



Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
March 23, 2006
3:00 p.m. Room 123
Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger

Present:

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

Absent:

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

AGENDA ITEM #1: S.F. 3296-Hottinger: NorthStar Quality Improvement and Rating System
Senator Hottinger gave a summary of the QRS bill.

- Todd Otis, President, Ready 4K, talked about the importance of empowering parents.

A quorum was present.

- Nancy Johnson, Director of Public Policy, Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association, ran the committee through her QRS PowerPoint.
- Ann McCully, Executive Director, MN Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, spoke to how QRS is good for parental support.
- Dr. Kathryn Tout, Director, Applied Research in Early Care & Education, Child Trends, helped construct the QRS, and she explained the implementation process.
- Dr. Prof. Scott McConnell, Director of CEED, University of Minnesota, talked about how assessment and enhancement of quality is essential. He urged the committee to think about the needs of children.
- Byron Laher, Director of Public Policy, Greater Twin Cities United Way, is proud to report that 85% of their graduates are ready to learn by kindergarten. He is hoping to continue this accomplishment.
- Julie Quist, Ed Watch, stands opposed to the QRS. She claims this is 'diversity training' for the young.
- Dr. Prof. Scott McConnell talked about NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children).
- Barbara O'Sullivan, ELS Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Education, mentioned that the contentious book has been taken out of the reference list.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved the A-1 Amendment.

Passed.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved the bill to be included in the Committee recommendations.

Passed.

AGENDA ITEM #2: **S.F. 906-Bonoff:** Kindergarten Assessment Initiative.

Senator Bonoff gave a summary of the bill. This bill helps to identify children who need help, and it targets the neediest children first.

MOTION: Senator Scheid moved the A-3 Amendment

Passed.

- Zoe Nicholie, Public Policy Director, Ready 4K, supports voluntary availability of the initiative.
- Claudia Otos and Lori Fichtner, Proctor-Hermantown Early Childhood Coalition, spoke to how assessment is important for all communities, regardless of their circumstances. Ms. Fichtner, talked about the strategies used to education their young children.
- Julie Quist, Ed Watch, opposes the bill, because it is based on the 'subjective' indicators of progress.

MOTION: Senator Pappas moved to include the bill in the Committee recommendations.

Passed.

AGENDA ITEM #3: **S.F. 3295-Bonoff:** Increasing ECFE Funding.

Senator Bonoff gave a summary of the bill.

MOTION: Senator Kubly moved the A-1 Amendment.

Passed.

- Marcia Treno, Wayzata ECFE, spoke to how the suburbs need ECFE as well.
- Karen Burkhartzmeyer, parent, supports this bill. ECFE has been invaluable to her.
- Dube Kuruz, Hopkins ECFE, credits ECFE for his parenting skills.
- Jane Roundtree, Program Supervisor, Anoka-Hennepin Early Childhood Special Education, wants more funding so she can expand her program.
- Ms. Maskuga, parent, supports the bill because it is good for special needs children. ECFE has helped her son, Tyler.

MOTION: Senator Scheid moved to include the bill in the Committee recommendations.

Passed.

AGENDA ITEM #4: **S.F. 3280-Rosen:** Removing ECFE teachers from definition of public employee.

Senator Rosen introduced the bill.

- Dar Holmseth, Blue Earth Area ECFE, explained how the ECFE ruling has negatively impacted her.
- Sue Harris, St. James Area ECFE, is supportive of the bill. She spoke about her tight budgets, and how they need all the money they can get.
- Christina Clark, attorney for Education Minnesota, supports unions. She explained how it would be bad public policy to pass this bill.
- Jackie Mosqueda, Osseo Public Schools, shared her concerns about the bill. She does not want her union rights to be taken away.
- Ada Alden, Eden Prairie Public Schools, Director of Family Education, talked about the importance of the voice of the union, and the voice of licensed ECFE teachers.
- Brian Burgson, MAPE, spoke against the bill. His concern is a negative precedent.
- Jan Alswager, Education Minnesota, answered questions from the Committee. She spoke to how ECFE teachers are not paid enough. The problem is with PELRA, and not with union fees.

MOTION: Senator Wergin moved to lay the bill on the table.

Passed.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Senator John C. Hottinger
Division Chair


Jane Bowman
Division Secretary

Senate Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
Chair: Sen. John Hottinger

Thursday, March 23, 2006
3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Room 123 State Capitol

AGENDA

S.F. 3296-Hottinger: NorthStar Quality Improvement and Rating System.

- Todd Otis, President, Ready 4K
- Nancy Johnson, Director of Public Policy, Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association
- Ann McCully, Executive Director, MN Child Care Resource and Referral Agency
- Dr. Kathryn Tout, Director, Applied Research in Early Care & Education, Child Trends
- Scott McConnell, Director of CEED, University of Minnesota
- Byron Laher, Director of Public Policy, Greater Twin Cities United Way
- Julie Quist, Ed Watch

S.F. 906-Bonoff: Kindergarten Assessment Initiative.

- Zoe Nicholie, Public Policy Director, Ready 4K
- Claudia Otos and Lori Fichtner, Proctor-Hermantown Early Childhood Coalition
- Julie Quist, Ed Watch

S.F. 3295-Bonoff: Increasing ECFE Funding.

- Marcia Treno, Wayzata ECFE
- Dubea Kuruz, Hopkins ECFE
- Mary O'Brien, Minnesota Community Education Association
- Jane Roundtree, Program Supervisor, Anoka-Hennepin Early Childhood Special Education

S.F. 3280-Rosen: Removing ECFE teachers from definition of public employee.

- Dar Holmseth, Blue Earth Area ECFE
- Sue Harris, St. James Area ECFE
- Christina Clark, Education Minnesota
- Jackie Mosqueda, Osseo Public Schools
- Ada Alden, Eden Prairie Public Schools, Director of Family Education