

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Taylor Brown, on January 19, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Taylor Brown, Chair (R)
Sen. Mark Blasdel, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Elsie Arntzen (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Tom Facey (D)
Sen. Kris Hansen (R)
Sen. Llew Jones (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Mary Sheehy Moe (D)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Angie Koehler, Committee Secretary
Padraic McCracken, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 107, 1/7/2015

HEARING ON SB 107

Chairman Brown turned over Chair responsibilities to Vice Chair Mark Blasdel.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:31 Sen. Taylor Brown (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 107, Revise K-12 school district expansion laws.

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:14:01 Ron Whitmoyer, superintendent, East Helena School District #9 (EHSD)

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a03\)](#)

00:19:37 Doug Reisig, superintendent, Hellgate Elementary School District (HESD)

00:22:29 Tom McLaughlin, trustee, HESD

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a04\)](#)

00:24:09 Tobin Novasio, superintendent, Lockwood School District (LSD)

00:28:40 Dave Puyear, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

00:29:21 Jack Babon, trustee, HESD

00:30:19 Marcia Ellermeyer, member, East Helena School Board (EHSB)

00:32:09 Kevin Bokovoy, trustee, EHSD

00:33:19 Sue Vinton, member, Lockwood School Board (LSB)

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a05\)](#)

00:34:41 Kit Johnson, 20 year business owner, City of East Helena; past trustee, EHSB

00:36:28 Nikita Pratt, former student, EHSD

00:37:12 Gordon Klasna, principal, Eileen Johnson Middle School, Lockwood

00:38:51 James Schell, mayor, City of East Helena

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a06\)](#)

00:39:39 Don Reed, member, Lockwood Elementary School Board (LESB); retired teacher, Billings School District #2 (BSD)

00:41:41 James Lingenfelter, parent, EHSD; member, local union

00:43:13 Kyson Hickes, 6th grader, Lockwood Middle School (LMS)

00:43:55 Shay Goldsberry, student, East Valley Middle School (EVMS)

00:45:58 Karen Goldsberry, parent, EVMS

00:48:51 Mark Diehl, member, EHSB; property owner, East Helena

00:51:50 Kane Hickes, student, LMS and Billings Senior High School (BSHS)

00:53:54 Brandon Uhl, parent, EHSD

00:54:30 Heather Ireland, parent, EHSD

00:55:54 Dana Schatz, parent/former student, HESD

00:56:57 Chad Hanson, parent, LSD

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a07\)](#)

00:58:29 Shawn Green, parent, LSD

00:59:47 Kate Walker, vice chair, Hellgate Elementary School Board (HESB)

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01:01:01 Jesse Swanke, 8th grade math teacher and athletic director, LSD
01:03:47 Scott Walter, chairman, EHSD
01:05:19 Tim Sather, trustee/parent/former student, LSD
01:05:56 Patti Thompson, parent/business owner, EHSD
01:06:22 Laura Feist, parent, EHSD
01:06:44 Joe Borgstrom, trustee, LSB
01:08:39 Conrad Stroebe, past president, Montana School Board Association (MSBA); 21
year member, Billings School Board

EXHIBIT(eds11a08)

01:11:46 Allen Cormany, resident/taxpayer, Helena
01:12:03 Martin Balukas, resident/taxpayer, East Helena

Opponents' Testimony:

01:12:39 Kent Kultgen, superintendent, Helena School District #1 (HSD1)

EXHIBIT(eds11a09)

01:16:01 Jeff Cowee, president, Helena Education Association (HEA); parent, HSD1
01:18:03 Kim Harris, HSD1
01:26:38 Summer Diegel, student, HSD1 - Capital High School (CHS)
01:29:52 Paige Belstad, student, HSD1 - CHS
01:31:05 Chris Hurford, large property/business owner, East Helena
01:34:27 Leo Hudetz, chief financial officer, Billings Public Schools (BPS)
01:36:40 Patricia Hubbard, finance director, Billings Public Schools (BPS)
01:37:58 Terry Bouck, superintendent, Billings Public Schools (BPS)
01:41:32 Margaret Bentwood, parent, HSD1
01:44:27 Scotty Tilton, student, CHS
01:48:19 Alex P. Apostle, superintendent, Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS)
01:54:50 Melanie Charlson, president, Missoula Education Association (MEA); vice
president, MEA-MFT; 25-year educator
01:58:59 Scott McCulloch, advocate, BPS
02:00:42 Taylor Blossom, CHS student representative to Helena School Board
02:02:30 Madison McLaughlin, HHS student representative to Helena School Board
02:03:49 Jane Shawn, teacher, Helena Public Schools
02:04:29 Hatton Littman, director of technology and communications, MCPS
02:08:28 Marcia Holland, trustee/representative of Hellgate Elementary to MCPS

EXHIBIT(eds11a10)

02:10:14 Natalie Jaeger, principal, Big Sky High School (BSHS)
02:11:32 Carleen Hathaway, para-educator, MCPS
02:12:59 Steve Thennis, principal, Helena High School (HHS)
02:15:14 Doug Shenkle, teacher for 38 years, HSD1
02:17:15 Pat McHugh, director of business and operations, MCPS
02:21:44 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTA)
02:21:58 Darryl James, taxpayer/parent, Helena

Informational Testimony:

02:22:59 Paul Taylor, budget analyst, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)
02:23:20 Dan Semmens, partner, Dorsey & Whitney, Missoula; bond counsel to several school districts
02:28:15 Aaron Rudio, DA Davidson & Company (DADC), frequent underwriter of Montana school bonds
02:30:14 Jim Standaert, former employee, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

[EXHIBIT\(eds11a11\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:37:36 Sen. Facey
02:37:50 Sen. T. Brown
02:38:04 Sen. Facey
02:38:16 Sen. Brown
02:38:51 Sen. Facey
02:39:15 Sen. Brown
02:39:44 Sen. Facey
02:39:52 Mr. Standaert, LFD
02:39:59 Sen. Facey
02:40:03 Mr. Standaert
02:40:19 Sen. Facey
02:40:50 Mr. Standaert
02:41:37 Sen. Facey
02:41:52 Mr. Standaert
02:43:04 Sen. Facey
02:43:32 Mr. Standaert
02:43:42 Sen. Facey
02:43:58 Ms. Harris
02:44:08 Sen. Facey
02:44:39 Ms. Harris, HSD1
02:45:25 Sen. Facey
02:46:15 Mr. Whitmoyer, EHSD
02:46:49 Sen. Moe
02:47:34 Ms. Jaeger, BSHS
02:48:16 Sen. Moe
02:48:42 Mr. Thennis, HHS
02:49:46 Sen. Moe
02:50:17 Mr. Bouck, BPS
02:51:39 Sen. Moe
02:51:45 Mr. Bouck
02:52:03 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy
02:52:28 Mr. Stroebe, MSBA
02:53:24 Sen. Stewart-Peregoy
02:53:49 Mr. Stroebe
02:54:18 Sen. Cohenour
02:54:49 Mr. Standaert
02:55:46 Sen. Cohenour
02:55:51 Mr. Standaert

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02:56:11 Sen. Cohenour
02:56:44 Mr. Standaert
02:58:10 Sen. Cohenour
02:58:45 Mr. Standaert
02:59:25 Sen. Cohenour
02:59:53 Mr. Whitmoyer
03:00:50 Sen. Cohenour
03:02:24 Mr. Whitmoyer
03:02:56 Sen. Cohenour
03:04:20 Mr. Rudio, DADC
03:06:04 Sen. Coheour
03:06:18 Mr. Rudio

Closing by Sponsor:

03:06:57 Sen. Brown

03:11:03

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:09 PM

Angie Koehler, Secretary

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Additional Document

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([eds11aad.pdf](#))