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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...much more fitting. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I'm overjoyed that we can find a solution to this, because Senator Bohlke and I had some discussion about using my priority bill to do this, we really did, some hard discussions, and I'm really glad that we could work this out at the end. (Cough) I don't know what it was about those ribs, or whatever, but...losing my voice. I can speak from personal experience here. My home district at Trenton looked up to Cap Dierks'...Senator Dierks' area there, and said, that worked for those schools up there. So they unified last year, actually three districts. And there was some legal expense involved, as well as all the time and commitment that people made as far as the unification. So they used this unification money for legal expense. And of course, Senator Vrtiska said, books were a factor. They closed a high school in one town, a grade school in another, combined some things. And they had to get everybody using the same textbooks. They had uniforms. To get the thing to fly, the first year, they said they would rif no teachers, no administrators. There was some natural attrition, but they were overstaffed that first year. They're now in their...beginning to...they're finishing up their first year. But they're riffing four and a half (cough)...thank you. They're riffing four and a half positions, as well as...I believe there's...in fact, I know that there's several teachers that are retiring and moving on to other jobs. So that first year was expensive to get in place. And the second year, it would appear that they're going to hold the line on the budget, because as I said, they're going to rif some people, which...not unexpected. These people knew it was coming. And they're cutting administrative costs and so on. And let me tell you, the schools that are involved in that unification out there, three districts, I don't think any of them would go back to where they were a year ago. And I'm pointing...trying to point out that the unification money is needed. You're just not going to save money that first year or two you unify or consolidate districts. There's some added expense there. So this kind of helps smooth that all over. And