

August 4, 2003

Montana Public School Renewal Commission
Core Group Meeting
Room 152
Montana State Capitol

Senator Don Ryan called the second meeting of the Core Group of the Montana K-12 Public School Renewal Commission meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Those in attendance included Senator Bob Keenan, President of the Senate; Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Karl Ohs, Lieutenant Governor; Kirk Miller, Chairman of the Board of Public Education; Representative Holly Raser, Missoula; Speaker of the House, Doug Mood; and Senator Don Ryan.

Senator Ryan reviewed the practice of the rotating chair as agreed upon by the Core Group at the previous meeting. Senator Ryan led the Core Group and audience members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was then taken; all Core Group members were present. Senator Ryan then gave notification of public meeting procedures.

The minutes of the previous core group meeting were reviewed with Senator Keenan and Representative Mood asking for slight revisions. The secretary agreed to make the needed changes. Senator Keenan then moved to accept the minutes with those revisions and Chairman Miller seconded. Motion passed without dissent.

Senator Ryan then reviewed the agenda and asked for any comment from the public before the business meeting began. Claudette Morton of the Montana Small School Alliance handed out brochure explaining that organization. . She explained that MSSA was formed to give small schools a voice and resources for curriculum. She stated that MSSA is not a lobbying entity. She also noted their work with data on small and rural salaries and studies on impact of NCLB on rural schools. She thanked the Core Group for the invitation for appointment but MSSA is comfortable with the local government selection and MREA selection. She ended by extend the assistance of MSSA to the commission whenever possible.

Senator Ryan then moved the agenda to item number one the review of appointments. Kris Goss from the Governor's Office announced the selections by the various stakeholders. (See Attached) He then noted the one stakeholder group that was unable to reach consensus on a selection. He stated the Native American Education selection has yet to be made and recommended that the Core Group make the appointment.

Senator Keenan noted a Western geographic imbalance and thought the Native American selection could come from Eastern Montana. Kirk Miller agreed and stated that the Montana Indian Education Association is the largest group and that the selection should come from that organization and then the Core Group could select another representative of the Native American organizations for an at large position. Lt. Governor Karl Ohs concurred. Chairman Miller moved and Superintendent McCulloch seconded that

Representative Carol Juneau represent the Native American Stakeholder group. Motion passed without dissent.

Senator Ryan then moved to the second agenda item the selection of at-large appointments. He then noted a need for more geographic balance. After a discussion about the need for at large appointments Superintendent McCulloch moved the Robert Murray a school board member in Poplar to fill an at-large position. Chairman Miller seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

The suggestion of Carter Christianson that came from the Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties was then considered. Senator Ryan stated that he has worked with Carter Christianson and knows him to be a good man and very knowledgeable. Chairman Miller then moved Carter Christianson a retired school administrator from Miles City for the second at large position. Representative Raser seconded.

Representative Mood then nominated Representative Pat Wagman of Livingston for the second at large position. Senator Keenan Seconded.

Superintendent McCulloch then asked if the Core Group wanted to expand the number of at-large members to four. Lt. Governor Ohs stated that he wanted to increase the number by two more. Senator Keenan then nominated Lorri Coulter of Brusset who applied for nomination at the suggestion of Representative Dave Kasten. Superintendent McCulloch then nominated Representative Bob Lawson.

Chairman Miller then moved that nominations cease with four nominations one of which is the previously filled by Robert Murray and the remaining three be filled with Representative Wagman, Mr. Christianson, Ms. Coulter. Lt. Governor Ohs seconded.

A discussion ensued regarding having too many legislators. Senator Ryan stated it may be beneficial to have more legislators serving so that there are more members of commission that can carry and defend possible legislation.

The motion of Chairman Miller then passed without dissent.

Senator Ryan moved the meeting to the third agenda item and Chairman Miller moved to endorse the entire slate of appointments. Representative Mood seconded. Motion passed without dissent.

Senator Ryan then moved to the fourth item of the agenda the budget. Kris Goss gave a report on the budget (see attached) and updated the Core Group of Governor Martz's fundraising process. He stated that he felt the commission could meet 15 times in the coming year.

There was no further discussion.

Senator Ryan then moved the meeting to the sixth item on the agenda the timeline. He then asked when the 15 meetings should occur. Lt. Governor Ohs said that they should probably be in Helena on Monday mornings. Superintendent McCulloch noted that he State Land Board meets the third Monday of each month. The group agreed and asked Kris Goss to assemble the needed dates.

Senator Ryan then moved the meeting back to the fifth agenda item a presentation on the consensus process. Kathy Van Hook of the Montana Consensus Council is very interested in helping. She passed out handouts (see attached) She explained the need for goals, outcomes, and timelines. She explained the process for setting ground rules and other needed items. She stated that for an eight hour meeting 16 hours of work is needed. She explained that consensus is an agreement that the membership all can live with. Voting is different and voting thresholds can be different. Issues to be voted on can also be different. She noted that the commission can set each of these items. She stated that a group this large is manageable if everyone works together. She also noted that the consensus process can be done in a public meeting.

Lance Melton suggested that resources be devoted to expertise on school funding as well.

Lt. Governor Ohs stated that state agencies are all ready to help He then stated if further help is needed the group will have to find it. Senator Ryan agreed stating more money would be needed.

Lt. Governor Ohs then moved to Consensus Council on board to facilitate. Superintendent McCulloch seconded. The motion passed without dissent.

Senator Keenan then asked Kathy Van Hook to start on draft ground rules for the next meeting.

Superintendent McCulloch then asked if the Commission members could have substitutes to fill in case of absence. All agreed that substitutes should be allowed as long as there is notification. Senator Ryan asked if the ground rules of the consensus process could dictate the role of substitutes.

A draft meeting schedule consisting of meetings on August 18, September 8, September 29, October 13, November 13, November 24, and December 8 was approved to complete 2003.

Senator Ryan moved the meeting to the seventh item and Kris Goss explained all of the documents available and stated he would develop a card catalog for each of the members so they could request information. ITEM 7: GOSS walked through the various documents available

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 AM.