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10/17/03
Date

2003 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2177

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2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2177

Senate Education Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 01-21-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		0 - 8.0
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Sharon Johnson</i>			

Minutes: CHAIRMAN FREBORG called the committee to order. Roll Call was taken with all (6) members present.

CHAIRMAN FREBORG opened the hearing on SB 2177 relating to instructional time for high school units.

Testimony in support of SB 2177:

SENATOR WARDNER, Dist. 37, testified that this bill was submitted on behalf of Dickinson High School(DHS). DHS has block scheduling and has done it for a number of years. DPI redid their administrative rules and the allowing of block scheduling was inadvertently missed.

Therefore the district has had to do waivers every year. This bill will eliminate the need for that.

There is one other school that is affected by this.

ANITA DECKER, Director of School Approval and Accreditation for DPI, presented testimony.

(see attached)

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01/17/03
Date

Page 2
Senate Education Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2177
Hearing Date 01-21-03

SENATOR COOK asked if the necessary precautions are in place so the schools won't change the block scheduling so students won't have less time. MS. DECKER answered yes.

SENATOR COOK asked why more schools don't go to this type of scheduling. She does not know.

There was no opposition to SB 2177.

The hearing on SB 2177 was closed.

Senator Flakoll moved a DO PASS. Seconded by Senator Christenson.

Roll Call Vote: 6 YES. 0 NO. 0 Absent. Motion Carried.

Carrier: Senator Flakoll

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01/17/03
Date

Date: 1/21/03
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. *SB 2177*

Senate	EDUCATION	Committee
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☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Sen Flakoll Seconded By Sen Christenson

[illegible]

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Flakoll

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

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15/17/03

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 21, 2003 12:29 p.m.

Module No: SR-11-0832
Carrier: Flakoll
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2177: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS**
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2177 was placed on the
Eleventh order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

SR-11-0832

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10/17/03
Date

2003 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2177

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Operator's Signature

10/17/03
Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2177
House Education Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 05, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		x	935-1000
2	x		1150-2100
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Linda Fuchner</i>			

Chairman Kelsch opened the hearing on HB 2177

Sen. Wardner, District 37

The Superintendent from Dickinson and Anita Decker are here to testify in support of the bill.

What is simply is, Dickinson High School is in a block scheduling. we go with four 90 minute periods, There is a waiver in place, and when Department of Public Instruction rewrote all the administrative rules this one was left out, so each year Dickinson High has to request a waiver every year and you can only do so many waivers. So this puts them back into law. Thank you.

Tape 2 side A

Anita Decker, School Approval and Accreditation for the Department of Public Instruction

See Attached Testimony.

Rep. Sitte Do students learn as much under block scheduling?

Decker: I have not personally done any research, but based on the experiences of these two schools they feel that there students are learning more and have access to greater academic and extra curricular activities. In addition they have found that their teachers teach differently under

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10/17/03
Date

the block schedule. And perhaps in their respect more appropriately then they do in the 55 or 65 minute block of time.

Dean Koppelman, Dickinson Public Schools

I support this bill. Time on task because of the 90 minute block is equal to or greater than the 50 minute class time. Due to the set up time and the movement between classes. Vo-tech and science classes do real well. We are still accomplishing the task.

Rep. Williams Block system was there when you got to Dickinson, in analyzing it, is it more expensive to run a block system as far as teaching.

Koppelman: It is slightly more expensive, because the teachers teach 3 of 4 blocks so that they have a 90 minute time each day where they are not directly engaged in face to face with instruction with students. The way we have it working in Dickinson, because of our negotiate agreement and other issues, the teachers use 60 of the 90 minutes for prep time and the remaining 30 is assigned to the academic living center. We don't have any study halls in this block system, but we do have a tutorial area where kids go for help that is staffed.

Rep. Williams Whapeton had the block system for a number of years. Operating a number of blocks, we found that we had to add teachers to make all of the course offerings work. But efficiency of time is good. You do utilize the time. And the other point is, you are having a teacher supervise some of the so called guided classes, for homework and you have a teacher right there to help instead of study halls where they won't have any help.

Koppelman: Nationally there are all of High schools that are on the block system. I don't think there is any documented evidence that it increases student achievement, but there is no evidence that it decreases achievement. Student, teacher and parent satisfaction is very high.

Page 3 House Education Committee
Bill/Resolution Number SB 2177
Hearing Date March 5, 2003

Vice Chair Johnson We talked earlier about jpa goals to have common calendar and classes.

Does this conversation come up in your area as far as which way they should go on this.

Koppelman: We have had those discussions, we have also have a ITV group that is a subset of our Roughrider Education Services Program, there is more of a interest there to have common class schedules there.

OPPOSITION: none

Closed hearing

Rep. Williams I would like to move a DO PASS, Rep. Jon Nelson second

Discussion:

Rep. Sitte I really believe that the block system does help bright students who want to take calculus and pre calculus in one year, I think it really does hurt the slower students.

Rep. Williams this is not going to prevent them from taking block system, it is makes it possible to have to apply every year for the waiver.

Roll vote: 11-1-2 Rep. Williams will carry the vote to the floor.

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Operator's Signature

10/17/03
Date

Date: 3/5/03
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2177

House HOUSE EDUCATION Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Williams

Seconded By Nelson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	✓				
Rep. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Nelson	✓				
Rep. Haas		AB			
Rep. Hawken	✓				
Rep. Herbel	✓				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Norland	✓				
Rep. Sitte		✓			
Rep. Hanson	AB				
Rep. Hunskor	✓				
Rep. Mueller	✓				
Rep. Solberg	✓				
Rep. Williams	✓				

Total (Yes) 11 No 1

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Williams

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Date 3/17/03

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 5, 2003 4:06 p.m.

Module No: HR-39-4036
Carrier: Williams
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2177: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO PASS
(11 YEAS, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2177 was placed on the
Fourteenth order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

HR-39-4036

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10/17/03
Date

2003 TESTIMONY

SB 2177

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10/17/03
Date

TESTIMONY ON SB 2177
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
January 21, 2003
by Anita K. Decker, Director
School Approval and Accreditation
328-1718
Department of Public Instruction

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Anita Decker. I am the director of School Approval and Accreditation for the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in favor of SB2177 regarding required units to be offered by North Dakota's high schools.

Two high schools in North Dakota currently have approved block schedules. Dickinson High School and LaMoure High School have two different schedules, both of which, however, provide approximately 10 minutes per day less than the required instructional time specified in NDCC 15.1-21-03, subsection 2, for natural sciences and vocational courses.

While provision is made in law for a district to request a waiver in NDCC 15.1-06-08.1, such waivers are for one year with a possible additional year's extension. Both of these schools have been on block scheduling for several years and would face considerable hardship reverting to the traditional schedule. Furthermore, both schools have indicated that the block schedule has great educational merit for their students.

Among the advantages cited by the two high schools in the state which use block scheduling are

- the decrease in the time spent setting up and dismantling labs,
- the decrease in time spent cleaning , putting equipment and tools away, or dressing in appropriate lab attire,
- the decrease in the amount of teacher time spent providing explanations and safety instructions.

Both schools indicate that the above decreases in time actually increase the amount of time spent teaching and performing labs. Also, labs can progress without interruptions and both schools feel that translates into increased quality learning time.

Anita K. Decker
Operator's Signature

10/17/03
Date

At Dickinson High, students can take up to eight credits a year under their block schedule. The district requires 26 credits for graduation. At LaMoure, the superintendent cites the variety of teaching strategies teachers use to provide higher quality instruction. LaMoure has also implemented a Student Responsibility Block, which is used by students seeking extra help, as well as for meetings and programs, which normally might have been inserted into class time. Both schools feel strongly that their block schedules allow them to be innovative in instruction for the benefit of students.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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01/17/03
Date

TESTIMONY ON SB 2177
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
March 5, 2003
by Anita K. Decker, Director
School Approval and Accreditation
328-1718
Department of Public Instruction

Madame Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Anita Decker. I am the director of School Approval and Accreditation for the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak in favor of SB2177 regarding required units to be offered by North Dakota's high schools.

Two high schools in North Dakota currently have approved block schedules. Dickinson High School and LaMoure High School have two different schedules, both of which, however, provide approximately 10 minutes per day less than the required instructional time specified in NDCC 15.1-21-03, subsection 2, for natural sciences and vocational courses.

While provision is made in law for a district to request a waiver in NDCC 15.1-06-08.1, such waivers are for one year with a possible additional year's extension. Both of these schools have been on block scheduling for several years and would face considerable hardship reverting to the traditional schedule. Furthermore, both schools have indicated that the block schedule has great educational merit for their students.

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Both schools indicate that the above decreases in time actually increase the amount of time spent teaching and performing labs. Also, labs can progress without interruptions and both schools feel that translates into increased quality learning time.

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At Dickinson High, students can take up to eight credits a year under their block schedule. The district requires 26 credits for graduation. At LaMoure, the superintendent cites the variety of teaching strategies teachers use to provide higher quality instruction. LaMoure has also implemented a Student Responsibility Block, which is used by students seeking extra help, as well as for meetings and programs, which normally might have been inserted into class time. Both schools feel strongly that their block schedules allow them to be innovative in instruction for the benefit of students.

Based on the positive experiences of these schools with block scheduling, the Department recommends a do-pass on SB 2177.

Madame Chair, this concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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