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to be responsible for, in a Class I building, and we simply...it would be great if we had all kinds of money, but we don't. We can incorporate those six...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...kids in our K-12. We've been, probably, experiencing declining enrollments. We've got the space there. We won't have to build a new building. We won't have to hire a new teacher. We may not have to even buy any books. We can basically save the whole budget. Why wouldn't you do that? Why wouldn't you at least consider it? Now maybe they would decide against it. But that's a decision of the local K-12 board. You as the Legislature are not forcing that one way or another. You are simply saying the K-12 board has that authority; let them make the best local decision. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Kruse, on the Raikes amendment to LB 126.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand in reluctant, very reluctant support of this bill, but very firmly so. If you can understand that, why, you might understand me. I see this, the dollars part of it, as a nonissue. I would expect the state budget to go down a bit in the future. And so it would be, but it wouldn't be by a great amount. The amount of dollars saved locally would go back to the farmland, probably, they came from. So that's a nonissue. My reluctance is because of the cultural value within our society of the one-room schools. This is a warm, strong part of our tradition, and of my tradition. My firmness is because it's time to move on. Nearly 100 years ago, when I went to a one-room school, I received a good education. That's been said before, but I want to affirm it. I do want to affirm another part of it--it was not as good an education as the town kids got. I had a...something over them, in that my education taught me how to learn and be scrappy about curiosity. Their education had a lot more content. But I was to the top of the class by the time I got through high school, because I was taught to be scrappy. So I have no apologies for that. There's something very good in that, that troubles me about the present Class I's,