

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 11, 2005 LB 126

needs, our state aid formula does not reflect the needs that are directly proportionate in an inverted way. If Papillion-LaVista gains those 150 students and Scottsbluff loses those, Papillion-LaVista gains as many dollars basically as Scottsbluff lost. Scottsbluff wasn't able to lay off the teachers without hurting some students, and I would think that Papillion-LaVista could gain enough students, they've shown some efficiencies in other ways, they could gain the students and not have to automatically hire the staff that Scottsbluff was unreasonably expected to lay off. If we want to rework fairness in education there are a host of other ways to do that without picking on the little guys. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. On with discussion of the McDonald amendment, AM0086, to LB 126. Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I would like to comment on the statements made by Senator Janssen concerning the Fremont Public Schools and the Brugh Public Schools. Fremont is a Class III, and their operating costs are 70...if you figure cost per pupil by average daily attendance, it's higher than if you consider the average daily membership. Let's take, so I'm talking about the same way all the way through, the average daily attendance. It costs \$7,384 for students in Fremont Schools. That is about \$500 less than the state average. But then you look at Brugh Public Schools and they're only a little over \$7,000. They are more efficient, quote, unquote, than Fremont. Look at the rest of the schools in Dodge County. Senator Janssen said he only had the one Class I left, but look at the rest of the schools, what do they cost to operate: Dodge, over \$9,000, a Class III; Scribner-Snyder, already consolidated Class III, \$8,100; Logan View, a Class III, \$7,800, so they're just under the average; and North Bend, Class III, over \$8,000. So if you're going to talk costs, let's talk about the costs of the bigger schools as well. I'm rising in support of Senator McDonald's amendment. We are not recruiting students for Class I's. We are not requesting that students option into our Class I's. Those option students are going where they're going because that is the situation that fits their needs the best. And, yes, there are some astronomically high figures for some schools, and