

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

The seventeenth meeting of the Education Committee convened at 2:00 P.M., Monday afternoon, February 25, 1963 in the auditorium of the Kansas State Teachers Association building, 715 West Tenth Street, with Chairman Bower presiding. All the members were present except Messrs. Dreiling, Edwards, Smith and Teter.

The meeting was called for the express purpose of hearing proponents of House Bill No. 233.

Chairman Bower called the meeting to order and explained that the meeting would proceed informally; speakers volunteered from the large group attending. The following persons spoke in favor of school district unification.

Mr. George Frey, spoke for the Kansas State Teachers Association in support of the bill with emphasis on quality education for children and youth. He quoted a letter written by W. Cowman. His organization felt that most people felt that reorganization should be accomplished, expected it to come and many wished for the State to force them to unify. He also read a statement from:

Richard Cooper, Superintendent of Columbus schools,

and a statement from Kansas State Teachers Association's Vice-President, Mr. Jess Harder, Buhler, Kansas.

Mr. Cliff Shenk, Legislative Chairman for the Congress of Parents and Teachers, cited that the Bill could be strengthened in Section 10

(c) by raising the 750 student figure!

Mrs. Carter Goodpasture, President, spoke for the Kansas Association of School Boards explaining the workings of the Association and how they arrived at the policy of supporting unification. She introduced:

Mr. Robert Haderlein, who spoke for the Association on the philosophies of the legislative proposal for unification, suggesting that only two unified districts are needed; that the lame-duck boards be reduced with a specific proposal for interim boards; joint districts, Page 11, does not provide adequate procedure (they would be glad to submit their recommendations); Section 11, that in the event of the second election failing, the State Superintendent prepare a plan and submit it to the following session of the legislature and that the election be confined to proposed unified districts. They also suggested study of unification of other States.

Mr. Warren Innskeep, spoke for the Community Schools Association stating that they feel the bill was a workable one but that it needed revision in Section 10, Subsection (C) reducing the 750 student figure to 400 and further that the last of the Section should be re-written for better interpretation.

Mr. Robert Saft, Sedgwick County Superintendent, spoke pointing out that he didn't feel that the meeting was necessary and that it was the moral responsibility of the Legislature to provide quality education for all Kansas school children, providing equal valuation in the districts; teachers should be screened more carefully, One district

should not be able to provide "typewriters in the second grade" while other districts "can't even buy chalk". He said the poorer teachers are in the smaller schools.

Mrs. H. Ivor Jones, Legislative Chairman of the Crestview School spoke giving recommendations for changes in the bill to make it more flexible for changing conditions. (See Committee correspondence file).

Mrs. Loren Davidson of Paola, Kansas spoke in favor of unification stating that she had had experience with both large and small schools and felt that the larger schools provided better opportunities for the school child.

Mr. H. A. W. Kessler, Superintendent of Shawnee County schools spoke citing the inequality of the valuation of the various districts in the county and the problem of hiring teachers.

Mr. Claude Kissick, Gove County, Quinter, felt that the 750 student figure is too high for their area of the State and should be changed from 400 to 600 and that no protection is provided for joint school districts in the bill.

Mr. Howard Wood, Chase County, spoke stating that they felt Sub-section (1) of Section 3 needs an additional provision in case of overlapping territories.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction A. F. Throckmorton appeared to make a public statement endorsing the principles and standards submitted on the reorganization study submitted by the Legislative Council and recommended that a sound school district reorganization be enacted.

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Mr. L. U. West, Superintendent of Schools, Butler County, felt that the number of districts in the County could be four with provisions for less than 750 students. He also hoped that county superintendents could be compensated for the extra work changing the percentage to 20%.

Dr. Herman Hiesterman, Gove County school board member from Quinter spoke suggesting the 750 student figure be changed to 500 and that the distance that children can travel be considered.

Mr. Leonard Brim, Stafford County school board member felt that the planning board as written in Senate Bill No. 400 was more satisfactory. As the bill is written, it would not help his county.

Upon motion of Mr. Harder, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

By John D. Bower
Chairman