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FLOOR DEBATE

April 4, 2006

LB 1024

there were 25 percent free lunches in the Bloomfield Elementary, and in 2005-06 that had climbed to 31...over 31 percent, and their free and reduced population was 41 percent. Mockingbird School has grown to 52 percent from just 45 percent a year ago. The Hispanic population in these schools has climbed. Bloomfield a year ago had 18 percent, and this year,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR REDFIELD: ...they have almost 22 percent. So I want to offer to you is that, in fact, diversity is growing in the city of Omaha and in the suburban schools. The diversity numbers are increasing naturally, without the intervention of OPS taking over those school districts. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Further discussion? Senator Raikes, followed by Senators Smith, Kopplin, and Pahls. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I appreciate Senator Howard raising this issue and also Senator Redfield's comments and suggestion about focusing on the broader concept. I want to take this opportunity, though, to explain, to the extent I can, a little bit more thoroughly what we've done in this proposal, in terms of property tax levies. It's on...the summary of it is on the second heading on this sheet labeled "LB 1024 Committee Amendment." There is a...as I mentioned earlier, there's a common operating levy that consists of two parts, or an operating levy, I should say, that consists of two parts: a common part and a discretionary part. There's a part of the levy that's calculated--and that's the 110 percent of formula needs. That levy applies to every school district in the learning community, and to give you a rough example--we did some numbers on this using some past information--that amounted to about 97 cents operating levy for each of the school districts. Under the cap amounts that are in there now, that would give each school district, then, about 5 cents of levy authority that could be determined by the board on a discretionary basis. We started out at having that at one dollar, rather than a dollar two-and-a-half cents, and basically, what we found as you move