

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.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

January 30, 1991 Hearing Room F 1:30 p.m. Tapes 11 - 12

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Carolyn Oakley, Chair Rep. Vera Katz, Vice-Chair Rep. Bruce Hugo Rep. Delna Jones Rep. Mike Nelson Rep. Bob Pickard Rep. Walt Schroeder

STAFF PRESENT: Lee Penny, Committee Administrator Carolyn Gillson, Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2466 - Report on Dropouts, PPW HB 2109 - Access Issue of Dropouts - PPW

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TAPE 11, SIDE A

010 CHAIR CAROLYN OAKLEY: Calls the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. All members are present.

(Tape 11, Side A) HB 2466 - Requires school districts to report on dropouts to Department of Education Public Hearing Witnesses: Rep. Bill Dwyer, District 42 Judy Miller, Department of Education Leon Fuhrman, Department of Education Diane Iverson, Oregon Community Children Youth Services Commission (OCCYSC)

018 REP. BILL DWYER: Testifies in support of the bill he sponsored directing the Department of Education to establish and maintain a uniform student accounting system with particular emphasis on dropouts. > Talks about his own experiences when he dropped of high school. > There has to be some monetary incentive for school districts to give this program the focus it really needs.

087 REP. VERA KATZ: The concept of a safety net for these students, who are dropping out, is built into the concept of initial certificate of mastery. If the schools fail these children, there are youth centers where the money follows the child and social services will be provided for them.

REP. DWYER: Encourages the committee to support his bill.

102 REP. WALT SCHROEDER: Were they private individuals that helped you?

REP. DWYER: They were people that were really interested in children. Some of the organizations did it as part of their civic duty.

REP. SCHROEDER: Explains how withholding funds can also be an incentive.

146 REP. DELNA JONES: The experience you had was because your community cared. We all have responsibility for children headed for trouble.

REP. DWYER: There are things that force kids to drop out of school that we don't really understand. The attitude of one teacher can turn a kid off of school.

185 JUDY MILLER, assistant superintendent for student services, Department of Education: This bill builds on the things we are looking at in student accounting.

202 LEON FURHMAN, Department of Education: We have worked hard since 1984 to give school districts flexibility to work with at-risk youth. It is a matter of changing traditions, matching teachers with students, and using the change in certification requirements to get teachers more sensitive to the needs of this kind of student. Our society is trying to bring all students to a mastery level of skills. This means an opportunity to provide the technical assistance to school districts and communities to help them develop programs for hard to serve kids.

REP. KATZ: The majority of the Legislature has been the barrier on alternative programming. If we are going to provide the safety net for dropout students, we will have to make some major changes. We can use new ideas.

FURHMAN: School districts in Douglas county are meeting to discuss how to use the current system and work with these kids. We have the flexibility to do it under our current law. HB 246 6 is an excellent technical assistance to the early leavers report bill.

285 MILLER: The concept of identifying schools that are having severe problems with dropouts and trying to provide technical assistance and financial incentives is supported by the Department. We have worked hard to improve our dropout reporting system.

317 REP. BRUCE HUGO: If both HB 2466 and HB 2109, requiring the student accounting system to assess the issue of dropouts, were sent to Ways and Means and not sent out, would that prevent you from implementing HB 2109? Does HB 2466 really need \$3.1 million to be implemented?

MILLER: HB 2109 outlines most of what the Department is doing right now under administrative rule. The student accounting system needs constant on line support. > Lists the things that need to be done and the costs involved. > The Department needs additional resources for activities in the student accounting system. > The fiscal information provided by the Department to Legislative Fiscal is what it will take to give that the system the integrity that it needs.

TAPE 12, SIDE A

020 MILLER: The \$3.1 million fiscal impact in HB 2466 is the Department's best guess of the costs of providing incentives to those school districts identified as having high dropout rates (EXHIBIT A). >

Another staff person is requested because the Department is limited in the amount of staff time it can provide in helping school districts to create more options for students.

REP. HUGO: It is sad that the only way we can get school districts to do some innovative things with these kids is to give them money.

REP. JONES: What reason do school districts have for why kids are dropping out?

MILLER: The kids who are dropping out are those who have been in the school district for a short period of time. We have a mobile population of kids today, and schools need more flexible programs to help these kids.

120 REP. JONES: If the problem is that kids are not staying in the same district long enough to get a sense of belonging, then the major focus of the prevention of that problem should be geared to keeping the kids in the system. Is that what Roseburg is gearing their program to?

FURHMAN: They are looking for ways to meet the needs of these kids with what they have.

JONES: HB2109 only identifies how bad the problem it is. When we look at what the solution is, I am not sure that money is what you need.

142 MILLER: Additional money would be helpful to school districts. The Department is doing everything it can to help school districts think of ways they can take existing resources to help keep kids in school.

157 CHAIR OAKLEY: Are most schools working with the mobile kids to help them get credits transferred?

MILLER: Explains how it varies from school district to school district and from school to school within a district.

186 REP. HUGO: The question is how do you keep the families in one school district. I don't know if we need either of these bills. All we need is a legislative policy statement that we are going to go after at-risk kids. Why is it the Department's responsibility to identify these kids?

REP. SCHROEDER: We are treating symptoms rather than causes.

231 REP. KATZ: The causes are part of our dysfunctioning society and it costs money. We want to know what the problem is and why the students are dropping out. Then we need to change our school system.

260 PENNY: Is the attitude changing about serving these children?

MILLER: I think it is changing.

FURHMAN: The calls we get now are how do we make the changes. > Talks about what the Roseburg school district is looking at. > It is not fair to say school districts don't want to make a change.

298 PENNY: A question was raised whether schools can require students to provide their social security number as a means of identification in tracing them. I located an Attorney General's opinion indicating it is

not legal under the federal law to require students to submit their social security numbers to the schools (EXHIBIT B).

321 DIANE IVERSON, OCCYSC: The Legislature gave OCCYSC \$1.59 million last session which was used to fund 53 programs in about 30 counties. > Explains where the money goes. > People are not being tracked very well because of time and money. > It is necessary to come up with some way to track these students.

REP. KATZ: Somebody needs to deal with the ability of school districts to follow through for these students.

387 IVERSON: I will be getting some information from Ohio where a law was passed requiring school districts to get the social security number of students or require their State Department of Education to issue a special identification number for each student.

(Tape 12, Side A HB 2109 - Requires student accounting system to assess issue of dropouts Public Hearing Witnesses: Wilma Wells, Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)

400 WILMA WELLS, COSA: It seems to be that both HB 2109 and HB 2466 speak to the same issue. > Explains why COSA is requesting that Sections 3 and 4 of HB 2109 be deleted. > The most useful funds are those that provide technical assistance. > Urges the committee to look at some way to fund more assistance in the student services section of the Department of Education. > COSA supports the ideas in the two bills, but does not want something concrete until there is further study.

TAPE 11, SIDE B

(Tape 11, Side B) HB 2466 - Requires school districts to report on dropouts to Department of Education Work Session

049 MOTION: Rep. Hugo moves HB 2466 to the Committee on Ways and Means with a do pass recommendation.

REP. KATZ: The issue needs to be dealt with. The Committee will have the opportunity to look at a much broader and more comprehensive approach to this issue in another piece of legislation that is being drafted.

MOTION WITHDRAWN: Rep. Hugo withdraws his earlier motion.

(Tape 11, Side B) HB 2109 - Requires student accounting system to assess issue of dropouts Work Session

075 REP. JONES: I am at loss as to why we want a bill telling the Department to do something without money. I can't support the bill this way.

MOTION: Rep. Hugo moves HB 2109 to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

095 REP. JONES: Is what we want to accomplish clearly identified?

REP. HUGO: Reviews the language in the bill

125 REP. KATZ: If this bill goes through the system, I certainly would like the Department to consider, in their administrative rules, asking

the student why he or she left school.

REP. SCHROEDER: Are students going to be completely honest about why they are dropping out of school?

REP. JONES: It would be appropriate for Department to use some kind of mechanism to get an idea of why some students are dropping out.

158 MILLER: Talks about a 1987-88 report containing statistics concerning why students dropped out of school.

REP. JONES: Encourages the Department to use the resources at Portland State University to help gather information on students.

VOTE: In a roll call vote, the motion carried, with Reps. Schroeder and Pickard voting NAY.

192 CHAIR OAKLEY: Adjourns meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Carolynn GillsonLee Penny Assistant Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG: A - Fiscal impact statement on HB 2466 - Legislative
Fiscal - 1 page B - Attorney General opinion - Committee Staff - 8
pages