

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Vergiels  
Vice Chairman Craddock  
Mr. Banner  
Mrs. Hayes  
Mrs. Wagner  
Mrs. Westall  
Mr. Stewart  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. Webb

GUESTS PRESENT

See Guest List attached

Chairman Vergiels called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

The Chairman called on Assemblyman Nick Horn to explain A.B. 35, the first bill to be heard on this date.

ASSEMBLY BILL 35

Assemblyman Nick Horn, District 15, stated that A.B. 35 came out of the Pupil Achievement Subcommittee, which held hearings throughout the state dealing with pupil achievement. The bill is complex in language but simple in intent, the intent being academic excellence or achievement in both academic and vocational subjects in high school particularly when the pupil was exiting with a diploma, and this should be noted on the transcript. Specifics could be noted on the diploma for use in job applications. It is left to the board of trustees of each school district to establish the program. The basic intent of the subcommittee was to make some declination so that the high school diploma would begin to mean something.

Mrs. Wagner asked why a law was necessary for this purpose, even though it is a good concept. She felt that it should be left to the individual school districts.

Mr. Malone felt that a law to this effect would help to make the practice more uniform and guarantee the student the advantages of having the information in his transcript and/or the diploma if it is not now a policy of the individual school district.

Linda Terry, representing the Carson City School Board of Trustees, asked who would define what is outstanding achievement. There would have to be uniformity to make it mean anything. However, Carson City does not like the idea of anything being mandated and it should be left to the individual districts to do as they see fit.

George Earnhart of the State Board of Education gave a prepared statement on the position of the State Board, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit A.

Chairman Vergiels felt that the position of the State Board presented a good solution which would solve the problem in a simple manner.

Chairman Vergiels will take the bill for re-drafting into a resolution.

ASSEMBLY BILL 38

Assemblyman Horn explained that the competency based testing came from A.B. 400 of the last session of the legislature. It was mandated that tests be conducted in the third, sixth, ninth and twelfth grades dealing with reading, writing and arithmetic. One of the basic problems found by the subcommittee which studied the situation was the difficulty of gathering this information regarding the proficiency examinations so they felt, from the testimony given, that if there was one central spot where the test information could be funneled, namely, the State Board of Education, everything could be tabulated and released. The one problem of the bill is that it was designed for the competency based testing, so Line 6 referring to other testing should be deleted.

Chairman Vergiels pointed out that there is \$200,000 available for developing the new tests at all levels, including \$110,00 for the senior tests and \$60,000 for the third, sixth and ninth grade tests. This includes federal money. The local boards and the State Board of Education will probably work in cooperation about how the test results would be released. There is nothing in the law at this time that the results have to be released. There was no way to find out a comparison between districts as well as with other states that have this testing system. It is important to delete references in the bill to testing other than the standardized competency based testing covered by A.B. 400.

George Earnhard of the State Board of Education presented a prepared statement on A.B. 38, a copy of which attached hereto and marked Exhibit B.

Linda Terry of the Carson City School Board of Trustees agreed that the changes mentioned above in the bill should be made and that no mandates should be made to the local districts. She is opposed to the bill, however.

Chairman Vergiels asked Mr. Horn to work with Don Rhodes of the Research Division to clarify the bill so that it specifies exactly what is to be done with the test results and deleting all other testing than the official competency based tests. If this system works well during the next two years, it could be expanded at the next session if necessary.

Mrs. Wagner asked why the State Department of Education didn't seem to know what the course requirements of the schools were.

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent of Public Instruction, said that he would have an answer to that question at the next committee meeting.

Chairman Vergiels felt that possibly Attorney General Bryan should appear before the committee to explain the efforts of the subcommittee that he was chairman of while he was a State Senator.

ASSEMBLY BILL 91

Assemblyman Horn explained that A.B. 91, again, was a product of the same subcommittee. First he said that Section 2 should be deleted because currently all of the school districts do have written codes of discipline. The intent of the bill is to develop a uniform code for the discipline of students throughout the state. They did not believe that there was currently a state model code. The code should be sent to all of the parents, teachers and administrators, and this should be so stated in the bill.

Mrs. Wagner questioned why a law was necessary to establish a disciplinary code when the school districts already seem to have their own.

George Earnhart of the State Board of Education gave a prepared statement regarding A.B. 91, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit C.

Mrs. Wagner asked why the handbook of the State Department had not been presented to the subcommittee.

Mr. Vergiels stated that the bill does address itself to the lack of communication between the State Department and the local school boards. Mr. Earnhart said that this works both ways.

Mr. Webb felt that the good intentions of each side (the state and local boards) don't seem to be recognized by each other.

Chairman Vergiels stated that the bill will be held for a further Board position on it.

Linda Terry showed the committee a copy of the Carson City Student Dress and Behavior Code. She questioned the section of the bill having to do with alternative means of educating students who have been removed from school. Carson City has set up an alternative system to cover this and Mrs. Terry brought the handbook having to do with this system. Each local board has to bear the cost of this program, usually after regular school hours.

Chairman Vergiels said that the alternative education section is not made mandatory in this particular bill. It would be difficult to mandate the same program in all districts of Nevada because of the diversity of the areas. He asked that those who testify on bills like this provide the committee copies of the materials from their districts for the information of the committee.

Mr. Earnhart stated that, like in the federal government, if the local school boards don't, or are unable to, come up with some of the programs that are felt necessary by the legislature or by the State Board and Department, then it becomes necessary for the

state to do it for them. The State Board and Department are not against local control.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Assembly Bill 123

A.B. 123 was referred back to committee and Mr. Weise had some changes that he thought should be made. The changes had to do with the Indians and the environmental education portion. Following a general discussion it was decided to pass the bill out again as it stands as amended and if changes are to be made have them made on the floor.

Mr. Malone moved Do Pass as Amended, seconded by Mr. Webb. The motion carried with Mr. Banner voting No.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Vergiels at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Olguin  
Committee Secretary



GUEST LIST

EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
February 14, 1979

<u>NAME</u> (Please print)	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	<u>WISH TO SPEAK</u>	
		Yes	No
Dick Wright	WCSD	X	
Ben Cowan	CCSD	X	
John Paul	CCSD		X
John Hawkins	SCHOOL TRUSTEES	X	
Wendell Newman	NSEA		X
Joyce Woodhouse	NSEA		X
Don Johnson	CCSD		X
Albert Baker	CCSA		X
W. R. Koucky	Carson City School Dist		X
Linda Throy	Carson City School Dist	X	
Shirley Wedow	ST. Bd of Ed		
Bill (unclear)	(unclear)		
Erin Vergels			X
GEORGE EARNHART	STATE BOARD EDUC.	X	
Don Rhodes	LCES		
Robert Petroni	CCSD	X	
Paul Anderson	Dept of Educ		X
Ray Ryan	" " "		X

STATEMENT OF  
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TO THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 14, 1979  
3:00 P.M., Room 214

A. B. 35 Requires indentification and recognition of public school pupils who demonstrate outstanding achievement.

Chairman Vergiels and members of the Assembly Education Committee:

The State Board of Education has not taken an official position concerning A. B. 35 because the bill has been introduced between Board meetings. We will present this bill to the State Board for discussion on Friday, February 16.

It is currently the feeling of myself and the Superintendent of Public Instruction that your committee should give consideration to exercising the prerogative of the Assembly to introduce the intent of this bill through a resolution to the Assembly, rather than an official bill.

We certainly concur that school districts should be encouraged to recognize outstanding achievement. However, we feel that a resolution stating that districts should exercise the authority that they already have should encourage this special recognition, and at the same time not becoming a law.

STATEMENT OF  
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TO THE  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 14, 1979  
3:00 P. M., Room 214

A. B. 38 Provides for state regulations on collection of information from school districts on pupil achievement.

Chairman Vergiels, members of the Assembly Committee on Education:

The State Board of Education has not taken an official position on A. B. 38 because of the introduction of this bill between Board meetings. We will present this bill to the State Board for discussion on Friday, February 16.

However, we would suggest that consideration be given to line 6 in the bill so that it might be amended to read:

[other] standardized tests measuring the achievement of public school pupils in the district [.] as the state board of education deems necessary.

STATEMENT of the NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
TO THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 14, 1979  
3:00 P.M.  
Room 214

A.B. 91 Provides for adoption of disciplinary codes  
for pupils in public schools

Chairman Vergiels, Committee members:

Because AB 91 has been introduced at a time when the State Board of Education has not had an opportunity to act as a whole to develop a position, we are unable to provide an official stance of the Board. But because of the importance of AB 91 and the ramifications of this bill, we feel it essential to provide the following comments:

We feel that AB 91 attempts to address a high priority in the field of public education, that priority being discipline in the schools.

We are concerned that this bill may create duplication of research and development if both school districts and the Department proceed simultaneously along the mandates of AB 91.

It is our opinion that a more positive resultant will come from AB 91 if it is initiated from the standpoint of the rights and responsibilities of pupils.

The Department prepared and distributed to the school districts in 1977 a handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities. It is our earnest belief that this handbook has value for school districts contemplating further policy development on the general topic of discipline. We further believe that the handbook would be a firm statutory point for a more specific model code.

Mr. Chairman, we respectfully request that this bill be held by the Committee until such a time as the State Board of Education may be able to consider a position on it.