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2003 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1034

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1034

House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 15, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	x		5325- end
			tape didn't record all
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Linda Guchter</i>			

Minutes:

Chairman Kelsch opened the hearing on 1034.

Anita Thomas, Attorney for the Legislative Council, and legal counsel for the Interim Education Committee. See Attached Testimony

Mary Wahl, ND Council of Educational Leaders

We are in favor of long-term planning, but 5-10-20 years for a plan is to long. In general, the principle of planning we support, but beyond a 5 yr. mark is not worthwhile. We suggest limiting the time frame to five years.

Rep. Herbel Will there be a form to complete?

Chairman Kelsch We would like to see public dialog in the school districts and also to provide us with information every two years.

Rep. Sitte Do Bismarck and Fargo do this?

Chairman Kelsch Large schools are doing this type of planning but not that far out.

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Page 2

House Education Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB1034
Hearing Date January 15 2003

Rep. Mueller (Mary) A 20 year is a long time, is 5 year sufficient? What are your thinking,
Would your group accept 10 years?

Wahl: 10 years down the road administrative and instructional are hard to do. Buildings are easy
as far a projecting when you will need a new roof.

Chairman Kelsch They should be able to project some of the staff's needs, retirement. With
95% will go to 60 years of age. I agree 20 years is a long time out. I truly believe that 10 years
isn't to long to project out.

Wahl: Trying to plan to far leads to inaccuracy in enrollment beyond five years is difficult.

Chairman Kelsch the formula that we use has been perfected, they are within a small percentage
of actual. What my differ is the migration from rural to urban.

Tom Decker, Department of Public Instruction

Passed out the demographic information attached.

Ten years isn't unreasonable, able to plan for staff, housing in the community etc.

Rep. Haas This is a remnant of a broader bill for the future of ND. It is extremely important
with regards to demographic shift, change in curriculum as we move into new technology. As a
state and a school district this is critical to student of ND. I can See Attached Testimony the
justification to eliminate the 20 years and move it to 10 years for planning and revisit it every
two years, with subject to revisions, this can be a very valuable tool for us at the state and for the
communities.

Rep. Mueller Is this a local control issue, if schools had planned for consolidations, etc. it may
be easier to do now that the time has come. It is an organized approach to the future based on
solid decisions. Smaller schools can't hide from what they see happening.

Page 3
House Education Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB1034
Hearing Date January 15 2003

Bev Nielson, Executive Director for the ND School Boards Association.

Concur with what has been said. Twenty years is to long, ten we can make work, with revision every two years. A larger concern: for the people in the communities, Department of Public Instruction, legislature, What authority will this report have. The plan will be revised and adjusted. And when the school board changes are they held accountable to the old administration. This could be an emotional upset to close a school. the public may not See Attached Testimony these as plans not promises.

Rep. Haas Credibility of the plan, the approach they take at the local level to have input from all levels, that will give it credit. Concern about obligating future boards through levy changes, teacher hiring, etc.

5-10 yr. plans are not cast in stone, they need to be used to guide the future.

Rep. Jon Nelson planning takes place in each school already. They have to go through some kind of process already.

Gloria Lokken

I feel we make open hearings a standard process not just during time of crisis. I can see a caution on predictions with time periods to work through problems.

OPPOSITION:

Dr. Johnson, Superintendent of Bismarck Public Schools, See Attached Testimony

Require a process of public hearing, records, discussion, and a plan would be seen as a pledge or guarantee.

Rep. Haas Could you envision a 5 year plan after you receive enough input or may be a 3/4/5 options down the road?

Page 4
House Education Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HB1034
Hearing Date January 15 2003

Dr. Johnson: we are open to that. A plan that addresses the demographics.

Rep. Haas Creating options during the five year plan as you proceed and then weigh and revise the options as you go.

Dan Huffman, Assistant Superintendent of Fargo Public School Dist., See Attached Testimony

Chairman Kelsch closed hearing on 1034 and appointed a sub committee to work on amendments. Rep. Haas Rep. Mueller Rep. Herbel

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1034

House Education Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1-20-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	2550 - 4100

Committee Clerk Signature *Linda Guchner*

Minutes:

Chairman Kelsch Opened the committee work o HB 1034, passed out an amendment.

Rep. Haas moved the amendment with **Rep. Hawken** seconded the amendment.

Discussion of the amendment.

Rep. Haas: **Rep. Mueller, Rep. Haas Rep. Herbel** worked in sub committee on this amendment.

We took out the 20 year plan requirement and the reporting requirement. It must be done every two years. And the local boards are accountable to their patrons and the people living in their districts. We didn't feel that the reporting requirement was necessary.

Voice vote on amendment, passed.

Amended bill discussion:

DO PASS AS AMENDED motion by **Rep. Herbel** and second by **Rep. Mueller**.

Rep. Norland Why do we want to force the districts into doing this. They are doing this already.

Are we accomplishing anything by do this.

