

SJR

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Alaska State Legislature

House

JUNEAU ALASKA

HESS COMMITTEE MEETING

3-21-75

Members Present:

Beirne	Ostrosky
Davis	Parr
Hackney	Sullivan
Osterback	Swanson

SJR 13 am by Meland

Senator Meland gave briefing of the bill. The children need special education and there is nothing for them. The residents asked the BIA to keep it open for the time being until something else can be devised for them.

Sullivan How many children are we speaking of.

Meland 100 or more.

Sullivan You are asking for only \$30,000? How are they referred to Wrangell Inst? Through their own village teachers and also through the BIA?

Meland Yes, on line 15, we have taken out the original clause of "have already failed" in their own village. The youngsters come from all over Alaska. After age 18 they go back to their village and usually with some type of skill, typing basic carpentry, basic plumbing etc.

Sullivan I think the key phrase here is that the children need individual attention that is not available in their local communities.

Sullivan As this is a resolution and not a bill I think we should act on this today.

Beirne I don't think we have enough information, we should contact the BIA and ask them of their position on the Wrangell Institute.

Chairman Sullivan asked to contact the BIA and inform them of the resolution and ask if and when they might be willing to testify to the matter.

HB 131

Overstreet I have submitted a position paper previously. The Governor's package would call for the net increase of a 15% average. The range this covers in each district is 4% to 44%. There are problems of escalating prices. The Governor's package can be divided into six sections:

- 1) \$21,750 to 23,500
- 2) 90% to min. of 93% basic need

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- 3) Units would become supplementary.
- 4) Would increase the number and size of area differentials, all schools districts are in favor of these first four components.
- 5) Repeal 874 Law - effects majority of the Districts. It says that the state will make a supplemental appropriation for children that are living on property not taxable by the State.
- 6) Looking ahead a year to 1976, there would be an automatic increase of \$1500 in the instructional area.

Swanson What was the entire figures?

Overstreet \$3,000,00. to cover the entire bill.

Ostrosky 3½ million would be being waved by dropping the 874 and would then be what?

Overstreet The Governor's total packet is 17 million, if 874 is dropped, then it would be 14 million. Our recommendation is to delete the sec of HB 131 that asks for the repeal and ask the Finance Committee to fund that separately.

Beirne Do you have the figures for the District areas?

Overstreet Yes (submitted copies to members)

Mr. Coffee Superintendent of Juneau Schools

The Superintendents of the state recommends: Support increase of value of instructional units. Intent to further increase funding for 76-77 is also supported.. Supplemental funding also has our support. We feel that the formula should stay at 11 to 1. We would prefer 9 to 1 however. We are opposed to repeal of 874. This is an important part of State funding. There should be some action given replacing funding before illiminating it from the budget. We think this bill is a step in the right direction. Juneau's budget for this year is 7.9 million and 8.8 million for next year. \$400,000 regular agreement with non certified workers.

Parr The Revised Foundation Plan-How much will your increase be?

Coffee Part would be 10%, if the 874 is left in the law, it would be a 19% increase in costs.

Nat Cole State Board of Education is in support of the bill.

Swanson What's your recommendation on the repealer?

Cole I have none, after adding up all the costs we had to look for a figure to meet our budgeted dollar so that's what happened.

Van Houte HB 131 goes part of the way in meeting the financial needs. The 874 should not be repealed. I am disappointed that the School Board isn't asking for more. We believe the figure should be 25,000. Also try to retain isolation factor in this bill for the new districts that will be organized with the decentralization of SOS.

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Tom Brown DEpt. of Education, Special Education

I will testify just to the Special education portion of this bill. Under the Gov's bill, 170 units for special education and an additional 80 units put back into the program. This will strengthen the program. (passed out breakdown by districts)

HB 131 will be continued at such time as more information may be presented to the Committee.

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SUMMARY WRANGELL INSTITUTE

(1) Present role of Wrangell:

- Students 13-16 years of age
- 2 or more years academically retarded
- or have minor physical and/or emotional problems
- serving overcrowded schools or no local schools available

(2) Enrollment:

1967-68	232	1971-72	165
1968-69	229	1972-73	145
1969-70	161	*1973-74	109
1970-71	181		

(3) Operating Costs:

	<u>FY73</u>	<u>FY74</u>	<i>FY75</i>
1740	870,050	882,500	<i>932,900</i>
1898	129,561	119,950	
1870	95,130	146,790	
	<u>1,094,741</u>	<u>1,149,240</u>	
Per Pupil Cost	<u>7,709.44</u>	<u>10,353.51</u>	
	Increased FY74 per pupil		2,644.07

(4) Plant Management needs to bring Institute to safety and sanitary standards:

(1) Replace boilers	\$ 75,000
(2) Rehab water system	110,000
(3) New gym facility	300,000
(4) N.Staff qtrs. renovate	150,000
(5) Dorm/School renovate	750,000
(6) Food storage, Maintenance, Office and Shop	180,000

(5) Considerations:

- more local school opportunities
- possible mandatory attendance areas
- high per pupil costs
- condition of facilities
- reduced employment ceiling
- energy conservation

(6) Program review recommendations re staff: (10/29 - 30/73)

- more than adequate
- employee to student ratio 1:2
- per capita costs too high (\$10,353/student)
- rearrangement of staff w/some overall cutback
- reduction in staff could be made without negative effect on program (minimum cut of 10, could be 14)

- 1 secretary
- 4 teachers
- 2 teachers, Guidance
- 1 administrator (Supt. abolished)
- 2 Plant maintenance

- 10 minimum
- 1 Plant maintenance
- 1 teacher
- 1 warehouseman
- 1 secretary

14 total maximum

* 8 students on current roles from Southeast Alaska