

From: randr <randr@lakefield.net>
To: Sen.Grobschmidt@legis.state.wi.us <Sen.Grobschmidt@legis.state.wi.us>
Date: Tuesday, May 08, 2001 3:34 PM
Subject: SB 4

Dear Senator Grobschmidt and Committee Members:

I am writing to ask you to support SB 4. The Legislature has lifted the levy limits in the past for specific needs. There is no greater need than feeding our public school children. Lifting the levy limit to allow this would be key to succeeding with all Wisconsin public school districts providing the National School Lunch Program. And, it is likely to have minimal fiscal impact.

School districts that do not provide a school lunch or breakfast program should be required to report on the nourishment of its pupils. Manitowoc Public School District is the largest (approximately 5,700 students) district without a lunch or breakfast program. Needy children who request it are given a peanut butter sandwich and fruit roll-up from the local food pantry. No child past kindergarten age is likely to ask for such a stigmatized meal. In 1999, five of the seven elementary schools in the MPSD had 20 percent or more of their children receiving (or eligible for) the subsidized milk program. These same children are likely to meet the standards for a free or reduced-fee breakfast or lunch.

Also, in 1999, Manitowoc County experienced a 60 percent decline in food-stamp use. I would ask your committee to check on current subsidized milk use and the decline in food-stamp use in all the Wisconsin school districts without the NSLP or breakfast. We need to know what these needy children are eating.

Please set aside partisan politics and focus on the needs of these children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen O'Brien (1608 Nagle Avenue, Manitowoc, WI 54220).

Good foundation

2 hearings scheduled

The state Senate's Education Committee has scheduled two public hearings on proposed new administrative rules for teacher licensing:

- Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Room 411 South in the State Capitol in Madison.
- Monday, Nov. 29, at 3 p.m. at State Fair Park in West Allis.

The Assembly's Education Committee will hold three public hearings, probably in December. They have not yet been scheduled.

In a school district the size of Green Bay where a hundred new teachers a year may be hired, training enough mentors could be a daunting task. So could setting up three-member teams of teachers, building administrators and college professors to review the work of each new teacher.

Also, if the money the Department of Public Instruction budgets for the program is inadequate and if mentors and teacher-review teams are not given enough time and resources to properly help and evaluate new teachers, the program could turn into a bureaucratic nightmare.

Those are some of the issues that must be addressed in the upcoming hearings. But we are confident that some fine tuning will result in a program that will help cultivate better teachers and, thus, better students.

PEOPLE'S FORUM

Legislature should mandate school lunch program

MANITOWOC — During National Hunger and Homelessness Week Nov. 14-20, we ought to take a few minutes to think about the public school children in Wisconsin without the National School Lunch Program.

The Manitowoc Public School District, with 5,708 children, is the largest of these districts. Five of the seven elementary schools in this district have 20 percent or more of their children receiving (or eligible for) the subsidized milk program. Madison Elementary School has the highest rate at 36.46 percent.

At the same time, Manitowoc County has experienced a 60 percent decline in food-stamp use. Since the Manitowoc district has the largest student population in the county, it is likely this decline in food-stamp use affects the children who would be eligible for free or reduced-fee lunches.

The Legislature needs to require the National School Lunch Program in all Wisconsin schools. As a start, the Legislature could require school districts without the National School Lunch Program to report on the food program they offer to poor children.

The Manitowoc Public School District's program of a peanut butter sandwich and fruit cup, provided by the local food pantry, is not a nutritional substitute for the National School Lunch Program.

Maureen R. O'Brien

which it exists.

In Brown County, our government has chosen not to maintain our roads, but at the same time is conducting a brick sale to fund the shortfall for a new arena. This is a sorry example of progressive government! Those bricks could be better used to fill in the potholes on our county roads, rather than to help finance an already expensive and tax-draining arena deal.

Bill Hotelling

Millennium is an example of never-ending media hype

GREEN BAY — As we approach Jan. 1, 2000, I am amazed by the awesome amount of promotion being attached to the fallacy that both the century and millennium will end on that date. It seems every media outlet in the country is unaware that there are 100 years in a century.

What actually has occurred is that the marketing divisions within media organizations have convinced their news divisions to go along with this little white millennium-busting lie. This way, all of their hype-hungry clients remain happy and they can continue to pump out their endless "top 100" lists.

The reason I am making a fuss about all of this is because it is symptomatic of a problem in our country. In America today there is one value held above all others and that is the right to promote, hype and sell. Whether it is life insurance to 80 year olds, beer and gambling to teen-agers (oops I mean young adults) or sugar-coated fat saturated yum-yums to 5 year olds, we hype it, we sell it. It makes no difference if the product is healthy, useful, affordable or reliable so long as the electronically super-charged media-based hype engines can convince us that we can't live without it.

The freedom of speech, now metamorphosed as the freedom of hype, is more important than our

Brown County has chosen not to repair county roads

DE PERE — Early in October, a letter appeared in the People's Forum regarding the deplorable condition of our county roads and the seeming lack of interest by county government to do something about it.

I applaud the author of that letter, Timothy Enslin, for his

