

MINUTES

Assembly

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 16, 1977

3 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Vergiels  
Mrs. Gomes  
Mr. Goodman  
Mr. Horn  
Mr. Kissam  
Mr. Rhoads  
Mr. Schofield

Guests Present: Don Rhodes, Legislative Counsel Bureau

The chairman called the meeting to order in Room 214 at 3:01 p.m. with all members present.

The chairman announced that after the State Board of Education meets February 25, the committee will again consider AB 111. He set Monday, February 28, as the date for a hearing on AB 300, which provides for a silent period for voluntary individual prayers in public schools, and SB 138, which increases the number of members, revises the terms of members, and clarifies the primary duties of the Nevada Advisory Council for Vocational Education.

He stated there are three bills for consideration for committee introduction, taken from the governor's recommendations.

BDR S-778 - Makes appropriation to Nevada Educational Communications Commission for the construction of an educational network. (A.B. 325)

Mr. Schofield moved to introduce the bill and Mrs. Gomes seconded and the committee approved the introduction unanimously.

BDR S-776 - Makes appropriation for support of Nevada Educational Communications Commission. (A.B. 324)

Mr. Schofield moved the introduction and Mrs. Gomes seconded with the committee approving unanimously.

BDR S-777 - Makes appropriation to Nevada Educational Communications Commission for operation of a television satellite project. (A.B. 326)

Mr. Schofield moved and Mrs. Rhoads seconded. The committee approved unanimously.

These three bills will be introduced Monday, February 21, and a committee hearing will be set for approximately two weeks.

Mr. Vergiels introduced Don Rhodes, assigned to the Education Committee by the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Mr. Schofield read from Mr. Rhodes' research on Clark County School District which gives a historical perspective on the development of the county school district before posing the problem of where it should be going, whether bigness is indeed a disadvantage. Clark County is now 37<sup>th</sup> among the 748 districts with 10,000 or more students, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics Study of Fall, 1975. It has over 80,000 students. Among the problems in a large district are lack of community control, loss of economies of scale and adverse test scores. As per the material Mr. Rhodes submitted from the Los Angeles School District, there are many alternatives to a large district: breaking it into smaller districts, decentralizing the schools for community control but retaining centralization for accounting, purchasing, etc. These alternatives also raise problems, such as de facto segregation.

Mrs. Gomes, agreeing that some districts might be too big, wondered whether they would be broken down along election districts, what the best way would be.

Mr. Schofield suggested it might be done by primary, middle and high school divisions or feeder schools.

Mr. Goodman proposed an interim study.

Mr. Horn raised the question of what problems breaking up a large district might bring up later.

Mr. Schofield pointed out that the committee wants to develop information itself and especially for Mr. Hickey. This information could also be used to give direction to an interim committee.

Mr. Schofield asked each member of the committee to digest some of the material he has accumulated and report back to the committee. Mr. Horn will be the first to review the Arthur Little Study which gives options for decentralization; Mr. Goodman, the Peabody - Governor's State School Study; Mrs. Gomes and Mr. Kissam, an in-depth paper on the Clark County School District; Mr. Rhoads, community-based education; i.e., using school facilities year-round for the community rather than just nine months for formal education; Mr. Vergiels, rankings and enrollment figures; and Mr. Schofield and Mr. Vergiels, "The Perils of Bigness: the Case Against Large School Districts." These should be ready in two weeks (Wednesday, March 2).

Mr. Vergiels asked that the remarks made by Kenny Guinn, Wednesday, February 16, 1977, before the Ways & Means Committee concerning

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Clark County be made available to the committee members. He requested Mr. Rhodes to obtain two copies of the bills concerning community-based education introduced at the 58th Session for Mr. Rhoads. He asked Mr. Rhodes to write to California for copies of the test they give for high school students to get out of school and other related materials. He further requested that Mr. Rhodes contact ten state universities and ten commuter school universities in an effort to find out how they're solving the problem of filling their dormitories and to forward a copy to Mr. Kissam and also to try to ascertain how other states or school districts fund school nurses.

Mrs. Gomes suggested Mr. Rhodes get from Washoe County information about their one community school. She also requested a breakout of the Clark County school district budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Harriet M. Knauff  
Assembly Attache