

balance is nineteen five eighty-eight.

SENATOR VRTISKA: So, what you're saying basically then is there was a commitment there and we should honor that commitment when there's available funds, is that kind of what the crux of your argument is at this point?

SENATOR BOHLKE: Not even kind of, exactly.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. Well, I appreciate that. And I guess all of us, everybody knows my position on it as a conservative, and yet I have a hard time swallowing if we do make some kind of commitments, and they were apparently made, then to not have the trust of the people who we make those to. And so I'm still in a position where I don't know what to do, and I guess I want to listen to more of the argument and, hopefully, make up my mind before we come to a vote. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. Chairman and members of this body, can I ask Senator Bohlke a question, please. The seven million that you have now that's going out, what kind of a formula do you have? How is that divided amongst the teachers, and how do you decide what teacher gets this and how much that one gets and...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Senator Jones, when you send the money out to the school district it, you know, has the name of the district on that, that's their money, that's their check. They can take that to negotiations and to the negotiating table and negotiate how they want that spent with the staff.

SENATOR JONES: So if they have a teacher that you think should have more incentive and is doing a good job, she could get more than maybe a teacher that wasn't maybe then?

SENATOR BOHLKE: I'd have to be honest with you, that hasn't taken place, but that was the point earlier in the debate that actually a school district would be able to do that.

SENATOR JONES: Yeah, I'd really be in favor of that same incentive, and I'm in favor of teacher salaries, but it's just like everybody's been saying here, that I don't know whether we have the money now. We've got a fifty-six million dollar debt and this twenty million dollars might be what's in the bank, but