

MINUTES ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, 55TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION, HEARING
MARCH 4TH, 1969: 10:30 A.M.

Present: Lingenfelter, Prince, Tyson, Wilson, Webb, Swallow and Foote

Absent : None

Guests : Deloy Anderson, Administrative Assistant, Personnel, Washoe County
School District
Burnell Larson, Superintendent of Education, State of Nevada
Marvin J. Roth, Associate Superintendent Instruction, Washoe County
School District
John Robb, Administrative Assistant Student Service - W.C.S.D.
Mike Thompson, Past president Nevada Association of Health, Physical
Education and Recreation (Reno High School)
Earl H. Wilkins, Physical Education Instructor, (Churchill County
High School)
Dick Vander Woode, Assistant Executive Secretary, W.S.E.A., Las Vegas
Al Seelinger, Executive Secretary of School Trustees
John Gamble, Asst. Dep. Supt. of Dept. Education

Chairman Lingenfelter opened the meeting giving the guests the opportunity to speak on and give opinions on AB 366 which enacts Interstate Agreement on Qualification of Educational Personnel. He asked for comments on this proposed bill.

Mr. Burnell Larson, spoke first. He said this bill was an enabling act to allow their office to enter into agreements regarding reciprocity of teacher qualifications from other states on the basis of training they have received at least equal to that we have in Nevada. For example if we had an agreement with California and a teacher applied for a position we could accept the credentials from California and issue a certificate to teach here. This might apply to other states as well. This would eliminate a tremendous amount of paper work. We would not enter into this agreement unless it was proved that the standards were at least equal to ours. He stated that they could have done this on their own, he supposed, but that it was felt that there should be legislation of this kind on the books and should have been done long ago.

Mr. Wilson asked if the teacher had left another state for some unfavorable reason would they have this information under this arrangement as they would have going through the more complicated channels. Mr. Larson answered that they would have all personal information about them.

Mr. Al Seelinger said that the association of school trustees endorsed the recommendation of the State Board of Education.

Chairman Lingenfelter: "We have some teachers who would like to be heard on this, I know."

DeLoy Anderson, administrative assistant of personnel of Washoe School District stated that they endorsed this also.

Chairman then inquired if anyone was opposed. No one spoke to oppose.

Chairman then asked if the five year contract would be in conflict with the one year cancellation clause.

Mr Larson answered that it wouldn't.

Chairman asked if there were any other questions. None were asked.

The next bill on the agenda the chairman brought up for discussion was AB 432, a bill which requires parental consent for physical training in public high schools.

Assemblyman Webb who introduced this bill said that it was printed incorrectly as he wanted it to read in public junior high and high schools and not just high schools. He explained the purpose of this proposed legislative was that the burden should be placed on the parent as to determining whether or not his child should take the physical education required. He mentioned that they would know their own child's problems as sometimes there were mental reasons also.

John Robb said that in his district there were other reasons for exclusion also.

Webb: "Do these apply only to Washoe County?"

Robb: "Two are mandatory and others are State requirements."

Mr. Larson said that this matter of physical education being a mandatory requirement in public school had been gone into thoroughly before by the Board of Education, at least twice. He gave a synopsis of the history of this saying that it started mainly after World War II. Physical fitness then became the thing and it was felt by many politicians that had been in the war that our young people should maintain a higher physical standard. He further stated that there was some danger in making public legislation on this.

Mr. Webb asked him if it would be possible for the Board of Education to accomplish this without legislation.

Mr. Larson said that they could offer the kind of exercise that would be acceptable to the parents.

Mrs. Tyson asked Mr. Larson that if such a bill were passed and you have a physical education set up in your schools as is now existing what kind of program would you have? Would the students be drawn to it or would they tend to excuse themselves for various reasons?

Mr. Webb brought out the fact that sometimes mental problems and religion were also reasons for objecting. Perhaps a fifteen year old girl had not developed sufficiently for her age and was self conscious and that the parents should be able to decide these things.

Mr. Earl Wilson of Churchill County High School said that they tried to adapt their physical education to the individual somewhat.

Mr. Larson stated that in some schools that they are doing this. They are providing P.E. programs that suit individuals more.

John Gamble, assistant Supt. of Dept. of Education said that he did not think that the individual physical incapacity does not keep them from having a need for physical education. He did not favor taking them out of the program but that their needs should be met.

Webb: "I don't mean to take issue with you but there are some people that have personal reservations about taking it at all. I think that the regulations are too binding and restrictive."

Mr. Swallow mentioned that there could probably be less restrictions made by the Department of Education.

Webb said that he had no objection if the Board of Education elected to do the job. He said he felt this was a means to determine the way to provide the legislation of the vehicle.

Mrs. Tyson mentioned that when she was in school she would not have taken a physical education if her parents would have let her get out of it as well as in other areas. She mentioned that she thought it should be more adaptable to the individual.

Miss Foote said that she would have to agree with Mrs. Tyson as she had always been plagued with a foot problem and she was made to participate anyway. She felt that people who have such problems often feel more excluded when left out of such activities.

Mr. Vander Woode referred back to the time he was a Junior High School teacher. He said they were divided into groups of what they were able to accomplish.

Mike Thompson laid great stress on the work they were doing in the Reno High School system in application to the individual needs of the student in their physical education program. He felt that this was coming along well and that if this legislation was enacted it would be a step backwards.

Webb added yes, if it is adaptive.

Mike Thompson mentioned that they had a boy who was a midget who obviously couldn't do a lot of things but he could hit a golf ball or lift weights.

Swallow said that he wondered if they weren't going around the main issue. That it had been brought out that it might not be good to get this into legislation.

Larson answered that he thought the Board of Education has the power to move towards amelioration of the problem.

Wilson: "I am very much impressed with the explanation and this seems to me the crux of the problem and if we can get the cooperation of the Board of Education to go into this ---"

Mr. Larson said that they did have some established methods for doing this but they didn't have anything with teeth in it. They have already had some consideration on this. He said it might be well to have some conversations with people around the State and the various bodies concerned might have a conference and confer on this.

Mr. Roth said that his group already had an association which studied these problems. That they realized that the program is unyielding and needed to be adapted to the individual.

The guest speakers then left the meeting as the discussion was over.

Chairman Lingenfelter stated that at the next meeting Thursday, March 6th, they would take up AB 261, 365 and 273.

Chairman: "What is your thought on AB 366?"

Prince moved that they do pass AB 366.

Motion seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman said that on AB 432 he, personally, could understand Doug's concern.

Swallow said he thought that job was accomplished.

Webb said he thought so too and that they should just drop the matter for the time being.

It was agreed by Committee to just lay aside the bill. No formal motion was made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.