

F I N A L R E P O R T

EDUCATION MANDATES SUBCOMMITTEE

January, 1982

The Education Mandates Subcommittee of the Senate and House Standing Committees on Education was established by the Legislative Council to study the present requirements imposed upon the education systems in this state and make recommendations for lessening or eliminating those requirements that can be lessened or eliminated without harming the educational program.

Members of the Subcommittee were:

Senator Ray Taylor, Steamboat Rock
Representative Karen Mann, Scranton
Senator Ted Anderson, Waterloo
Senator Lucas J. DeKoster, Hull
Senator Elvie Dreeszen, Cushing
Senator James Wells, Cedar Rapids
Representative Richard Groth, Albert City (Resigned)
Representative Lee Holt, Spencer
Representative Charles Poncy, Ottumwa
Representative Douglas Ritsema, Orange City

The Subcommittee was authorized three meetings and held them on September 25, October 21, and November 23. At the first meeting Senator Taylor and Representative Mann were elected Co-chairpersons.

The Subcommittee began its discussion of school requirements by reviewing the sections of Senate File 521 introduced by the Senate Committee on Education in 1981. A Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Education (composed of the Senate members of the Education Mandates Subcommittee) had met during the 1981 legislative session and had presented a proposed bill to the full Education Committee. After Committee discussion and amendments, the bill was reported out and introduced as Senate File 521. The Senate began debate on Senate File 521, but because the bill contained many disparate sections relating to school requirements, a large number of amendments to the bill were filed and debate on the bill was stopped. Copies of Senate File 521 may be obtained from the Senate Bill Room.

The Subcommittee believed that it should not limit its review of school requirements to those contained in Senate File 521 so at its first meeting it invited representatives from the Department of Public Instruction and various education interest groups to make suggestions.

Dr. James Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction presented information outlining a review of the Rules of the Department of Public Instruction which had been conducted by the Department. Information distributed to Subcommittee members listed each chapter of rules, the Code section granting authority for the rule, the purpose and intent of the chapter, concerns about the rules that had been expressed in the past by the General Assembly, Departmental rationale for the rule, and Departmental recommendations concerning future actions needed relating to the rule. A copy of the Department of Public Instruction summary is on the file in the Legislative Service Bureau. Dr. Mitchell stressed that the Department of Public Instruction can only adopt rules to implement or clarify state statutes.

The following education interest groups made presentations to the Subcommittee:

Iowa State Education Association
Iowa Association of School Boards
Iowa Association of School Administrators
Iowa Association of Secondary School Principals
People United for Rural Education

The Legislative Service Bureau summarized the recommendations of each group making a presentation to the Subcommittee, and copies of both the original presentations and the list of recommendations is on file with the Legislative Service Bureau.

The Subcommittee received suggestions and information about and discussed a number of different areas of school requirements. Some areas in which information was received but no specific recommendations were made are:

Use of Public Vehicles

Senate File 521 contains a section prohibiting the boards of school corporations from purchasing motor vehicles for the personal use of employees of the school corporation. Information was presented to the Subcommittee that section 721.8 of the Code of Iowa (1981) requires that all publicly-owned vehicles be identified by the placement of labels on a conspicuous place on the motor vehicle.

Human Relations Course Requirements

The Subcommittee discussed the relevance of a rule of the State Board of Public Instruction that requires all teachers receiving initial certification and those renewing their certificates to have completed a course of at least forty-five clock hours in human relations training. A member of the Subcommittee presented information critical of the specific course content of human relations courses taught at several educational agencies.

Department of Public Instruction personnel responded that although it approves the courses, it does not approve the content, teachers, or textbooks of the courses. Persons appearing before the Subcommittee who favor the courses indicated that teachers may possess good interpersonal relationships, but not be knowledgeable about human relations.

Coordination of Data Processing Use

The Subcommittee received testimony about section 257.10, subsection 14, of the Code of Iowa which grants the State Board of Public Instruction the authority to approve, coordinate, and supervise the use of electronic data processing by local school districts, area education agencies, and merged areas. Department of Public Instruction personnel presented information that any public education agency must receive approval of the State Board to purchase computers and related equipment exceeding \$4,000.

Questions arose about the use of computers for instructional purposes in which students must respond to questions about their feelings and values. The Department responded that even though a brochure distributed by the Department states that computer programs are available for student guidance programs, none are in use. The Subcommittee also received information about the functions of the two consortia established to perform data processing tasks for public education agencies in this state. Copies of the information are on file in the Legislative Service Bureau.

A proposal was made that the Subcommittee recommend that section 257.25, subsection 14, of the Code be stricken, but was not adopted.

Home and Private Instruction

The Subcommittee discussed the growing number of persons instructing their children at home or at unapproved schools operated by churches or other religious associations. The Department of Public Instruction explained that subject to certain exceptions, children between the ages of seven and sixteen years are required to be taught at a public school or to receive an equivalent instruction elsewhere from a certificated teacher. In order to look at various alternatives to the present law, the Subcommittee received information about the Amish exemption to these school requirements. Representatives from the Department explained that twenty-four Amish and two Mennonite schools are exempted from the school standards and are visited annually by representatives of the Department. The Iowa Tests of Basic Skills are used to measure the academic progress of these students. The Department personnel justified the exemption by stating that very few of the Amish and Mennonite children will have to compete with children attending public schools now or in the future.

The Subcommittee also received testimony about the use of standardized tests in Iowa. The students of Iowa have ranked very high in the past in educational testing when compared nationally. Dr. Leonard Feldt, Director of the Iowa Testing Service, explained to the Subcommittee that the test results are used to track academic achievement in Iowa and to assist school districts to evaluate themselves. Dr. Feldt provided information to the Subcommittee concerning the development of the Iowa Tests of Educational Development and the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, achievement of the students in Iowa, and the methods of ranking results from the tests.

Area Education Agencies

Some Subcommittee members commented that they had received complaints about the administrative costs of the area education agencies and they asked for further information. The Legislative Service Bureau provided information about the establishment, purposes, and funding of area education agencies and the Department of Public Instruction prepared information comparing administrator salary costs and administrative costs from 1976-1977 through 1980-1981. In 1980-1981 one hundred fifty-three school employees of school districts and area schools earned more than the highest paid administrator of an area education agency and the average percent of full-time equivalent administrators compared to total full-time equivalent employees of the area education agencies was 6.18 percent. For the local school districts in 1979-1980, that percent was 4.96 percent. The department also compiled information illustrating that for 1980-1981 administrative costs as a percent of total expenditures for area education agencies were 10.77 percent, for 1979-1980 for school districts the percent was 9.83 percent and for 1979-1980 for area schools the percent was 10.90 percent. Information from the Department indicated that in 1981-1982 the number of administrators in the area education agencies had declined. Copies of the information provided by the Department of Public Instruction are on file in the Legislative Service Bureau.

School Transportation Requirements

The Subcommittee asked for information about school transportation requirements in an effort to determine whether laws could be changed or rules relaxed to save school districts money. After receiving the following information from the Department, Subcommittee members concluded that school districts can use their discretion in scheduling bus routes and using school buses:

- Each student on a school bus is required to have a seat, but the officials of the school district may determine the number of actual riders versus the number which are eligible to ride and use the least number.

- Use of school buses for activities other than school activities is at the discretion of the local school board. The board may furnish buses for a seed corn company's detasseling season but must furnish a licensed school bus driver and endure the extra wear to the bus.

- A school bus route does not have to go directly past the home of an eligible rider if the parent notifies the school district with a waiver indicating that the eligible rider does not wish to ride the school bus for a certain period of time.

- Up to a nine-passenger vehicle may be used instead of an official school bus to transport students. A station wagon or van may be used if an official school bus sign is placed on the roof of the vehicle and a first-aid kit and a fire extinguisher are in the vehicle.

Sex Equity in Vocational Education

The Subcommittee heard a presentation from Ms. Carol Rick of the League of Women Voters of Iowa concerning a recently completed study on sex equity in vocational education in Iowa. She urged the General Assembly to continue funding the position of sex equity coordinator within the Department of Public Instruction and to enforce the human relations course requirement for teachers.

Recommendations

The Subcommittee voted that each of its recommendations would be included in its own separate bill draft rather than combining all the recommendations into a single bill which would allow numerous other related amendments to be filed to the omnibus bill.

1. The Subcommittee recommends that the Committees on Education recommend passage of Bill I which allows school districts to combine the positions of school secretary and treasurer. In the past both the school secretary and treasurer maintained separate sets of books in order to keep a check on the financial transactions of the school district. The Subcommittee believes that the two positions can be combined in this age of computers. Bill I is attached and by this reference made a part of this report.

2. The Subcommittee recommends that the Committees on Education recommend passage of Bill II. Bill II provides that the quarterly publication of financial transactions of school districts of under 125,000 population including a list of all warrants issued and the reason for the issuance be stricken and replaced by a provision that all school districts annually publish financial information including the total amount paid to each person through the school year. The information about each warrant would remain a public record. Bill II is attached and by this reference made a part of this report.

3. The Subcommittee recommends that the Committees on Education recommend passage of Bill III which permits schools and school districts to offer nonsequential courses of English and language arts and the courses of geometry and advanced algebra in alternate years. Several schools and school districts have found it difficult to have enough students in a class and an option other than sharing academic courses with other schools or school districts is desired. Bill III is attached and by this reference made a part of this report.

4. Senate File 521 contains a provision that allows contiguous school districts that share educational programs to also share extracurricular programs.

Because of declining enrollment across the state, many schools and school districts are finding it difficult to have enough students participating in extracurricular activities. The schools and school districts do not wish to penalize the students who want to participate in various extracurricular activities and have encouraged permission to be able to share extracurricular activities between schools and school districts.

Dr. James Mitchell, Deputy Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction, explained to the Subcommittee that administrative rules had been drafted by the Department to permit the sharing of extracurricular activities between schools and school districts. He commented that a statutory change will not be necessary.

Representatives from several extracurricular activities governing organizations, Wayne Cooley, from the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, Bernie Saggau, from the Iowa Boys High School Athletic Association, Earl Berge, from the Iowa High School Speech Association, and Everett Johnson, from the Iowa High School Music Association, expressed their opinions on the proposed rules permitting the sharing of extracurricular activities. Although total consensus on all of the proposed rules was not reached at the second meeting of the Subcommittee, the representatives of the governing organizations agreed to meet again for further study of the proposed rules.

Larry Bartlett, legal consultant of the Department of Public Instruction, provided the Subcommittee with an explanation of a revision of the proposed rules and reported at the third meeting of the Subcommittee that the representatives of the governing organizations have arrived at a consensus. He indicated that the Department will submit the proposed rules to the State Board of Public Instruction and if the Board approves the proposed rules, the Department will begin the Administrative Rules Review process, which usually takes approximately four months before the rules take effect.

The Subcommittee directed the Legislative Service Bureau to inform the State Board of Public Instruction in writing, that the Subcommittee supports the general principles of the proposed rules permitting the sharing of extracurricular activities between schools and school districts and encourages the approval of the proposed rules by the Board. A copy of a letter to Ms. Sue Wilson, Chairperson of the State Board of Public Instruction, is attached to this report.

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry should be supported by a valid receipt or invoice. This not only helps in tracking expenses but also ensures compliance with tax regulations.

In the second section, the author provides a detailed breakdown of the company's revenue for the quarter. It includes a comparison between actual performance and the budgeted figures, highlighting areas where the company exceeded expectations and where it fell short.

The third section focuses on the company's financial health and liquidity. It analyzes the current cash flow and identifies potential risks that could impact the company's ability to meet its short-term obligations. Recommendations are provided to mitigate these risks and improve overall financial stability.

Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and a forward-looking statement. It expresses confidence in the company's ability to achieve its long-term goals, provided that the management team continues to implement the strategies outlined in the report.

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION BILL BY EDUCATION
MANDATES SUBCOMMITTEE)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act permitting school districts to combine the positions of
2 secretary and treasurer.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Section 1. Section 279.3, Code 1981, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 279.3 APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER. At a regular
4 or special meeting of the board held in July prior to or on
5 July 15 the board shall appoint a secretary who shall not
6 be a teacher employed by the board but may be another employee
7 of the board. ~~†~~ The board shall also appoint a treasurer
8 who may be another employee of the board. However, the board
9 may appoint one person to serve as the secretary and the
10 treasurer.

11 PARAGRAPH DIVIDED. These officers shall be appointed from
12 outside the membership of the board for terms of one year
13 beginning with the date of appointment, and the appointment
14 and qualification shall be entered of record in the minutes
15 of the secretary. They shall qualify within ten days following
16 appointment by taking the oath of office in the manner required
17 by section 277.28 and filing a bond as required by section
18 291.2 and shall hold office until their successors are
19 appointed and qualified.

20 Sec. 2. Section 291.2, Code 1981, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 291.2 BONDS OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER. The secretary
23 and treasurer shall each give bond to the school corporation
24 in ~~such~~ the penalty as the board ~~may require~~ requires, and
25 with sureties to be approved by ~~†~~ the board, which bond shall
26 be filed with the president, conditioned for the faithful
27 performance of the official duties of office, but in no case
28 less than five hundred dollars. If one person serves as the
29 secretary and the treasurer, pursuant to section 279.3, only
30 one bond is necessary for that person. The secretary and
31 treasurer may give bond under a single blanket bond covering
32 other employees of the district.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill permits a school district to combine the positions
35 of secretary and treasurer. The bill takes effect July 1
36 following its enactment.

PROPOSED HOUSE/SENATE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION BILL BY THE EDUCATION
MANDATES SUBCOMMITTEE)

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the publication of financial transactions of
2 school districts.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

1 Section 1. Section 279.34, Code 1981, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 279.34 FINANCIAL STATEMENT--PUBLICATION. In each school
4 district, the board shall, during the ~~second-week~~ month of
5 July of each year, publish by one insertion in at least one
6 newspaper, if there is a newspaper published in ~~said~~ the
7 district, a summarized statement verified by affidavit of
8 the secretary of the board showing the receipts and
9 disbursements of all funds for the preceding school year.
10 ~~In all such districts of more than one hundred twenty-five~~
11 ~~thousand population, the~~ The statement of disbursements ~~is~~
12 ~~to show~~ shall list the names of the persons, ~~firms, or~~
13 ~~corporations,~~ and the total amount paid to each during the
14 school year. Information about receipts and disbursements
15 is a public record under chapter 68A.

16 Sec. 2. Section 279.36, Code 1981, is repealed.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill strikes the section that requires school
19 districts, except school districts of over 125,000 population,
20 to publish quarterly a summary of the financial matters of
21 the district for the previous quarter, including a list of
22 all warrants. It requires all school districts, rather than
23 just those of over 125,000 population, to publish annually
24 during the month of July a statement of disbursements and
25 states that information about receipts and disbursements is
26 a public record. The bill takes effect July 1 following its
27 enactment.

28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

PROPOSED SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEES ON
EDUCATION BILL BY
EDUCATION MANDATES
SUBCOMMITTEE)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act permitting schools and school districts to offer nonse-
2 quential courses of English and language arts and units of
3 geometry and advanced algebra in alternate years.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Section 1. Section 257.25, subsection 6, paragraph c,
2 Code 1981, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. Four units of English-language arts. The units of
4 nonsequential courses may be taught in alternate years.

5 Sec. 2. Section 257.25, subsection 6, paragraph d, Code
6 1981, is amended to read as follows:

7 d. Four units of a sequential program in mathematics.
8 However, the units of geometry and advanced algebra may be
9 taught in alternate years but shall be considered as a part
10 of a sequential program.

11 EXPLANATION

12 This bill permits school and school districts to offer
13 nonsequential courses of English and language arts and units
14 of geometry and advanced algebra in alternate years.

15 The bill takes effect July 1 following its enactment.

16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

IOWA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
SENATOR CALVIN O. HULTMAN, CHAIRPERSON
REPRESENTATIVE DELWYN STROMER, VICE CHAIRPERSON
IOWA LEGISLATIVE SERVICE BUREAU
STATE HOUSE
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319
TELEPHONE 515/281-3566
SERGE H. GARRISON, DIRECTOR

COUNCIL MEMBERS

LT GOVERNOR TERRY E BRANSTAD EX OFFICIO

LEGAL DIVISION
BURNETTE E KOEBERNICK
DAVID S BAILEY
JOANN G BROWN
LARRY W BURCH
MARTIN H FRANCIS
MICHAEL J GOEDERT
RICHARD L JOHNSON
GARY C KAUFMAN
ROGER A NOWADZKY
HELEN JEAN WALLESER

RESEARCH DIVISION

DIANE E BOLENDER
THANE R JOHNSON
DEBRA J DAHAB
SUSAN L LERDAL

SENATORS

GARY L BAUGHER
JAMES E BRILES
C JOSEPH COLEMAN
C W HUTCHINS
LOWELL L JUNKINS
JOHN S MURRAY
WILLIAM O PALMER
RICHARD R RAMSEY
RAY TAYLOR

REPRESENTATIVES

ROBERT T ANDERSON
DONALD D AVENSON
JOHN H CLARK
JOHN H CONNORS
GREGORY D CUSACK
INGWER L HANSEN
LESTER D MENKE
LAWRENCE POPE
RICHARD W WELLS

December 3, 1981

Ms. Sue Wilson, Chairperson
State Board of Public Instruction
Grimes Building
L O C A L

Dear Chairperson Wilson:

The Education Mandates Interim Subcommittee, created by the Legislative Council to study the mandates imposed upon the education systems in the state of Iowa, held its final meeting November 23, 1981. At that meeting and the previous meeting held October 21, 1981, the Subcommittee heard testimony relating to and discussed the rules drafted by the Department of Public Instruction regarding the sharing of extracurricular activities between school districts.

The Subcommittee invited Mr. Wayne Cooley, from the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, Mr. Bernie Saggau, from the Iowa Boys High School Athletic Association, Mr. Earl Berge, from the Iowa High School Speech Association, Mr. Everett Johnson, from the Iowa High School Music Association, and Mr. Larry Bartlett from the Department of Public Instruction to express their opinions and ideas relating to the proposed rules.

The Subcommittee wishes to express its appreciation for the cooperation and effort put forth by the individuals working toward the approval and enactment of the proposed rules, and to encourage the approval by the State Board of Public Instruction of the proposed rules. Thank you very much for your consideration of this motion unanimously approved by the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Sue L. Lerdal

SUE L. LERDAL
Research Analyst

SL:cf

cc: Dr. Robert Benton, Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction