

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 1975

45

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Senator Floyd R. Lamb was in the Chair.

PRESENT: Senator Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman
Senator James I. Gibson, Vice-Chairman
Senator Warren L. Monroe
Senator B. Mahlon Brown
Senator Clifton Young
Senator William J. Raggio
Senator Lee E. Walker

OTHERS: Kenneth Hansen, Department of Education
John Gamble, Department of Education
Lincoln Liston, Department of Education
Richard L. Morgan, NEA
Preston Price, Esmeralda County Schools
Senator Hilbrecht
Howard Barrett, Budget Director
Ron Sparks, Fiscal Analyst

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Education Administration

Mr. Kenneth Hansen began by saying that the Department did not need any additional personnel. Mr. Hansen felt that his Department's most serious problem was in the insecurity of Federal funding.

Senator Lamb noted that there was quite a difference between the Department's salary requests and the Governor's recommendations. Mr. Hansen, referring to his salary, remarked, our current requests may seem excessive, however, this recommendation comes from the average income of the top three district superintendents, for the Department's top unclassified positions. The average is \$36,000 to \$37,000 a year. This applies to appointed employees only, and not elected, Mr. Hansen added.

Senator Brown asked how the salaries recommended by the Governor compare with other states. Mr. Hansen answered that Utah has a low average of \$35,000, and Colorado has a higher average of \$40,000. Mr. Hansen added that states with elected officials only have higher averages.

Senator Young wanted to know if any other State employees get \$35,000. Mr. Howard Barrett answered the Psychiatrists, the Director of Mental Health, and the Governor. Senator Lamb asked Ron Sparks to find out the income of the University Chancellor.

PAGE TWO

Education Administration (Cont.)

Mr. Hansen said that depression at his level of salary also affected the Department's Deputies. Senator Lamb asked if the Board of Education approved the Department's recommendations. Mr. Hansen answered that the requests did pass the Board, with one "no" vote, and the Chairman abstaining. Senator Lamb said that the Finance Committee would set the salaries.

Senator Raggio asked if the Deputy Attorney General cost the Department of Education. Mr. Hansen said that the State statute provided that the Deputy's service is received without cost. Mr. Gamble added that the Deputy is shared with the Department of Water Resources, and that the Deputy is used only on request.

Senator Young wanted to know what has been done by the Department. Mr. Hansen replied that the Teacher Workshops and training have not been too successful, but the other programs organized to work with local districts have been. The Department is used as a consultant focusing on long-range planning with such subjects as:

- A. Career Education
- B. Handicap Education
- C. Bi-Lingual Education
- D. Concern with classroom sex stereotyping

Mr. John Gamble covered the management accomplishments of the Department. Mr. Gamble said that surveys or reviews are in process in the following areas:

- A. Storey County growth
- B. Lander County development
- C. Carson School District High School - overcrowding
- D. Nye County and Mineral County curriculum

Senator Gibson asked what the Administrative offices use in square feet, and the cost of the lease area. Mr. Gamble answered that for Carson City and Las Vegas there is more than 23,000 square feet, and the average cost is .52¢/square foot. Senator Lamb interjected that the cost of the actual Administrative area is .56¢ to .57¢/square foot. Senator Brown wanted to know why the Department did not lease from the Capital Plaza building. Mr. Gamble said that negotiations had been in process, but the representatives from Capital Plaza had told the Department that they had to take the entire first building before construction on the second could begin. In their current location, the Department has security services, but no night watchman. Senator Gibson asked how long was the lease they now had. Mr. Gamble responded that it was five years.

PAGE THREE

Education Administration (Cont.)

Mr. Richard L. Morgan, NEA, spoke from the audience and remarked that it is generally felt that the Department doesn't communicate directly enough with teachers. Mr. Morgan said that the teachers feel the Department is for Districts, and not for them. Senator Lamb asked what the District Superintendents feel about the Department. Mr. Morgan said that the response was probably favorable.

There was a general discussion on the value of specialists in District programs. Senator Young felt that if Washoe County has 1400 teachers, that specialists aren't needed. Mr. Gamble said that the expertise doesn't reach that far, and indeed the specialists were more concentrated in the smaller districts. Mr. Gamble did mention that in Washoe County, the Department was called in to aid in implementing a Physical Education (P.E.) program of Karate instruction. The Department was to provide all legal information. Mr. Morgan said that Washoe County had three or four of these specialists on the P.E. program, and that he felt that this was duplication.

Mr. Gamble went on to explain that program development is approved by the Department and funded federally. The Department is to do the paperwork involved, monitor the program, evaluate the program and audit it. Mr. Gamble verified that the Department is not trying to bring in specialists to programs in accord with whether they are funded by the Federal Government, or by the State Government; rather, the Department is trying to meet student needs with the qualified specialist.

Vocational Education

Senator Gibson asked if the Federal Government was cutting back on funds for this area. Mr. Hansen remarked that the Department does not expect an increase in Federal funding.

Senator Lamb asked about the "Fire Training Project". Mr. Hansen answered that although his Department does not initiate this program; it is requested by the Districts and we sub-contract with the University for the training. Mr. Barrett explained that the \$71,000 used for this program is Federal funding earmarked for this specific use. Senator Gibson said that he and other Senators have received criticism because the firemen had claimed that this fund was cut out of the University budget by the Legislature. Mr. Barrett said that the funds are Federal.

PAGE FOUR

Vocational Education (Cont.)

Senator Gibson asked if this Department has any contact with the Community College. Mr. Hansen said that 15% of the Federal appropriations are for post-secondary use.

Automobile Driver Education Fund

Mr. Liston remarked that this fund is a continuation and there is no increase.

School Lunch Program

Mr. Liston said that this budget was calling for matching funds appropriations.

Adult Basic Education

This Committee held no discussion on this area.

Care of Deaf & Blind

Senator Lamb inquired if the budget was sufficient to handle the program. Mr. Liston answered that before September, 1974, tuition increases were to be nominal, but in September it became apparent that the tuitions were to be greatly increased. Senator Lamb requested that the Department prepare another budget for this area and present it to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Mr. Liston remarked that this fund is for the more serious cases of handicapped children. Mr. Liston said that ideally, the child in this category would not have to be sent out of his home atmosphere. However, now the fund helps through either hardship, or cost-sharing to send the child to out-of-state institutions.

Higher Education Student Loan Fund

Senator Gibson asked who set the guidelines for this project. Mr. Gamble answered that the Federal Government set the guidelines.

Senator Gibson asked what was the default rate. Mr. Gamble answered that it was 10%. Mr. Gamble went on to explain that 3,400 loans have been made; 1,932 of these are still attending school or have some type of deferment; and 1,500 mature notes are being repaid.

Senator Lamb asked what the process for collecting defaulted monies has been. Mr. Gamble answered that first a major bank effort is made; then, the United Student Aid Fund takes over and continues with a deliberate effort.

PAGE FIVE

Higher Education Student Loan Fund (Cont.)

Senator Brown asked what was the interest. Mr. Gamble replied it was 7% with payback beginning eleven months after the education is completed, and giving ten years to repay. In response to Senator Young, Mr. Gamble added that default on the repayment begins if the first month is missed.

Advisory Committee for Environmental Education

It was decided after general discussion between the Senators and Mr. Hansen that the results produced by this Committee have been minimal.

/ National Defense Education Act

No discussion was held on this Act.

Comprehensive Employment Training Act

Mr. Liston remarked that this Act replaces the Manpower Development and Training Act. The CETA does not require State matching funds. Senator Gibson asked how they knew that this Act would be in their Department. Mr. Hansen responded that 5% of CETA is jointly administered by his Department and the Governor's office.

Fleischmann Scholarships

Mr. Hansen said that this segment of the budget only requires an Administrative secretary, who handles any IRS requirements and the varied scholarship distributions.

Indian Education

Mr. Hansen said that all twenty-six Indian tribes deal directly with the BIA, as the Department of Education is not the dispersing agent.

Senator Young inquired about the Indian Education consultant that had been hired in the last Biennial. Mr. Hansen answered that the consultant had not been suitable. The position of consultant, Mr. Hansen added, is paid by Johnson-O'Malley funds, and if this funding is discontinued, so will the position.

/ TITLE VI

Mr. Liston explained that "Title" funds are Federal aid for special intent. Title VI funds are applied for and granted to the districts, who in turn distribute the monies for the use of handicapped children.

PAGE SIX

✓ TITLE V

Mr. Hansen said that this Title's original intent was use for innovative school programs. Now, however, Mr. Hansen stated, the funds are used to pay salaries for consultants who devote time to more than one Federal Program.

Mr. Hansen went on to say that this Title could be reduced or completely halted at any time. Senator Gibson asked if there is an effort to consolidate these appropriations. Mr. Gamble replied that there will be an effort to do so.

Senator Monroe inquired about the "Public Info Officer". Mr. Hansen said this position is not for Public Relations, but is to handle all publication.

✓ E.S.E.A. Combined

Mr. Hansen said this has been a successful program of combined Titles I, II, III.

Senator Lamb said it seemed that with such an abundance of Federal funds available, some schools are very rich. Mr. Hansen answered the funds are applied for, and then are monitored by the Department. Senator Lamb said that he had been referring to the hiring of Teacher Aids. Mr. Preston Price, from the audience agreed that this was done. Senator Lamb said that these Aids are not qualified teachers.

Teacher Training for Handicapped Children

Senator Raggio asked how many people take this training. Mr. Hansen answered that about forty or fifty people are involved.

✓ Education Civil Rights TITLE IV

Mr. Hansen said that the money for this Title is used to help furnish a liaison with districts to aid in successful integration. Mr. Hansen added that this is a contract and not a grant for Indians, Black-Americans, and other ethnic groups.

Senator Gibson asked about in-state travel. Mr. Hansen answered that the Department is trying to reach ethnic groups in all areas of the State, and not just intense Black-American areas.

Education Commission of the States

Mr. Hansen claimed that this Commission is very important to Nevada as it provides the opportunity for the States to give a unified opinion to Federal government. Senator Lamb asked the opinion of Mr. Preston Price on this Commission. Mr. Price agreed that it is indeed beneficial.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 1975

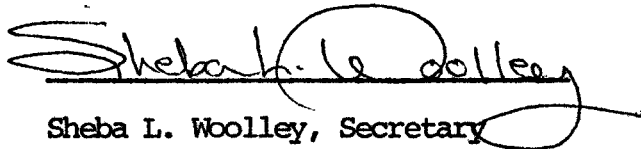
51

PAGE SEVEN


In closing, Senator Lamb asked the District leaders in the audience what the Department of Education has done for them. Mr. Preston Price spoke for the leaders and responded that he felt the Department has had good input into the Special Education Programs, and with Basic State School Finance in aiding to determine individual budgets.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:


Sheba L. Woolley, Secretary

APPROVED:


Floyd R. Lamb, Chairman