

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Monday, February 23, 2015, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department  
Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department  
Erna Fabert, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Jerry Lunn  
Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute  
Dr. Walt Chappell, President, Educational Management Consultants  
Steve Roberts, Member, Kansas State Board of Education  
Dr. John Heim, Executive Director, KASB

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Hearing on: SB176 — Limiting negotiations under the professional negotiations act.**

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB176**. Jason Long, staff revisor, reviewed the bill for the Committee and the chairperson asked if there were any questions. There were none. ([Attachment 1](#))

The chairperson then introduced Representative Jerry Lunn who spoke in support stating that in his discussions with superintendents in Johnson County school districts, they preferred to have the least number of mandatory subjects possible to negotiate as this maximizes local control. ([Attachment 2](#))

Dave Trabert spoke in support, indicating that the K-12 Commission's revision of the Professional Negotiations Act was **HB2034**, which limited the negotiation issues to pay and time worked, however, the senate version of that bill did not get drafted, so **SB176**, which goes even further than the house bill, was presented instead. Mr. Trabert clarified that this bill was not drafted by the Kansas Policy Institute, as was erroneously alleged by some. ([Attachment 3](#))

Questions arose concerning negotiations for salary and wage minimums; the reasoning behind cutting negotiable items from 24 down to one; the fact that **SB136** was developed at the request of the Legislature by four separate organizations, through a give and take process, while it is uncertain how many people were responsible for crafting **SB176**; and whether the priority is really the students or the institutions.

Dr. Walt Chappell's testimony in support emphasized that since 80% or more of each school district's expenditures are for employee salaries, wages and benefits, decisions made by local boards and district

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Monday, February 23, 2015, 144-S of the Capitol.

superintendents about how employees are assigned to provide quality education are crucial to increasing productivity, lowering costs and improving instruction, therefore superintendents should mainly be concerned about this one issue. He further testified that since the *Montoy* decision, and an infusion of more than \$1 billion into education, productivity is still flat and out of 6,200 people hired, only 4,000 are actual classroom teachers.

[\(Attachment 4\)](#)

Senator Baumgardner questioned why the superintendents responsible for hiring only 40% more teachers, while they hired 60% more administrators and other support staff with the \$1 billion given them, should be trusted with more power.

Chairperson Abrams then introduced Steve Roberts, who testified in support, stating that it appears that a great deal of law would be simplified with this bill, and simplification of law is something that is sorely needed in education today. [\(Attachment 5\)](#)

Chairperson Abrams then informed members that in their packets there is also written testimony in support provided by Jeff Glendening. [\(Attachment 6\)](#)

There being no further proponents, the chairperson introduced Dr. John Heim who spoke in opposition, representing not only KASB, but also the KNEA, USA of Kansas, and Kansas School Superintendent Association, stating that both the Commerce Committee and the Speaker of the House asked KASB to come to a compromise on the issue of teacher negotiations and in good faith several organizations presented that product, **SB136**, to the Senate Education Committee. Dr. Heim further emphasized that voiding teacher contracts could potentially cause a legal nightmare. [\(Attachment 7\)](#)

Questions centered around differences between **SB136** and **SB176** and why the superintendents who are favoring **SB176** were not providing testimony to that effect.

There being no further conferees, Chairperson Abrams closed the hearing on **SB176** and adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.