

March 14, 1961

Mr. Bernard I. Wold
Member of H. S. F.S.L.F.F.C.
Box 84,
Seeley Lake, Montana

Dear Mr. Wold,

After reading your article in the Daily Missoulian of March 13, 1961, 12:30 P.M., there are a few questions that I would like to ask, hoping that you would be kind enough to answer. They are as follows:

1. You stated that you are reminded of the drastic situation in Seeley Lake such as, when you awaken your child at 5:30 in the morning. Which of your children are you referring to? I am unaware that you had any children of highschool age. Yet you referred as ('we' are reminded) and signed it Bernard I. Wold. How many Bernards are there in Seeley Lake?

2. After you see, as you stated, your highschool student off for her near 65 mile one-way trip by bus to Missoula, what do you do then, go back to bed?

3. Just when did you wait 12 hours for your child to return home from school?

4. You spoke of the 'Pioneer' attitude, Mr. Wold, are you sure it's not a 'Backwoods' attitude? Don't you think that the children of Seeley Lake should attend a large highschool to find out how the rest of the world lives? *attended small schools in rel. unheard*

5. Don't you really think the reason that people work in Seeley Lake instead of in some congested area is that they can't get a job anywhere else? *This person - why are you here??*

6. Is it true that you actually believe that the taxes, \$39,313.11 for the year 1959 belongs to Seeley Lake and not to the county? Isn't it true that this revenue is derived from the sale of timber from our national forests and the Union Pacific Railroad? Therefore it belongs to all the people of the county and not to the residents of the Seeley Lake area alone. *as law presently stands*

7. Where do you have the proof that there is going to be an increase in the timber cut near Seeley Lake? Don't you believe that there has been a decrease so far in 1961? *From 11,000,000 to 23,000,000 No & if you are really interested*

8. Do you sincerely believe that it is fair to ask the people of Missoula County to tax themselves for a \$360,000.00 Highschool when we know that there is only one mill operating to date? *No - the figure is 330,000*

Planer is operating - mill owner said mill to begin this month.

WE

Misplaced Person

Crosssection of Specialists

Not NP

If they have as little as you seem to think - moving shouldn't be much of a problem - nor cost much either

9. Don't you think that it is reasonable to assume the number of people who are unemployed now would just as soon be unemployed in some congested area if they had the money to move?

10. I'm sure you'll agree that a \$360,000.00 school will be an outlandish amount to pay for perhaps 25 students?

This person still hasn't read the information prepared.

11. How many buses do you think will be necessary to have the children from the Swan, Placid, Potomac, Greenough, and Ovando transported to the school? I'm sure you can see that it would be impossible for one bus to transport them all?

Potomac - Greenough? Possibility combine etc. H.S. - MCHS trustees called these details to be wild

12. What makes you believe that you could secure efficient teachers that would live in Seeley Lake or would you be satisfied with the same caliber of teachers in your highschool as you now have in your gradeschool?

Whose opinion

Information H.S. must meet qualification & teaching requirements MCHS

These are questions that I have given great thought to and I feel that you are the only one on the Fact Finding committee who could give me intelligent answers.

Most Sincerely,

Ima Pumphandle

1348 Harrison St

School Board Report on Seeley Lake -

C When the present board took office 11 months ago, Mr. Gray had had three months experience at the high school while the other members had had no experience. In addition to learning about the normal routine of board activities and studying the budget, the new trustees were given at their first meeting a number of problems to solve. Each of these problems was important and deserved thorough study and consideration before decisions could be made. They included the Seeley Lake situation.

O MAY-

Visited Seeley Lake to hear their need and problems.

June 29th.

Met with Dr. Sletten, Dr. Harper, Committee from Seeley Lake to discuss

P steps to be taken to solve the problem. Dr. Sletten and Dr. Harper said the following information should be gathered in order to make a wise decision:

- Y
- (1) Analysis of economic possibilities of area: how do the people make their living? What are the prospects of growth in the area?
 - (2) Analysis of school enrollments and also of school census data, with projections for the future.
 - (3) Study of financial aspects of situation: How much bonding capacity? How much would it increase the MCHS operating budget to have a branch school? raise money by bond issue or mill levy? how much federal help available?
 - (4) Find out legal aspects: there is no county high school operating a branch attendance center in another town now: what do the state laws say about establishing such an attendance center? would Powell County want to cooperate because its district 11 at Ovando is so far away from its county high school at Deer Lodge? what would be the legal angles to such a joint enterprise?
 - (5) weigh the educational opportunities which could be given the children at a small branch school against increased opportunities at Missoula plus handicaps of bus trip; consider pros and cons of having first 2 years at Seeley and last 2 years at MCHS.

Mr. Gray was authorized to investigate legal aspects and procedure for establishing attendance center: also investigate applications for federal aid. Mrs. Browman was to collect as many facts as possible about other points raised by Dr. Sletten Dr. Harper.

July 12th

Mr. Gray unable to be present - no report on procedures or federal aid. Mrs. Browman reported interviews with REA and Forest Service about growth and lumbering and recreational potentialities: Analysis of school enrollments and census figures.

August

Seeley Lake group reported printing 5000 copies of its own analysis of problem for general public distribution. Bus problems discussed no information about procedures and federal aid.

Sept. 19th

Meeting of Principal Wetzel, Comptroller Donald Marshall, Supt. Robt. Watt and Trustee Browman discussed the Seeley Lake school with Mr. H. J. Runkle, field representative from U S Office of Education, and Mr. Dean Lindahl, the Montana state administrator of the federal aid laws PL 815 and 874.

And application for federal aid has two parts.

(1) Pupil data

There must be a field review by an accredited person to determine how many children who live on federal property or whose parents work on federal property would go to the proposed school. Mr. Lindahl said his office could make such a survey, and Mr. Runkle confirmed this.

(2) Project data

- (a) school sends Washington the officially approved pupil data plus tentative rough floor plans and cost estimates
- (b) Washington tells school approximately how much federal help might be available (about 1200 per federal impact child)
- (c) School sends final revision of floor plans and costs
- (d) Washington approves and sends 10% of federal aid; also confirms exact amount of federal aid
- (e) Washington send 50% as soon as bids have been called for and contracts have been let
- (f) Washington sends balance when school has been completed and approved.

Nov.

Mr. Wetzel was authorized to have Mr. Lindahl make Seeley Lake Survey. Mr. Lindahl could not personally make survey until early summer 1961, but offered to assist a responsible person appointed by the school to organize and evaluate a pupil survey.

Dec.

Committee formed- Mr. Deschamps, Mr. Kinney, Mr. Gray, Chairman to report at next meeting:

"Surveys of the areas and pupils involved prepared by qualified people, this to include a projection of future enrollments: further and more complete architectural plans and costs."

The committee was authorized to ask Taylor and Bartron to collect figures about federally impacted children. Mr. Gray made the motion- board approved unanimously.

Mr. Briggs reported conversation with Senator Mansfield about increased federal aid because of the special nature of the Seeley Lake area with national forests and wildernesses. Letters and information sent to all four congressment with requests for help.

Jan

Mr. Gray reported survey not yet complete: that Taylor and Barton had not yet reported on the number of federal impact children. Board agreed to hold special meeting as soon as survey finished.

Feb. 2

Special meeting with Seeley Lake people

No federal impact data given board.

No enrollment projections given board except those worked out by Seeley Lake people a year ago.

Board was shown tentative plans for a building which had been drawn up by Seeley Lake people a year ago, and was told that it would probably cost twelve to twelve and half dollars a square foot to construct the building and equip the gym, kitchen, shop home economics room and science labs. This would not include cost of equipping classrooms and library.

Seeley lake school board offered to give MCHS land for building an attendance center.

Mr. Briggs summarized conversations and correspondence with Mansfield and Metcalf about possibility of increased federal aid when Congress considers renewal of PL 815-874 later in the session.

Mr. Gray moved that the question of adding \$330,000 or about 11 mills to the taxes to build and furnish a high school building at Seeley Lake be submitted to the taxpayers of Missoula County on April 1, 1961 subject to receiving an opinion from the Attorney General that we are proceeding in a legal manner.

This motion was adopted with four ayes: Mr. Briggs voting no because of the high levies necessary for yearly operation of the two Missoula school systems and because of his belief that the prospect for federal construction should be exhausted before asking for local mill levy. Mrs. Browman abstaining. Because of her belief that the board does not yet have enough specific facts to justify asking for a mill levy at this time.

Mr. Gray also moved that the committee for Seeley Lake be allowed to apply for advance planning money from the Housing and Home Financing Agency. This was adopted unanimously.

Feb. 14. Mr. Pinnsonneault, county attorney said that is his opinion it is legal for MCHS to build an attendance center at Seeley Lake and pay for it with funds raised by mill levy, after duly submitting both questions to the public for its approval at an election.

At his writing 3/21/61 - the school board has no reply from Attny Gen'l.

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Many people have been inquiring about federal aid to our representatives in Washington. They have been stressing Federal Impact that is not recognized by public laws 815 and 874- mainly the Seely Lake areas lack of private taxable property.

Arnold Olson was anticipating being able to introduce legislation which will help solve your problem.

Mr. Mansfield recommended application for Federal assistance to the Office of Education. To receive extensive aid would require an amendment of existing Public Laws 815 and 847.

With a murder trail in session- have been unable to see Pinnsonault however, did speak with him on the phone. The laws in questions are 75-1632 and 75-4231. both dealing with Duties of Trustees- Pinnsonault felt that the question could be brought to the people by ballot- The Attorney General argues his case on a law passed in 1899 and repealed in 1913. This law submitted to a vote of the people. One county high school to be established and located by vote.

Pinnsonault
He/feels that calling the school ~~xxxxxx~~ a branch or an instruction center is meaningless- we still have established and located by law our one county high school. What can be considered however is the establishment of a high school district by having the elementary school districts surrounding Seeley Lake combine.

If anyone should wish to pursue this - RCM-75-1805 through 75-1814 would undoubtedly establish the legality and procedure - Sorry I just did not have the time to read through these laws thoroughly.

Your problem is Montanas problem - we need industry.

You might look into the advantages of having the Legislature abolish County High School.

You can work on the Legislature to have more state participation in the foundation program.

Work with school board to get federal grant for design and plan and school- investigate all federal aid - learn more about US Office of education and their powers.

Re: Park County High School- from what little I can learn this is not the same situation. Supposedly Gardiner established a school district however correspondence with the Park County Supt. of Schools could give you information -
Miss Hilfred B. Patersen, Livingston, Montana

C
O
P
Y

Greenough, Mont.

Mar. 24 1961.

Fact Finding Comm.

Seeley Lake, Mont.

Dear Sirs;

Thank you for sending the literature on the Seeley lake High school. Jerry Gray gave one to my son, and I have been getting it around the Community. It is no secret how the Greenough people regard this matter, however, due to the fact that in the process of counting noses, you have included the Greenough group, we think that perhaps you might like to make the correct adjustment of the Facts.

We are united in realizing that you are faced with a very definite problem, and we are also united in the belief that you would not be giving these children the best possible in this solution. We are all so very happy that we can send our children to such a fine High School as the one in Missoula. We have school problems here too and know that there are these problems in all communities, not, necessarily the same ones, but, never-the-less, ones that are of vital importance to that particular area.

Now, while you have Greenough listed as 12 grade pupils enrolled at the beginning of 1961, we had 7 enrolled, we now have 6. So, I ~~the~~ am sure that you would want to make the adjustment on your Fact's Sheet. There is a 50% error in the Greenough listing alone.

Yours Truly,

Mrs. G. H. Kreis-