

Education Policy Committee

April 6, 2006

1:30 p.m.

Capitol Room 112

Senator Steve Kelley

Members Present:

Senator Steve Kelley

Senator Tarryl Clark

Senator Rod Skoe

Senator Tom Saxhaug

Senator Geoff Michel

Senator Gen Olson

Senator Michele Bachmann

Senator David Tomassoni

Senator David Hann

Members Absent:

Senator LeRoy Stumpf

Youth Advisory Council Members Present:

Alvina Patel

Issac Swaiman

Dylan Kelly

Andrea Henkel

Danny Chrichton

Jon Staf

Elizabeth Steyer

Logan Dick

Kenzie Johnson

Taylor Nikolai

Caylin Crawford

Mara Fink

Sen. Kelley called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

The Committee heard testimony for SF 3203 from Sen. Michel of which he is chief author.

Charlie Kyte, Minnesota Association of School Administrators, testified in support of the bill. Mr. Kyte referenced "Proposal to Extend the School Year."

Kathy Leedom, Superintendent, Wilmar, testified in support of the bill.

Mark Bezek, Superintendent, Fergus Falls, testified in support of the bill. Mr. Bezek referenced "Proposal to Extend the School Year."

Kathy Leedom responded to a question regarding the recruitment of teachers with respect to the proposal.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding the differences in American values concerning extending the academic school year.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding the impacts of cutting the length of summer vacation.

Kathy Leedom responded to a question regarding whether money would be better invested in all day kindergarten or extending the school year.

Mark Bezek responded to a question regarding after school programs.

Mark Bezek, responded to question regarding the economic impact for the state.

Kathy Leedom responded to a question if the improvement would be based on extending the school year or would it be the caliber of the teacher.

Senator Kelly responded to a question regarding the financial impact on school districts.

Mark Bezek responded to a question regarding AP classes study hall extension.

Senator Michel responded to a question regarding AP classes study hall extension.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding the application of the extension year for all students.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding college preparation.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding how the school year was divided.

Sen. Michel responded to a question regarding individual district decisions for starting and ending dates.

Mark Bezek responded to a question regarding gauging success.

Mark Bezek responded to a question regarding air conditioning in schools.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding air condition in schools.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question in reference to where the money would be cut to provide for programs.

Kathy Leedom, responded to a question regarding extending the class year and its relation to class size.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding the need for extending the academic year for Minnesota schools.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding the implementation date.

Kathy Leedom responded to a question expanding on the notion of measurement and gauging success.

Mark Bezek responded to a question regarding the need for the bill, if the program would be a continuation of current standards.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding student drop out rates.

Mark Bezek responded to a question regarding the loss of students from AP programs to PSO programs.

Charlie Kyte responded to a question regarding the urgency for moving ahead with the program in respect to other countries which may be gaining momentum on the success Minnesota's education program.

Joel Carlson, Minnesota Resort Association, testified regarding the start day of the academic year.

Tom Day, Minnesota Restaurant Association, testified regarding the start day of the academic year.

Joel Carlson responded to a question regarding the percentage of customers for the resort industry that are from out of state.

Tom Day responded to a question regarding the percentage of customer base from Minnesota.

Tom Day responded to a question regarding the impact of athletic programs calendar before the school start day.

Sen. Kelley asked the Youth Advisory Council for their input on the addressing this issue.

Dylan Kelly commented on the importance of teacher to pupil ratio.

Andrea Henkel commented on the importance of quality versus quantity.

Danny Crichton commented on the impact on AP programs.

Issac Swaiman commented that money will not be well spent and should instead focus on improving class size.

Alvina Patel
Andrea Henkel
Elizabeth Steyer
Taylor Nikolai

Issac Swaiman
Danny Chrichton
Logan Dick
Caylin Crawford

Dylan Kelly
Jon Staff
Kenzie Johnson

Jon Staff commented that he is not in favor of the proposal and students are against it and Northern Minnesota will be impacted.

Alvina Patel suggested that legislators focus on Kindergarten and the foundation for education.

Kenzie Johnson reinforced the idea concerning quality versus quantity and the need to work on improving schools.

Mara Fink suggested finding a better way to address delinquency and that students need breaks.

Elizabeth Steyer reinforced the need for improving problems of delinquency and the importance of after school activities.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.



Senator Steve Kelley
Chairman



Alice Carlson Seuffert
Legislative Assistant

Education Committee

Senator Steve Kelley, Chair

Thursday, April 6, 2006

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Room 112, Capitol

Agenda

I. SF3203: Michel

School Year Length Increase

- Mark Bezek, Superintendent of Fergus Falls
- Kathy Leedom, Superintendent of Willmar