

2009 SENATE EDUCATION

SCR 4006

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 4006

Senate Education Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: January 27, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 7838

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Freborg opened the hearing on SCR 4006. All members were present.

Senator Heckaman introduced the resolution. She has been a teacher since 1967. She has been in education all of her life. Professional development has come a long way in the past few years but there still are some inconsistencies. Many organizations offer excellent

conferences but most school districts allow teachers to attend just one conference each year. There are more opportunities now but it would help to know which are the best, where they are and who is putting them together. The schools are spending a lot of money on professional development. Mentoring is important and helps develop teachers. The study could look at money spent and the opportunities that are available. She has been teaching at the tribal school at Fort Totten for four years. The school is in a corrective action plan and recently offered a very good program that was a commercial development opportunity. It was Literacy First, presented by an organization from the west coast. It was very expensive but was the best program she has ever attended. It teaches teachers how to teach. All schools who educate teachers should consider this program. Some of this was done by the Commission on Education but she has not seen any written report.

Leann Nelson, North Dakota Education Association, testified in favor of the resolution. She is the director of professional development for her association and she has been hoping someone would write a grant to look at professional development. She is very excited about this study.

Warren Larson, North Dakota Educational Leaders, testified in favor of the resolution. Doug Johnson chaired the professional development committee on the Commission on Education and he would be here today but he is attending a conference. Professional development is fragmented now and is done district by district.

Bev Nielson, North Dakota School Boards Association, testified in favor of the resolution. One frustration they are encountering is with the preparation of teachers. 2008 graduates should be able to evaluate assessments, address instruction, integrate technology into curriculum.

They should not need professional development the first day they start teaching. Any study should look at the preparation of teachers. The mentors and instructional coaches will help.

Chairman Freborg closed the hearing on SCR 4006.

Senator Flakoll moved a Do Pass on SCR 4006, seconded by Senator Taylor. The motion passed 5 – 0. Senator Flakoll will carry the resolution.

Date: 1/27/09 :
Roll Call Vote #: 1 :

2009 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4006

Senate Education Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No Pass

Motion Made By Sen. Flakoll Seconded By Sen. Taylor

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

Total (Yes) 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Flakoll

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4006: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4006 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

2009 HOUSE EDUCATION

SCR 4006

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4006

House Education Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 16, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10975

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hayt

Minutes:

Senator Joan Heckaman, District 23, New Rockford, introduced SCR 4006. This resolution came about probably from my years of teaching. Over the years of teaching and attending classes to keep up your licensure and also doing professional development and inservice for schools, I found that there is a lot of different areas out there that schools focus on. They don't all focus on the same thing. One of my concerns now for teachers and administrators in schools is the wide range of students that we have in our schools and how professional development should be leading us towards programs that address those situations. No Child Left Behind has addressed that quite significantly. Some of the other things that our teachers have been introduced to are the number of English language learners that we have in our school systems in our classes, and also the number of special needs students that we have in our classrooms now. In talking to a couple of staff people from my local school their professional development for both of those areas in colleges was a little bit weak. Those are things that the schools should and maybe are not able to provide. Another issue that needs to be addressed is the opportunity for professional development through organizations. NDEA has their convention usually in October. CEC which is the Council of Exceptional Children has their convention in the spring. Career and Technical Education has their convention in August. The speech and language people have theirs at a different time too. If you are a person that

serves a wide variety of students which of these professional development associations do you either belong to or do you attend and how is that going to help you provide better education to the students in your classroom? I think those some of the things that I think should be studied in here. I think the colleges right now are doing their job in providing a basic curriculum for teachers. However, I think any of you that have been teachers know that you don't learn to teach until you hit the classroom the first day. Three years ago I was involved in teaching at a tribal school and they were a corrective action school. They needed to come up with some kind of plan to address the needs of their students there who had low scores on reading and math. They brought in a professional, private organization. The program was called literacy first. If I was going back and would have been a first-year teacher, this would have been the most important technique that I have ever learned. It is a process. It teaches you how to teach children whether they are gifted, whether they are in the middle of the classroom, or whether they are English language learners, or whether they are slow learners. When I first started working with this program, this is a program all of our teachers' colleges should be using. They should be using it all four years of their classroom preparation for teachers. However, it is a private company. It is copyrighted and it would be pricey to use in our colleges, but that doesn't mean some of those techniques can't be used. One of the other things that I wanted to talk about is the corrective actions that our schools are asked to do in the state. Everything you hear now is research based. If a person or company puts the words research based out there, schools automatically think that is the best program to use. This bill would provide an opportunity maybe for people from our colleges to come in from our education areas whether it is secondary, preschool, whether it is colleges come and gather together and find out what are the best ways out there that we can meet professional

development needs of our teachers and at the same time give them the tools they need in the classroom.

Rep. Bob Hunsakor: I do some subbing around in past years and in the teachers' lounge and very often when area schools get together and they are going to have professional development or even within the same school, a small number are resistant to that. They have been teaching awhile. They know how it is to be done. They are grumbling about all these new things. It doesn't happen often but it does happen. Do you see that among old gray haired guys like me or does the younger generation of teachers coming out of college they are fitting into the mold of the professional development arena? They want to be part of it. They want to improve. As the older generation of teachers moves off the scene, would be pretty much near everyone would be on board with this?

Senator Heckaman: If it is a good program, I think most people will buy into it. You have to remember that in any kind of situation, there is the bell curve. There are people that are never going to buy into anything. There are people that most of them will buy into it. There are some on the other end who are the promoters of programs. That is the way with anything. I think what we need to do is to organize a little bit better our professional development opportunities. A lot of the things that we do now in professional development also have to do with working with parents. Any time I worked with an individual education plan on a student, I considered it a three legged stool—what can the school do to help the student, what can the parents do to help the student, and what can the student do to help themselves. Unless you have that three legged stool, you aren't going to have a good education program. This would address what the staff and school can do to help out. When you improve your school, you improve your community. There are going to be people that probably don't get too excited about it, but all of us come away with something.

Rep. Lisa Wolf, District 3, Minot, appeared in support. My intent is not to have a legislature look at micromanaging what the schools are doing but to offer some guidelines. I want to take this opportunity to share with you what is happening in my school in the name of professional development. I want you to understand I am not complaining. I am not here to whine about what my district is having us do. I just want to provide you information as to what we do in my school for professional development. Last summer right before school started, we had two buses come to my school. We were told to wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes. They loaded all of the teaching staff into these two buses and they drove us to Lake Metigoshe. They have rope climbing activities at Lake Metigoshe, and we were all required to participate in these rope climbing activities and things like that in the name of professional development. This past February our staff was required to divide into four member teams and they were given a list of pictures that they were required to go out into the community to take. For example, they had to go to the new Y building, take a picture of that sign with them standing in front of it. This was kind of like the Great American Race type as what it was described to me as. That was also done in the name of professional development. In the past we have read QBQ, Fred Factor, Who Moved My Cheese, Who Smelled My Fish, Who Did This—we have done tons and tons of books. Some of them are very good books.

Rep. Mike Schatz: What area do you teach?

Rep. Wolf: I teach high school 9th and 10th grade business and computers.

Rep. Mike Schatz: Do you have content area professional development days in business? Do all the business teachers get together in your REA and meet and discuss current issues in business?

Rep. Wolf: What we are doing right now is our school is moving to PLC, the professional learning communities. We meet three days a week on our off hour. In my school there are

three business teachers, and we all have the same off hour. We are required three days a week to meet during that off hour to work on curriculum and curriculum development. We have homework assignments that we are assigned to do that have to be turned in to our principals every month. In addition to that we meet as a department once a month because our campuses are 9th and 10th in one building and 11th and 12th in another building so we meet as a group with all of the business teachers between the two buildings once a month. We also meet every year in August here at the Career and Tech. Ed. Professional Development Conference as well as other staff meetings and professional development opportunities.

LeAnn Nelson, NDEA, Director of Professional Development, appeared in support. We think this is a great idea to do a study on professional development in North Dakota so we can see what is out there, what is being duplicated, what is missing, and try to partner together to help with professional development and help our teachers any way that we can.

There was no opposition.

The hearing was closed.

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. SCR 4006

House Education Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: March 16, 2009

Recorder Job Number: 10977

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Minutes:

Rep. Phillip Mueller moved a **Do Pass** on SCR 4006. **Vice Chair Lisa Meier** seconded the motion.

Rep. Phillip Mueller: The only thing that I think might be appropriate to discuss is that as you all well know, in 1400 there is a whole lot of stuff about professional development to the point where we are actually adding a day and other provisions in there. It would seem to me that having a bit of a look at what is going on out there is important now or may be even more important than it has ever been. I think it is a good idea.

Chairman Kelsch: Here is how I looked at it. I was thinking there was a bunch in 1400. I looked at this as kind of being the content of what would be in professional development. This would be developing—I hate to say universal because I think that you want to have some sort of flexibility in the professional development programs, but I also think that if we are going to be allowing these additional professional development days that you need to have quality professional development. I understood what Rep. Wolf was talking about. That is team building and sometimes that is beneficial to do some of those things. If you are going to have professional development, I think it does need to be true professional development that is beneficial to everybody. I saw this as somewhat complementary. This body to my knowledge since we have been around has not done a thorough study or done any study of what

professional development programs are actually out there and if there is some sort of consistency that could be made across the state whether it is through the REAs or per school district.

DO PASS AND PUT ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR. 13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING. Rep. Phillip Mueller is the carrier of this resolution.

Date: 3-16-09
Roll Call Vote #: _____

2009 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4006

House Education Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended

Motion Made By Rep Mueller Seconded By Rep Meier

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman RaeAnn Kelsch	✓		Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓	
Vice Chairman Lisa Meier	✓		Rep. Bob Hunsakor	✓	
Rep. Brenda Heller	✓		Rep. Jerry Kelsh		
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓		Rep. Corey Mock	✓	
Rep. Karen Karls	✓		Rep. Phillip Mueller	✓	
Rep. Mike Schatz	✓		Rep. Lee Myxter	✓	
Rep. John D. Wall	✓				
Rep. David Rust	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep Mueller

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

On Consent
calendar

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4006: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO PASS and BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4006 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.