

HB

547



Alaska State Legislature

House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HOUSE HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

JAN. 20, 1976

Present:

Osterback	Sullivan
Hackney	Beirne
Parr	Swanson

Testifying:

Marshall Lind, Commissioner of Ed.
Mr. Greaser, Dept. Div. of Law, Management & Finance
Nat Cole - Deputy Comm. of Ed.

HB 547 - Extension & Modification of school bus routes- Swanson

Swanson explained reasons for the bill, asked no action to be taken on it at this time.

Greaser, D.O.E. , quotes from regulations which change wording on line 11, from shall to may. State has ascertained that cost would be in excess of \$2,000 /child and is beyond the responsibility of the schools.

Discussion by committee members, regarding cost and other factors.

Nat Cole, handed out packet to members of committee.

Dr. Lind, stated 300 people have filed for school board seats, decentralization of S.O.S. progressing according to schedule.

Sullivan - How many school districts are there?

Lind - 21

Osterback - wanted to know how the school boards would operate
Discussion ensued about rights of school districts to hire and fire teachers.

Lind - D.O.E. will conduct orientation for members of new school boards

Parr - inquired about safe water and A.V.E.C
Cole, D.O.E. feels fiscal responsibility should be handled by more approp. agency.

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er 22, 1975

Honorable Susan Sullivan
7330 Marge Court
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Dear Susan:

There are a number of things which have come up during the time since we adjourned in Juneau in June. I'd like to suggest that Marshall Lind brief the HESS Committee on what's happened, including the following of concern to me:

1. Progress in the decentralization of SOS.

a. Could we get a good map showing the REAA boundaries and the place where the REAA Board will meet in each one?

b. I understand that the Unorganized Borough School Board refused to negotiate a contract with District One teachers, that NEA-Alaska took it to court, and that the court upheld the Board. Yet it appears that the new boards may not be organized in time to do the individual negotiations, and further that tenured teachers must have a notice by March 15 of retention or non-retention. How is this being handled?

c. There are reports that the cost of AVEC power and water under the safe water act are to be charged against the REAA's in villages having them, and that this will eat up the REAA budget. As I recall, we were told in HESS Committee last year during our discussion of HB 24 not to attempt to tinker with these items-- what is the situation and how is the cost to be charged?

d. I understand that there may be a problem in funding the travel costs of getting some school boards together, e.g., in the Aleutians. Perhaps we should get details on this.

2. There were several problems in the Fairbanks area in connection with the transfer of on-base schools to the local district. All seem to have been worked out now except one dealing with the salaries of supervisors, who claim to have had a two-year contract with SOS. What is the status of this?

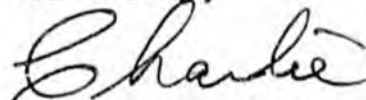
3. All of the talk about the satellite and the earth stations seems to deal with the hardware. I'd like some information about the software, specifically about that which will be beamed to the Bush.

3. (Continued)

- a. How many educational channels will there be?
 - b. What is to be the division of time between K-12 and post-secondary education?
 - c. Who will be in charge of programming?
 - d. Who will decide whether to use canned Outside programs or to create new ones designed especially for rural Alaska? What criteria will be used in making this decision?
 - e. If we are to create any of our own programs, who will do it, where will it be done, what will be the evaluation process?
4. What is the status of development of school board policies dealing with students' rights and responsibilities?
5. There was a grey area between Education and H&SS on pre-schools/day care centers. Has this been worked out and if so what is the present division of responsibility?

I am sure that there are other topics of interest to the Committee, but these should be enough for a start. Look forward to seeing you in Juneau.

Sincerely,


(Charles H. Parr

cc: Commissioner Lind