

**Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division**  
**January 20, 2005**  
**3:30 p.m. Room 123**  
**Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger**

Present:

Hottinger, Chair  
Bob Kierlin  
Sean Nienow  
Sandy Pappas  
Linda Scheid  
Dan Sparks  
Betsy Wergin

Absent:

Gary Kubly

Senator Hottinger called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

A quorum was present.

**AGENDA ITEM #1: Headstart**

- Tarryl Clark, Minnesota Community Action Association. Tarryl showed the committee a video about Headstart and their accomplishments.
    - Highlights include: Headstart meets the needs of the entire family; Headstart recognizes that parents are the primary figure in kids' lives.
- Ms. Clark fielded questions from Sen. Wergin about funding, and questions from Sen. Scheid about coordinated goals.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: After School Enrichment Grants**

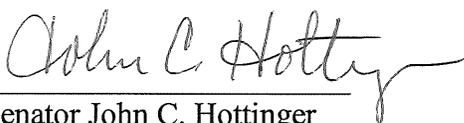
- Carol Thomas, Department of Education, with Safe and Healthy Programs. Ms. Thomas emphasized that Minnesota has strong and well-founded after-school enrichment programs. They are extremely varied. Ms. Thomas walked the committee through the programs' overviews. There are two new initiatives, they are:
  - President Brunincks out-of-school time programs
  - Minnesota out-of-school time partnerships
- Barbara O'sullivan, Acting Supervisor for Early Learning Services, Department of Education. Ms. O'sullivan gave highlights from School Readiness, ECFE, and Way to Grow. She mentioned the focus of these programs is parental involvement. Ms. O'sullivan highlighted how school readiness programs get kids ready for kindergarten, both mentally and physically. Ms. O'sullivan mentioned that each city has a different funding stream, so each city's formula looks different. It is entirely state funded.
- Ms. O'sullivan addressed **Way to Grow** as well. She encouraged the committee to repeal the cuts that were made to the program in 2003.
- Sen. Hottinger asked why we need all these programs. Ms. O'sullivan mentioned the report "No Better Time" as an excellent account for the programs. She said we need them because every program is designed for a different purpose.

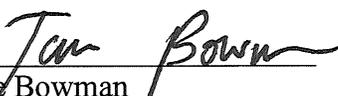
**AGENDA ITEM #3: Members of the audience** were invited to participate as well.

- Lynn Kunnick, Kindergarten teacher (all day, everyday) in Osseo. She mentioned 75% of her kids get free or reduced lunches. Ms. Kunnick wants the committee to make a commitment to all children. She warned that the achievement gap is growing, and emphasized that early childhood programs bind the parents and children.
- Gayle Southwell, Coordinator of early childhood programs in Osseo. Ms. Southwell has 150 children on a sliding fee basis. These students qualify because they are not in preschool and they have an additional "stress factor." Ms. Southwell hopes the committee will continue funding early childhood education programs.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Senator John C. Hottinger  
Division Chair

  
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Jane Bowman  
Division Secretary

**Early Childhood Policy and Budget Committee**

Sen. John Hottinger, Chair

Sen. Gary Kubly, Vice-Chair

Sen. Bob Kierlin, Ranking Minority member

Sen. Sandra L. Pappas

Sen. Sean Nienow

Sen. Linda Scheid

Sen. Dan Sparks

Sen. Betsy Wergin.

Thursday, January 20, 2005

3:00 pm – 5:30pm

Room 123

State Capitol

List of Witness:

Head Start

- Tarryl Clark (ED MN Community Action Association)
- Gale Kelly (ED MN Head Start Association)

After School Enrichment Programs

- Barbara O'sullivan (Dept of Education)
- Carol Thomas (Dept of Education)

Early Childhood and Family Education

School Readiness

Way to Grow

- Barbara O'sullivan (Dept of Education)

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People in the audience interested in making additional comments

- Lynn Kunnick (kindergarten teacher – all-day everyday K – Osseo)
- Gayle Southwell (coordinator of School Readiness in Osseo)