

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE
Thursday, February 25, 1999, 10:00 A.M.
ROOM 303, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Members Present: Sen. Howard Stephenson, Co-Chair
Rep. Nora B. Stephens, Co-Chair
Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Lyle Hillyard
Sen. John Valentine
Rep. Duane Bourdeaux
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Lloyd Frandsen
Rep. David Gladwell
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Becky Lockhart
Rep. Tammy Rowan
Rep. A. Lamont Tyler
Rep. Glenn L. Way

Staff Present: R. Michael Kjar, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Gary Ricks, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Shirley Smith, Secretary

Others Present: Steven Laing, State Supt., USOE
Con Rowley, Analyst, Governor's Office

List of others present is on file:

Committee Co-Chair Sen. Stephens called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Rep. King moved the adoption of the minutes for February 15, 17, 1999.

Motion passed unanimously as corrected.

2. Priority List Funding

Michael Kjar, Fiscal Analyst, presented the Public Education Committee Priorities. A copy of the list of priorities was given to each member of the committee. Mr. Kjar said that \$1,250,000 has been allocated to the Joint Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee and then identified some of the changes on the list.

Rep. Stephens noted that she felt that there was a need for dental insurance to be offered to the school teachers in the public sector. Mr. Kjar responded that health insurance is a concern with the school districts.

Rep. Stephens asked the committee members to identify their priorities from the list. Each member responded with their choice's highest priority.

Mr. Kjar identified funding for several education initiatives as follows:

ETI	\$4,500,000
ALT MS	2,000,000
Reading	5,000,000
Supplies	3,750,000
ED Acct	150,000
ATC's (Growth)	300,000
ATC Equipment	400,000
Southern ATC Lease	325,000

MOTION: Sen. Stephenson moved to appropriate item 4, "Center for Advanced Medical Technologies," \$600,000; item 2, "Truancy Intervention and Prevention," \$50,000; item 6, "School Building Program," \$200,000; item 11, "Staff Development," \$150,000; item 18, "ATCSR Land Purchase," \$100,000, and Health Insurance, \$50,000.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Hillyard moved to appropriate item 6, "School Building Program," \$300,000; item 11, "Staff Development," \$200,000; item 2, "Truancy Intervention and Prevention" \$50,000, and Health Insurance, \$700,000.

State Supt. Steven Laing noted that each of the school districts have different contracts with EMI, with regard to the scope of coverage, type of coverage or policy regarding co-pays. He further said, these differences make it very difficult to negotiate on a state level and the financial burden that EMI is trying to overcome is very difficult.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Buffmire moved to appropriate item 6, "School Building Program," \$1,000,000; item 11, "Staff Development," \$200,000; item 2, "Truancy Intervention and Prevention," \$50,000.

AMENDED MOTION: Rep. Buffmire moved to amend Sen. Hillyard's substitute motion with item #6, "School Building Program," \$1,000,000; item #11 "Staff Development," \$200,000; item #2, "Truancy Intervention and Prevention," \$50,000.

Motion passed with Sen. Allen, Hale, Hillyard, Valentine, and Reps. Bourdeaux, Buffmire, Frandsen, King and Tyler voting aye. Sen. Stephenson, Reps. Stephens, Gladwell, Lockhart, Rowan, and Way, voting nay.

MOTION: Rep. King made a motion to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

The minutes were reported by Shirley Smith, Secretary.

Sen. Howard Stephenson
Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Nora Stephens
Committee Co-Chair