

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by VICE CHAIRMAN AUGUST BOGINA at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1983 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Harder (excused)

Committee staff present:

Mr. Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Ms. Avis Swartzman, Legislative Revisor's Office
Mrs. Millie Randell, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

HB 2473 - Community colleges, school districts, self-insurers for provision of disability income benefits. (Education, by request)

Proponents:

Dr. A. W. Dirks, Wichita Public Schools, USD 259; also representing Kansas Association of School Boards, United School Administrators, Kansas-National Education Association, and USD 501.

HB 2266 - School districts, disposition of property by boards of education (Representative Apt)

Proponents:

Representative Apt, author of HB 2266

Mr. John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards; also representing United School Administrators

SB 391 - Updating code standards for school building construction. (Ways and Means)

Mr. John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards

Proponents:

Mrs. Lucille King, Division of Architectural Services, Kansas Department of Administration

Mr. Keith Blair, Architect, State Department of Education

SCR 1624 - A concurrent resolution urging that the average salary of Kansas teachers be increased to at least equal the national average salary of teachers (Senator Rehorn et al.)

Proponents:

Mr. Charles Johns, Director of Governmental Relations, Kansas-National Education Association

Vice Chairman August Bogina called the meeting to order in the absence of Chairman Joseph C. Harder, who was unable to be present at today's meeting.

Vice Chairman Bogina called upon Dr. A. W. Dirks, who testified as a proponent of HB 2473. Dr. Dirks explained that the bill would authorize school districts and community colleges to act as self-insurers in the area of disability income benefits. (Attachment 1)

The Vice Chairman then recognized Representative Apt, author of HB 2266. Representative Apt stated that HB 2266 would be advantageous, because it would broaden the authority of school boards when disposing of school buildings or other school properties no longer being used or needed by those school districts. The broadened authority, she added, would serve to eliminate some future legislation and this, in turn, would be a monetary advantage. She also urged passage of the bill, because she felt it would clarify a statute which has had varying interpretations by school boards since an Attorney General's Opinion was issued. Ms. Avis Swartzman of the Legislative Revisor's Office explained the Attorney General's Opinion to the Committee at the request of the Vice Chairman.

Representative Apt recommended amending HB 2266 so as to be effective from its date of publication in the Kansas Register.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,

room 254-E, Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ a.m./p.m. on MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1983

Mr. John Koepke testified on behalf of HB 2266 and explained that because of an Attorney General's Opinion some school districts feel that special legislation is required every time they want to dispose of real property when it is transferred for less than the fair market value of the property. Mr. Koepke said he favored HB 2266 as it was originally introduced but without the House Committee amendment which requires a unanimous vote by the board in the disposition of school property. He continued by saying that the bill as originally introduced would allow a district to dispose of property by a majority vote of the board members of the local school district. He further stated that there is no Kansas statute that requires a unanimous decision by a board of education and felt that this stipulation would be challenged in court.

In response to a Committee question, Representative Apt responded that she felt the bill would not pass in the House with the amendment to which Mr. Koepke made reference. Representative Apt did agree to an amendment which would define unanimous.

SB 391 - Mr. John Koepke stated that although KASB is not taking issue on this bill, he felt that KASB needed some assurance that the updated codes in SB 391 had been reviewed. He also recommended that the codes be explained to the Committee before any action should be taken on the bill.

Mrs. Lucille King of the Division of Architectural Services, explained that SB 391 updates the various uniform and national code references applicable to construction of school buildings and includes the most recent editions of such codes. Mrs. King further stated that the codes would apply to all school buildings, including the Regents' schools. She explained that current contracts require the latest code and explained an example whereby an atrium in Nichols Gymnasium at Kansas State University would be addressed as a duct in the 1979 code. She added that the 1982 code would address this situation properly. Mrs. King reaffirmed that the 1982 codes address the latest technology and requested passage of SB 391.

Mr. Keith Blair of the State Department of Education stated that he had reviewed all the codes and found them very acceptable. He said they were better codes and better written and they clarified many adverse comments and inequities which existed in the other codes. He assured the Committee that there was nothing in the new codes which would increase the cost of school building construction. Although he expressed concern regarding the loose manner in which plastic fiber is addressed under the 1982 uniform plumbing code, he felt that SB 391 is a good bill and that this one concern should not delay passage of the bill.

SCR 1624 - The Vice Chairman recognized Senator Rehorn to speak to SCR 1624, of which Senator Rehorn is a co-sponsor. Senator Rehorn stated that the resolution addresses a very critical need and that is to raise the salary for a profession that is crucial to a free society. Senator Rehorn noted that a recent study lists teaching as one of the two lowest paid professions. In reference to earmarking, Senator Rehorn felt that the Legislature has a right to meet its responsibility to set priorities for the state. Quoting from an article written by some 12 or 13 superintendents, Senator Rehorn read that a school district is nothing more or less than an administrative district through which the state exercises its responsibility for education. Senator Rehorn felt that by passing this resolution we are indicating to the state that we are recognizing this need and we are exercising our rightful responsibility as a state legislature.

Mr. Charles Johns, Kansas-National Education Association, testified on behalf of SCR 1624. (Attachment 2)

Statements of support for SCR 1624 were made by Senators McCray, Parrish, and Winter, also co-sponsors of SCR 1624.

Senator Montgomery moved to approve minutes of the Committee meeting of March 21. This was seconded by Senator Allen, and the motion carried.

The Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: Monday, March 21, 1983

GUEST LIST

NAME	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION
A.W. Dick	Wichita	H.S. #259
T. Kial Bai	Topeka	K.S.P.E
Cooper Jacoby	Lawrence	Sen. Rector
Charles W. Johnson	Topeka	KNEA
M. Hanna	"	Capital Journal
Bob Woolf	"	Gov. Office
John J. Pette	"	K.S. Times
Debbie Apt		leg -

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: Monday, March 21, 1983

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
ALMEDA EDWARDS	R2, OTTAWA	Bd, USD 290 OTTAWA
Ron Gaches	TOPEKA	KACI
John W. Roede	Topeka	KASD
Sharon C. Burnett	Topeka	USD 501 #
Cille King	Topeka	Division of Architectural Services
Tim Youally	Shawnee Mission	USD #572

WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Educational Services Building

640 North Emporia

WICHITA, KANSAS 67214

Division of Research, Planning,
and Development Services
(316) 268-7882

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

H.B. 2473

March 14, 1983

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The Honorable Joe Harder
Chairman of Senate Education Committee
Members of Senate Education Committee

I am A. W. Dirks, representing the Wichita Public Schools (USD 259).
In addition, I am representing the Kansas Association of Schools Boards (KASB),
United School Administrators (USA), and Unified School District 501. Thank
you for the opportunity to appear before this committee and to represent the
multiple interests in support of House Bill 2473.

The amendments proposed will authorize school districts and community
colleges to act as self-insurers in the area of disability income benefits.
It is permissive legislation that does not impose any fiscal costs on the
State. In our district, we believe that changing from our present carrier to
self-insurance would result in substantial savings to the district. At the
present time, we offer our employees 12 days of leave annually; when these
days are exhausted the school district provides disability commencing on the
sixth contract day at 66-2/3 percent of the salary level until KPHERS disability
goes into effect 180 calendar days hence. For those disabled 30 continuous
days, the first five days are paid retroactively.

The problem with the present carrier is, first, the requirement to
maintain a reserve that has now reached \$243,756. During the past three years
the premium has averaged \$210,722 and the claims \$189,240. Secondly, the
district must verify the disability, provide the back up, and issue the

(over)

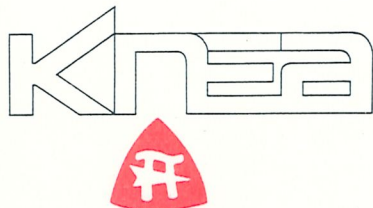
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Attachment 1

the individual checks. There would be a distinct advantage in not having to provide the excessive reserve and in hastening the payments to employees. We have had experience with self-insurance in other areas and find it advantageous to the employees and to the district.

Based on the foregoing information, the many groups I am representing on H.B. 2473 respectively request your support of this Bill, and request that you recommend it favorably for passage.

Thank you for your attention.



Senate Education Committee
Testimony on SCR 1624
March 21, 1983

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the committee, my name is Charles Johns and I am representing Kansas-NEA on SCR 1624. Kansas-NEA favors passage of SCR 1624.

Kansas-NEA has long had as one of its goals the increasing of teaching salaries in Kansas up to at least the national average. There are probably many reasons for the fact that teachers' salaries in Kansas rank about ³⁵~~38~~th when compared to the other states in this nation; however, one of the reasons surely could be that neither the legislature nor school boards have set long range goals and then attempted to reach them. We have too often taken care of the immediate short term crisis without setting our sights on the results in the long run.

SCR 1624 does not mandate anything. But it does set a goal and endorses the concept of increasing teachers' salaries to a level at least to the national average by the school year 1986-87. The legislature, by passing this act and sending copies to school boards, will be taking the lead in stating that teacher salaries are important in this state and committing itself to do something about the pitifully low salaries paid teachers. We would hope that school boards would, in turn, set similar goals so that we can begin now to work together to bring the compensation paid our teachers to a level at least comparable to the average in the United States by the 1986-87 school year.

Kansas-NEA urges this committee to report SCR 1624 favorably for passage.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for listening to teachers' concerns.

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Attachment 2