

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

1261

2007 HOUSE EDUCATION

HB 1261

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **HB 1261**

## House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **23 January 2007**

Recorder Job Number: **1628**

Committee Clerk Signature 

Minutes:

**Vice Chairman Meier** opened the hearing of HB 1261.

**Representative R. Kelsch, District 34**, introduced the bill relating to the proper naming of schools. This is a simple bill and says that in a reorganization of a school district that the name change must include the phrase "school district" or "public school" and may not include more than two additional words. The reason is that we want to continue promote consolidation and reorganization; however, what happens is that when you get 4 or 5 districts coming together it becomes a muddled issue. When you consolidate, you are becoming a new district and you are a district that needs to move forward. Sometimes we look at what was rather than what will be. In listening to the sports at night you can hear the names of all places they were. That's not what they are anymore. It's extremely important to move forward to move forward with the education system and we look at these consolidations as a new school district and that's what they become. You are representing more than one town. Realistically we need to ask who are we are going to be and it should be meaningful and actually represents what the district is going forward not who they were in the past.

**Representative Herbel:** This doesn't apply to co-op athletic programs?

Should it?

**Representative Kelsch:** It does not, but it could. In athletic programs they could at least go down to initials or something different.

**Representative Hunsakor:** I think of Lewis and Clark. There are three words in there.

**Representative Kelsch:** Articles don't count. –nor conjunctions.

**Tom Decker, director of School Finance, DPI** testified in favor of the bill. (**Testimony Attached.**) There is an article in the paper today of a good example. Three towns coming together shortly and their new district will be called North Start. So they are taking on a new identity.

**Representative Mueller:** I don't disagree with the concept at all. Is there any concern here that we could be setting up an impediment that would dissuade or discourage potential school consolidations?

**Decker:** If that issue will hold up reorganization, we have bigger problems than that.

**Representative Karls:** Does that mean Hazleton Moffit Braddock is out the door. Are any grandfathered.

**Decker:** This is not retroactive. It is for consolidations moving forward.

**Representative Haas:** An observation: I have never seen one of these reorganizations where the students were an impediment. They adjust over night. It's the old folks in the community that are fighting these things. If you allow people to begin a new tradition, they will begin a new tradition. That is something that we need to allow our students to begin a new tradition based on the new name, a new concept and a new togetherness. That's the reality of how that works.

**Representative Kelsch:** Just a comment on what you said. I was a product of the consolidation of Mayville Portland. I was truly excited about it and I remember my parents arguing about it. I was disappointed when we were Mayville Portland. There was still that tug

and pull and I wish we would have started with a new name. That's why I always admired Central Cass because I thought they had the right idea.

**Representative Herbel:** How long did it take your community to get over being Mayville Portland?

**Representative Kelsch:** About a nanosecond.

**Representative Hunskor:** If we pass this bill, it's up to the community to decide if they want to go ahead with this name change and it could be retroactive in each community if they wanted to that but they are not required.

**Representative Kelsch:** This is for reorganization going forward. This would not affect reorganizations that have already occurred.

**Opposition: None**

**Vice Chairman Meier closed the hearing of HB 1261.**

# 2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **HB 1261**

## House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **6 February 2007**

Recorder Job Number: **2924**

Committee Clerk Signature

*Jan Prindle*

Minutes:

**Chairman Kelsch:** Let's take up HB 1251. There were not going to be any amendments on it. This is for new reorganizations and does not impact past reorganizations.

**Vice Chairman Meier:** I move a **Do Pass** on HB 1261.

**Representative Haas:** I second.

**A roll call vote was taken: Yes: 12, No: 0, Absent: 1 (Solberg)**

**Representative Wall will carry the bill.**

Date: 6 Feb 07  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1261

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Meier Seconded By Haas

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	✓		Rep Hanson	✓	
V Chairman Meier	✓		Rep Hunskor	✓	
Rep Haas	✓		Rep Mueller	✓	
Rep Herbel	✓		Rep Myxter	✓	
Rep Johnson	✓		Rep Solberg	0	
Rep Karls	✓				
Rep Sukut	✓				
Rep Wall	✓				

Total Yes 12 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Wall

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1261: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1261 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.



2007 SENATE EDUCATION

HB 1261

## 2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 1261

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 21, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3560, 3561

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Freborg opened the hearing on HB 1261, a bill relating to the naming of a school district. Senator Taylor was absent.

Tom Decker, Director, School Finance and Organization, Department of Public Instruction, testified in favor of the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Chairman Freborg asked if letters count as one word, for example would TGU be one word or three.

Mr. Decker said they would consider TGU to be one word as would New Rockford.

Senator Bakke asked for an example of how this could be a problem.

Mr. Decker said TGU could be Towner Granville Upham. He is working with 5 districts in Kidder County that are considering reorganization. The sports casts are full of examples.

Senator Flakoll asked if any districts would be able to reorganize before this law could go into effect.

Mr. Decker said he is not aware of any districts that could be ready to move that quickly.

Senator Flakoll asked if the department had ever considered requiring approval of school nicknames or mascots.

Mr. Decker said he has tried to stay away from that.

Senator Flakoll asked if a number is in the name if that counts as a word.

Mr. Decker said the bill applies to words that come before the words School District. All school districts have a number.

Senator Gary Lee asked if there is a need for this change.

Mr. Decker said there are 167 school districts in North Dakota with high schools. 90 of them have 100 or less students. In 3 years, another 20 will have 100 or less students making 110 districts with 100 or fewer students. The possibilities for reorganization are considerable. In his experience, its best to use a neutral name for a reorganized district, Lewis and Clark is an example. Then the new district has a new identity.

Senator Gary Lee said sometimes there is not much room for different names, they have

Central Cass, could have Western Cass, Southern Cass, he has 9 school district in his district.

Senator Flakoll said who knows where United is? Is that a cause for concern?

Mr. Decker said for 41 years we have had these situations. Kidder County Public Schools is descriptive.

Chairman Freborg closed the hearing on HB 1261.

Senator Flakoll moved a Do Pass on HB 1261, seconded by Senator Bakke. The motion passed 3-1-1. Senator Bakke will carry the bill.

Date: 2/21/07  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES**  
**BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1261**

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Sen. Flakoll Seconded By Sen. Bakke

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Freborg	✓		Senator Taylor	A	A
Senator Flakoll	✓		Senator Bakke	✓	
Senator Gary Lee		✓			

Total Yes 3 No 1

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Sen. Bakke

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1261: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(3 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1261 was placed on the  
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

HB 1261

HB 1261  
23 Jan 07

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1261**  
**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**January 23, 2007**  
**by Thomas Decker, Director, School Finance**  
**(701) 328-2267**  
**Department of Public Instruction**

*Same  
testimony  
given to  
Senate.*

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Chairperson Kelsch, members of the committee, for the record, I am Tom Decker, Director, School Finance & Organization, Department of Public Instruction.

House Bill 1261 should be viewed as a house keeping bill. It inserts provisions in law regarding the official name of the school district.

Page 1 of the bill requires that the name should include school district or public school district and no more than two additional words.

Page 2 of the bill requires the same name characteristics when the school district is formed through the school district reorganization process.

At a period of time when up to five school districts in a county are considering possibly reorganizing into a single new district, the possibilities for very long names of school districts is there. Some of these very long names you hear every night on sports cast. We've had one instance in which a newly reorganized district did not provide the new districts name in their reorganization plan. Their proposal was to determine the name of the new district through a student contest very much in the way some school districts have chosen a sports mascot.