

BUSINESS REPORT

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, March 9, 2009
Place: Capitol

Time: 3:00 pm
Room: 137

BILLS and RESOLUTIONS HEARD:

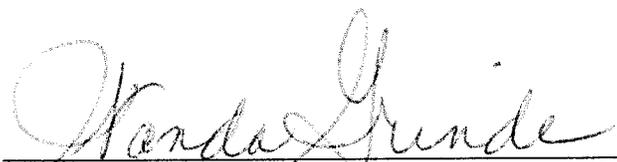
Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Add Postponed (PP) when appropriate:

SB 173	SJ 9	SJ 25	

EXECUTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Prefix (HB, HR, HJR, SB, SR, or SJR) and number. Enter P(pass) F(failed) DPAA (do pass as amended) BC(be concurred in) BCAA (be concurred in as amended):

COMMENTS:



REP. Wanda Grinde, Chairman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Roll Call
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: 3-9-09

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT/ EXCUSED</u>
Rep. Hamilton	✓	
Rep. Blasdel	✓	
Rep. Wilmer	✓	
Rep. Boniek	✓	
Rep. Fleming	✓	
Rep. Brown	✓	
Rep. Malek	✓	
Rep. Bean	✓	
Rep. Lake	✓	
Rep. Butcher		✓
Rep. McClafferty	✓	
Rep. Wagner	✓	
Rep. Beck	✓	
Rep. Washburn	✓	
Rep. Calf Boss Ribs	✓	
Rep. Grinde	✓	

Good afternoon. My name is Mike Molitor. I am the chairman of the Board of Trustees for Boulder Elementary School. Our board started the process to change this law. I would like to give you a little of the background of why we decided this was needed.

Enrollment in our school has been going down like it has in most schools in our state. In almost all of the last several years, we have not replaced retiring teachers in order to cut our teaching staff and we have cut many other areas of our budget.

One of the ways to reduce costs is to go to a combined superintendent/principal position like other schools in the state can do. If our elementary and high school do this, we could reduce from having three administrators to having just two and that could save quite a bit of money every year.

But when we looked at the law, it was not clear if we could do this or if we were required to share a superintendent with Jefferson High School as we have done in the past. One paragraph seemed to say we must share but another seemed to say we might not have to. Before making any decisions, the first step seemed to be clearing up this law and that is how we got started on preparing the bill you are looking at today.

We met with our Senator Murphy and Representative Scott Mendenhall. A representative from the Office of Public Instruction also attended and actually wound up writing the language for the bill. Both of our local school boards support the bill, the local teachers union supported it in a poll they did of their members, and the Montana School Boards Association has also given their support.

This change will also pave the way for our elementary school to develop more partnerships with the other elementary schools in our county. And the more we can cooperate, the more efficiently we can run our schools.

Thank you for your consideration.

EXHIBIT Additional
DATE 3-9-09
SB 173

