

Assembly

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
February 7th, 1973

HEARING

57TH SESSION

29

MEMBERS PRESENT: Schofield, Lowman, Foote, McNeel, Vergiels,
Broadbent, Barengo

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Richard Morgan - Nevada Education Association
Nancy C. Hook - teacher
Daniel Demers - Assemblyman
John Gamble - Department of Education
Robert Best, Nevada School Board Assn.
R. H. Hansen, State Supt. of Schools
Gary Gray - teacher
Marian V. Saunders - graduate student
Maureen Shepparal - case worker for "con-
sumer Fraud"
Sue Morrow - Carson Appeal
Carl Shaff - Eureka County

Chairman Schofield convened the meeting at 4:00 P.M. He asked if members approved the minutes of previous meeting.

Dr. Broadbent made the motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Lowman seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman then asked Assemblyman Daniel Demers to speak on reasons why he introduced AB 64.

Assemblyman Demers then explained why he felt young people should be informed how to protect themselves against fraudulent practices et. He felt there was nothing existing on the statutes now to interrupt a teacher in the midst of giving this kind of instruction and cited an instance of a teacher who was using credit cards and was told to stop this practice. He said there was nothing to suggest that they should have hour courses every day or even once a week. He said this was just a vehicle to enable teachers to include consumer education in their curriculum in almost any subject. He mentioned that this bill had the support from the Nevada Retail Assoc. in the person of Mr. Pete Kelley, who could not make it but had said that if requested they would lend a hand in preparing the curriculum. He said that members might hear opponents give the argument that Legislature should not prescribe curriculums but that there was a certain amount of this on the statutes already that established a precedent. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. McNeel said that this bill states "shall:.. He said he felt that this does not leave any question but that the Legislature would be mandating that they should teach this subject and right now.

Mr. Demers said that it was very important and they should be taught this now and that it was top priority.

Mr. McNeel said that there had been a man from the State Board of education there the other day and that he said if they kept instructing

the schools how to teach they soon wouldn't have time to teach reading, writing and arithmetic.

Chairman asked if there were any other questions and thanked Mr. Demers for his comments. He then asked those that were prepared to speak to put their names on a piece of paper.

Chairman then asked Gary Gray from the Clark County Classroom Teacher's Association to speak.

Mr. Gray, speaking in support of this bill, said that he felt that teachers had been skating on thin ice in presenting consumer education. He said that a teacher had been teaching check-book banking procedure and relevant things used in every day life and the Principle objected. In his own case, he said, he was an English teacher and was interested in incorporating consumer language into the curriculum and how language was used to influence a potential buyer. He said that kids respond to this.

Chairman then asked Assemblyman Ford if she had another meeting she had to attend and if she would like to make some comments.

Mrs. Ford said that she was a consponsor of the bill and that in answer to Mr. McNeel's question about this starting right now that anything like this that required a new course of instruction or a new look at the subject required time to implement it.

Chairman thanked Assemblyman Ford and called on Dr. Hansen to give any remarks on this subject. Dr. Hansen said that he and John Gamble were due at another meeting and so he would like to give just three brief points..

He stated that the State Board of Education had not taken a position on this bill, but that they enthusiastically supported consumer education. Secondly, that consumer education can and is included in the curriculum. He said that he would gladly supply the document he had in hand "Consumer Education for 1971". He said this happened to be keyed to Home Economics but that it was valuable otherwise. That he said they saw no objections to a school district from enriching its curriculum anyway it wants to. He said that they felt they could live with this bill that probably legislating specifics was probably unwise in the long run. He said that they felt the local districts should control the curriculum of their own program.

Chairman asked if the Committee would like to have copies of the book and Dr. Hansen passed out three copies. Chairman asked Dr. Hansen if he had ever heard of a teacher being interfered with in teaching this with nothing on the books to back him up. Whereupon Dr. Hansen that he had not although there may have been some other reason in the cases mentioned.

John Gamble said that although they did not oppose this piece of Legislation he would respectively offer another suggestion. He suggested a joint resolution be made in lieu of this which would do the same thing without expressly establishing a mandate by the Legislature.

Bob Best, executive secretary of the Nevada School Board Association, said that the School Board's representatives to the legislative committee and the Superintendents met last Thursday and this matter was briefly discussed at that time and went on record as opposing legislating a curriculum by mandate. He said that they concluded that this subject was already included in Social Studies and other courses to a great extent. He cited a case last summer where the Nevada Bankers Association completed and succeeding in getting into schools a unit on banking which was along this line.

Nancy Hook spoke next and said that she opposed this bill as stated. However, she said she believed strongly in consumer education but that she was opposed to this being implemented without giving consideration to proper funding and consultation and without the school boards and the University in consultation with one another deciding on a proper curriculum. At the conclusion of her presentation she passed out copies of what she had said to the Committee members.

Chairman called on Richard Morgan of the Nevada Education Association for his remarks. Mr. Morgan said that he found himself in a curious position as in the past he had opposed legislation on curriculums but that there existed a great gross ignorance on this subject generally. He said that all students should get some sort of education on this subject and not just 15 or 20% in Home Economics or Social Studies. This subject should be integrated in all classes. He said he felt this was a most important piece of legislation this year. He did not feel that any funding was necessary that they just needed direction for it to occur.

Chairman asked if there were any questions.

Assemblyman Foote said that when she taught school several years ago that they had a great deal of latitude in what they taught and she found it hard to believe that principles would interfere with this subject being mentioned in various classes at all.

Mr. Vergiels said he thought he would be in favor of a joint resolution.

Mr. Carl Shaff said he would like to take exception to Mr. Morgan's remarks that from his experience in teaching at Incline Village High School and other schools students were eager to get involved in this type of curriculum.

Ms. Reninato, Dean of Hug High School in Reno said he had not planned to speak at all but as she heard the various presentations she decided to do so. She said that they had 2,000 students and twenty-four students enrolled in consumer education classes or courses. She said it was her opinion that they were already consumers and this subject is relevant. She said they were not hitting many of the children who really do need it. She thought they should begin by passing this bill.

Chairman Schofield: Any questions?

Mr. McNeel asked if this course was publicized? She answered "yes" but not many children take elective courses.

Chairman Schofield thanked the guests for their comments.

After brief consultation of Committee Members mr. McNeel moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Barengo.

Motion passed unanimously to adjourn.

Chairman said they would discuss this further at the next meeting Monday, February 12th at regular meeting at 4:00 P.M.

Respectively submitted,

Geraldine Smith, Secretary

