to understand the
differences in geography between the Valley and the rural areas of
Oregon.

052 SEN. CEASE: It would be useful to see figures on how many of
those schools may decline beyond the ability to support themselves.

061 Mills: We merge when these schools can't support themselves.

SEN. PHILLIPS: This needs to be written in a context that makes sense.

Just because a district is small, there needs to be a real curriculum

that's coordinated between the districts. This applies to more than

just rural Oregon. It affects the Valley as well.

100 SUSAN HAMMOND, FRENCHGLEN SCHOOL DISTRICT: Testifies in support
of SB 630.

134 DAN NICHOLS, DIAMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT #7: Testifies in support
of SB 630. It's necessary that the teachers we hire are compatible with
the

people in the community. This can only be done on the local level.

Submits written testimony, (EXHIBIT L).

200 LARRY OTLEY, DIAMOND GRADE SCHOOL, CRANE HIGH SCHOOL: Reviews
written testimony in support of bill, (EXHIBIT M).

245 TONI FOSTER, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT: Submits and reviews
written testimony in support of bill, (EXHIBIT N).

340 BYRON BEACH, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL BOARD: Submits and reviews
written testimony in support of SB 630, (EXHIBIT O).

390 BECKY JOHNSON, BLACK BUTTE: Reviews written testimony in support
of SB 630, (EXHIBIT P).

Tape 56, Side B

080 PETER HEDREN, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT: Reviews written
testimony in support of bill, (EXHIBIT Q).

160 JEAN SCHADLER, ADEL SCHOOL DISTRICT #21: Supports bill. Reviews testimony and exhibits (EXHIBIT R). The issue on the ballot in Molalla

was not if it should consolidate but when it should consolidate.

270 JACK LORTS, ANNEX SCHOOL DISTRICT #29: Reviews testimony in support of bill, (EXHIBIT S).

312 SEN. PHILLIPS: If we don't pass this bill, what happens to the Annex school district?

Lorts: We've had dialogue with both the Ontario and the Huntington school districts. They're neutral on this. Our students will need to make a 20 miles trip to high school if we became a part of either of those school districts.

375 DEBBIE SCOTT, REDLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT: Reviews written testimony in support of bill, (EXHIBIT T).

Tape 57, Side A

040 KEN ELLISOR, ASH VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #125: Testifies in support of SB 630. Submits letter from district, (EXHIBIT U).

055 BILL MCCORMACK, BROTHERS SCHOOL DISTRICT #15: Reviews written testimony in support of bill, (EXHIBIT V).

075 DONNA MCCORMACK, BROTHERS SCHOOL DISTRICT #15: Responds to ODE testimony. Those that haven't yet consolidated should be exempt from SB 917. This law will not save money. The standardization process has

already provided a standardized curriculum.

100 RALPH FISHER, PARENT, VICTOR POINT HIGH SCHOOL: Submits written testimony, (EXHIBIT W). We are in a rapidly growing area. There is a

shortage of classroom space. It will likely fall on the taxpayers to supply more schools. We can't afford it.

130 MARTHA DALE, BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL DISTRICT: There were 11 children here that came to this hearing and have been following this bill as a

government lesson. Your decision will have a great impact on their lives.

140 DON SCHELLENBERG, OREGON FARM BUREAU FEDERATION: Many of the people that testified here today come from farm communities and are Farm Bureau members. "We are unalterably opposed to any form of compulsory school

district reorganization or unification which overrides the wishes of the

majority of voters in each district concerned."

CHAIR WEBBER: Adjourns meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Reviewed by:

Julie Mušiz
Administrator

Lee Penny Assistant

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - List of school districts - Rose Otte - 3 pages B - Summary of research - Rose Otte - 6 pages C - Testimony on SB 630 - Rose Otte - 5 pages D - Testimony on SB 630 - James Titus - 4 pages E - Testimony on SB 630 - Sam Alvord - 2 pages F - Testimony on SB 630 - Will Tucker - 3 pages G - Testimony on SB 630 - Mike Kohn - 3 pages H - Testimony on SB 630 - Linda Duman - 11 pages I - Testimony on SB 630 - DeAnne Sumpster - 10 pages J - Testimony on SB 630 - Gary Miller - 3 pages K - Map - Dennis Mills - 1 page L - Testimony on SB 630 - Dan Nichols - 2 pages M - Testimony on SB 630 - Larry Otley - 2 pages N - Testimony on SB 630 - Toni Foster - 10 pages O - Testimony on SB 630 - Byron Beach - 2 pages P - Testimony on SB 630 - Becky Johnson - 4 pages Q - Testimony on SB 630 - Peter Hedren - 2 pages R - Testimony on SB 630 - Jean Schadler - 5 pages S - Testimony on SB 630 - Jack Lorts - 1 page T - Testimony on SB 630 - Debbie Scott - 4 pages U - Testimony on SB 630 - Ash Valley School District - 2 pages V - Testimony on SB 630 - Bill McCormack - 2 pages W - Testimony on SB 630 - Ralph Fisher - 2 pages X - List of callers in support of SB 630 - Staff - 1 page Y - Letters in support of SB 630 - Staff - 27 pages