April 4, 2006   LB 1024

through integration, how it would be accomplished, how the learning community will know if the integration is successful, and what the learning community should do if integration is not successful. They meet once a month for a year, hold public hearings, subject to the Open Meeting Act--Senator Preister will like that--report to the learning community council, talk about an integration plan. But again, what...other than the coming back to the Legislature, there's no teeth in here for the learning community to become obligated to implement the plan that this council comes up with; is that accurate?

SENATOR RAIKES: I think you've described it correctly, Senator. I'm sorry...

SENATOR BOURNE: I'm describing it correctly or incorrectly?

SENATOR RAIKES: Correctly, as much as I understood. I got distracted right at the end, so excuse me.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, so I guess what I'm saying is after...under your amendment, which I generally support the concept of, you create this council to look at certain things, you set out obligations, duties, they present it back to the learning community, but there's no authority on behalf of the learning community to adopt this. So other than the Legislature putting it into law, that is the only bite that this amendment has. They can come up with a plan, but it's a plan on an island, so to speak.

SENATOR RAIKES: You're right, Senator, except that the Legislature is in the process--and it certainly makes the whole thing subject to the Legislature being willing to take action, but the Legislature is the hammer in this proposal.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay, and with all due respect, Senator Raikes, I've watched you struggle and toil. I had mentioned to one of the lobbyists for the suburban districts the other day, I said I don't know how Senator Raikes put up with you for 50 days, and I was being facetious, but he said, 50 days? It's been nine months. So I mean, again, I appreciate what you're saying, but you know, we're not talking about climbing a hill. I mean, this