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SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting
February 20, 1963

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chairman at 10:00 a.m., February 20, 1963. All members were present except Senators Lauterbach and Hults.

Mr. Adel F. Throckmorton, Superintendent of Public Instruction, appeared before the committee with reference to the budget requests of the agency. His comments follow:

1. An example of the effect school unification has had on funding is shown on the attached statement. In Wyandotte County, \$125,000 less was allowed the district after unification.
2. One item which might be called to the Committee's attention is a need for a supplemental appropriation (fiscal year 1963) in Special Education. There is a total of about \$2,500 lacking to fully reimburse the special education programs. It is included in the budget request.
3. Upon the question from Senator Smith of assigning the Schools for the Deaf and Blind to the Special Education Section of the Department, Mr. Throckmorton pointed out that the accreditation standards could be applied to these schools. This relationship could be extended to quickly prepare these children to attend public schools wherever possible. Ideally, there are a number of children in these schools that could be better educated at home. There has been close cooperation between the Schools and the department. The only federal money available to these schools is that appropriated to public schools and would have to be administered through the Board of Regents.
4. This year there is included \$20,000 for reimbursing school programs for the gifted. Next year there will be \$82,500. The program for gifted children must be developed in local schools.
5. Senator Glades inquired into the priority of need for the requested positions of a transportation specialist and a coordinator of adult education programs. Mr. Throckmorton indicated it would be hard which would be the most needed in terms of economy and efficiency. He indicated that from the standpoint of economy and efficiency in school bus operations and obtaining accurate information on which to pass judgment, the transportation specialist would be the most important.

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The adult coordinator would allow more efficient adult programs presently in operation. It is doubtful if the amount of money saved could be defined. In the course of years it would allow expanded programs. If it is a matter of either/or, the transportation specialist is more important at this time.

6. The department is recommending to the legislature that limitations on picking up children in other districts (by school busses) be removed. This should be of some help in the problem.
7. He indicated that the fees collected in certification of teachers is low this year because fewer certificates were issued after the cost was raised two years ago. The fund will level off as the degree level of teachers is leveled off. It was indicated that if the trend is for fewer recertifications because of upgrading of qualifications, then probably a time would be reached where personnel costs could be reduced and expenses met.
8. If schools are required to collect taxes on school book rentals, it is Mr. Throckmorton's opinion that some schools would eliminate the program.
9. There are fees charged for some of the department's publications. The directories are sold; about \$300 has been collected this year. There is a tremendous demand for a compilation of school laws. It is hoped that if the budget is allowed to stand, a compilation can be made. Most of them could be sold.
10. The industrial arts specialist was not included in the budget. The demand came in two months after the budget was completed. While it was introduced at the budget hearing, it was not formalized. The chances are it will be included in the next budget request.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Glee S. Smith, Vice-Chairman
Senate Ways and Means Committee