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(Neb.)-Dawes County Well Represented In Scottsbluff, Winchester Hopes For Similar Showing In Dunning

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 09/25/2013 09:34 AM



(Chadron)-A hearing was held in Scottsbluff yesterday (Monday) with members of the Legislature's Tax Modernization Committee to gain input from area residents prior to making changes to how state aid is distributed when it comes to schools. Chadron Schools Superintendent Dr. Caroline Winchester said she was pleased with the good attendance at the hearing.

There were people who rode the bus and drove their own vehicles, with Winchester estimating 20 representatives from Dawes County, plus several letters of testimony that were submitted for reading to the Committee.

Winchester said the committee listened to nearly 3 hours of testimony, and at one point even asked representatives from Dawes County to let others speak. The biggest concern presented to the committee dealt with the way taxation is represented, especially in rural areas.

The biggest issue Winchester heard was inequitable taxation of property or that property taxes are taxed higher in agriculture than sales and income tax, and people were asking for a more equitable distribution of the taxing responsibility.

The Committee then asked questions regarding what those in attendance might suggest to help solve the issues they presented. Winchester said there were approximately 140 people in attendance at this hearing, and she hopes to have a similar representation at the TEEOSA hearing coming up next week.

She said they need people to prepare testimony for the hearing on Thursday, October 3, which will be held in Dunning. They will be taking another group from Chadron, and will be leaving around 8 or 8:30 because of the time needed to get there. Winchester said the District needs to stay actively involved, and they are working on having another meeting to help people with their testimony for the TEEOSA hearing. The information used at the hearing in Scottsbluff could also be used at the meeting in Dunning.

If anyone is interested in attending the TEEOSA Hearing in Dunning, they are asked to contact the schools so enough vehicles are available to help transport people. They can call the office at 432-0700.

(Questions? Comments? Email news@chadrad.com)

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