

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Representative Don Crumbaker at
Chairperson

3:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on January 24, 1984 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Judy Crapser, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Jim Allen
Representative Marvin Barkis
Ken Rogg, Schools for Quality Education
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards
Cathy Kruzic, KDED Travel & Tourism
Onan Burnett, USD #501, Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators
Bob Wooten, Governor's office
Chris Graves, Associatid Students of Kansas
Craig Grant, Kansas-National Education Association
Jerry Schreiner, United School Administrators

The minutes of January 17, 1984 were approved as written.

SCR 1639 - A concurrent resolution encouraging and urging the celebration of Kansas Day in all schools in the state.

Senator Jim Allen testified before the committee as the sponsor of SCR 1639. The Senator stated that the original celebration of Kansas Day was held in Paola, and as that community is planning a special celebration this year, he urged a favorable recommendation.

Representative Marvin Barkis added his support to SCR 1639. The Representative had introduced a similar resolution in the house and he supported this resolution entirely.

Ken Rogg, Schools for Quality Education, offered testimony in support of SCR 1639. Mr. Rogg urged passage of this, the first official recognition of Kansas Day on January 29. He stated that this resolution brings unanimous support from the board of education state meeting last September, the Miami County Kansas Retired Teachers Association and the Paola Teachers Association. (ATTACHMENT I)

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of SCR 1639. (ATTACHMENT II) Mr. Koepke added that the dirth of material on Kansas history is lamentable. Especially so when the only published histories of Kansas are printed and developed by the University of Ohio and the University of Nebraska.

Cathy Kruzic, Kansas Department of Economic Development Travel and Tourism Director, supported SCR 1639 in her testimony. (ATTACHMENT III)

Onan Burnett, USD #501, testified in support of SCR 1639. He stated that they would also support developing materials for a testbook on the history of Kansas and teaching same as part of a school curriculum.

There being no opponents of SCR 1639, the hearing was closed and the Committee considered action on the resolution. Representative D. Apt moved that SCR 1639 be passed out of Committee with the recommendation "Be Adopted". Representative E. Hassler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 2618 - An act concernign schools; affecting the duration of the school day and the school term; revising the definition of pupil for school district finance purposes.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

room 313-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on January 24, 1984

Onan Burnett, USD #501, addressed the committee with remarks in regard to HB 2618. Mr. Burnett stated the concern they have with extending the school day with such an insignificant amount, averaging 2 1/2 minutes per class period. This action would result in a 4% increase in the teachers time required, thereby raising the problem of renegotiating teachers contracts. He also stated the concern in regard to the change at the grade 12 level, especially if only playing games with numbers. Mr. Burnett stated that if the legislature felt it necessary to extend the school day, then extend it longer than the 15 minutes.

John Koepke, KASB, offered testimony in opposition of HB 2618. He compared HB 2618 with the recent "The Nation at Risk" report and stated this bill is insignificant. KASB suggest the schools better utilize the existing time to the maximum possible. (ATTACHMENT IV) If this bill is favorably considered, KASB would suggest delaying the effective date one year, for teacher contract negotiation purposes. In response to a question on position of KASB to the changes for grade 12, Mr. Koepke answered they have no formal opinion.

Bob Wooten, representing the Governor's office, testified in opposition to HB 2618. Mr. Wooten stated that during each of the Governor's 26 town meetings on education this past year, the question was raised whether or not the school day should be extended. The overwhelming response each time was negative. The time spent on each task is important, but a mandated fifteen minute extension would not necessarily improve the quality.

Chris Graves, Associated Students of Kansas, representing students of Kansas public universities, spoke in opposition of HB 2618. (ATTACHMENT V)

K-NEA representative, Craig Grant, testified in opposition of HB 2618. (ATTACHMENT VI)

Jerry Schreiner, USA, testified in opposition of HB 2618. He stated USA was not that opposed to the time extension, but suggested a stronger look at the existing requirements first. They suggest the minimum be retained at 180 days, but not less than 175 days for students, disallowing in-service teacher days, teacher/parent conference, etc., as counted days. They support retaining the option of hour or day totals. In regard to seniors, or grade 12, they suggest allowing the districts to remain as flexible as possible. Referring to the bill proper; page 3, line 115-- they favor preventing schools from allowing full-time vocational technical students. They suggest considering funding limits for the school day, reserving flexibility for high school programs.

Discussion revealed that during the interim committee study, some interest was noted for an extended school day. However, no hearings were held on the present drafted extension of fifteen minutes.

The hearings being concluded, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 3:30 p.m. on January 25, 1984.

DATE

Jan 24, 1984

GUEST REGISTER

HOUSE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Craig Grant	IT-NEA	Lawrence
Bill Hicks	U.S.H. 259	Wichita
Mary Ellen Simon	LD of WOMEN VOTERS	Topeka
Ellen Zambrano	Kansas Action for Children	Topeka
Mark Tallman	ASK	Topeka
Chris Graves	ASK	Topeka
CARD EDWARDS	ASK	Lawrence
Janis Haugh	USD 473 School Board	Chapman
Bill Curtis	KASB	Topeka
Jerry Schreiner	USA	Topeka
John Koepke	KASB	Topeka
Jack J.	KOEO	Topeka
Leanne (Dikes)	KASB	Water Center
Michelle A. Kessler	WU student USD #368	Topeka
Merle Hice	KACC	Topeka
Ed Warburn	Warburn U.	Topeka
N. Zogelman	Speaker's Office	"
Ones C. Bunt	USD 50 #4	Topeka
BURR SIFERS	CHANNEL 19 KCPT	
SANDRA JOHNSON	KTUU	TOPEKA
Bob Wood	Gov Office	Topeka
Doug Farrel	WPT	"
Ken Rogg	Panel 11	508

The Evolution of Kansas Day

On January 8, 1877, a teacher in the Paola public schools discovered a teaching technique which would touch the lives of Kansans throughout the nation over a century later. The teacher, LeGrande Alexander Copley, and his American History class were studying the Battle of New Orleans. Intense interest was created when it was discovered that on that date, 62 years earlier, to the very hour, General Jackson's riflemen "were peppering the British Red Coats" from behind their baracades of cotton bales. So successful was the lesson, that Copley decided to use the same technique in teaching Kansas History. He announced to his students that an hour would be set aside on January 29, the date Kansas became a state, for activities and contests pertaining to the history and geography of Kansas. The experiment proved so successful in creating interest that not only did his students become intensely involved, but the community as well.

In 1878, Copley repeated the activities on "Kansas Day" and the observance has continued in the Paola schools to this day. In 1879, Copley became the Superintendent of the Public Schools of Wichita, a then rapidly growing frontier town with more students than desks to seat them. There, he continued to promote the observance of Kansas Day and soon gained notice of the State Superintendent and other educational leaders of the State. By 1880, Copley had become a highly sought after speaker at teacher's institutes and never failed to take advantage of an opportunity to encourage the observance of Kansas Day.

In January, 1881, an article by Copley appeared in the Educationalist, forerunner of the "Kansas Teacher", suggesting activities for the observance of Kansas Day on January 29. This article, in whole or in part, was reprinted in many of the newspapers of the State.

On the day after Thanksgiving, 1882, the first Northwest Kansas Teacher's Association meeting was held in Beloit. It was there decided to publish a small

pamphlet containing facts, poems, and other information related to the observance of Kansas Day. (Also included is Copley's own account of the birth of Kansas Day.) The material was gathered and 2,000 copies printed by Del Valentine of the Clay Center Dispatch. The pamphlets sold for 10¢ each or 12 for \$1.00 and were a popular item at the Kansas Teacher's Association meeting held during the Christmas Holidays in Topeka.

The booklet was sold to teachers from 65 counties, later at a bookstore in Emporia, and was for a short time used as a text at the Emporia Normal School.

Although Copley was to leave his chosen profession as educator in 1883, possibly due to poor health, the observance of Kansas Day continued to grow. No further written accounts are found in the Kansas State Historical Society until 1893, when Copley was asked for biographical information. In 1909, an article entitled "Birth of Kansas Day" appeared in a January issue of the Kansas City Star. The article was preserved in the archives of the Kansas State Historical Society but was apparently forgotten.

Two decades later, noted Kansas poet, Esther Clark Hill, was working for the Historical Society when she apparently ran across the article. She ultimately published a short article entitled "The Origin of Kansas Day" in the January, 1932, issue of the Kansas Teacher. The article provides additional information relative to the institution of Kansas Day in the schools during the early 1880's. This information was probably gathered from direct interviews as nothing can be found in her notes to prove otherwise.

Following the publication of Mrs. Hill's article, there seems to have been a resurgence of interest in Kansas Day among educators. In 1934, a State Department bulletin entitled "Kansas Day" was distributed throughout the State and in 1935 a State Department manual "Manual of Patriotic Instruction and Program Helps for Special Days", contains a section on Kansas Day. In addition, local manuals by

County Superintendents and teacher committees were prepared. All contain reprints of Mrs. Hill's article along with articles and poems by Mrs. Hill, William Allen White, and other prominent Kansas writers.

Hill began her article with the statement, "Kansas Day has for so many decades been associated with politics - - - - -". Research in this area reveals that the Republican Party first met in January in 1888. On January 29, 1892, the "Young Bunch" rallying around the slogan, "the old barnacles must go", met at the Thorp Hotel forming the Kansas Day Club and agreeing to meet annually on Kansas Day. What influence Copley's promotion of Kansas Day had on this group is a matter of conjecture at this time. It is, however, interesting to note that Murdock of Wichita, and Dell Valentine, both acquainted with Copley were on the organizational committee.

Charles Curtis, later to become vice-president of the United States, is also listed on the committee. Sister Charles McGrath of Ursuline Sisters in Paola, states that her father attended the Normal School and that Curtis and Chester Long were roommates. Charles Curtis was also a member of the committee. Senator Long met and married Arma Bache from Paola, a half sister of L.G.A. Copley. Senator Long was a speaker at the 1909 gathering of the Kansas Day Club at which representatives of all 105 counties were in attendance and Senator McKinley of California was the principal speaker. In reading accounts of Copley's efforts to establish January 29 as a statewide observance and accounts of the organization of the "Kansas Day Club" reveal other names in common. It would seem more than coincidence that the two movements are interrelated.

While Prentis (A History of Kansas, Noble & Prentis, Topeka, 1909), states that, "Both branches of the legislature formally observed Kansas Day in 1887, a review of the House and Senate Journals makes no mention of the occasion. A card

in the informational file of the Kansas State Historical Society states that a search of the archives indicates the Legislature has never officially recognized Kansas Day. Our research supports this statement.



OFFICIAL KANSAS DAY DECLARATION

WHEREAS on January 29, 1861, Kansas was declared by Congressional act to be one of the states of the United States and Kansans commemorate that momentous event each year on Kansas Day; and

WHEREAS research in the archives of the Kansas State Historical Society suggest that the first celebration of Kansas Day occurred in a school in Paola on January 29, 1877, when a teacher set aside part of the day for the study of Kansas which was conducted by involving pupils and the entire community in activities and contests pertaining to the history, geography and resources of Kansas; and

WHEREAS conducting the lesson about Kansas on the anniversary of the date on which the state was admitted to the Union proved so successful that not only did those first celebrants become intensely interested in the facts and statistics they learned, but they were also aroused to great pride in their state; and

WHEREAS despite the fact that the observance of Kansas Day has continued to be promoted in Kansas schools throughout the years and is a day which should be celebrated by all Kansans, a search of Kansas Day documents at the historical society fails to disclose that any Governor or Legislature has ever acted to declare Kansas Day an official state observance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature adopt Concurrent Resolutions No. 5051 and No. 1639 in recognition of the fact that Kansas Day has never officially been declared to be an official day of celebration but that Kansas Day should be an occasion for remembering that Kansas became a state only through long hard years of struggle, bloodshed, privation, starvation and aspiration of pioneer Kansans and that Kansans of today should be proud of their heritage and their state and in further recognition that the celebration of Kansas Day was originated by a Kansas school teacher, hereby encourage and urge the perpetuation of that celebration in every Kansas school with appropriate ceremony and activity.

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Room 313-S

TESTIMONY

SR 1639

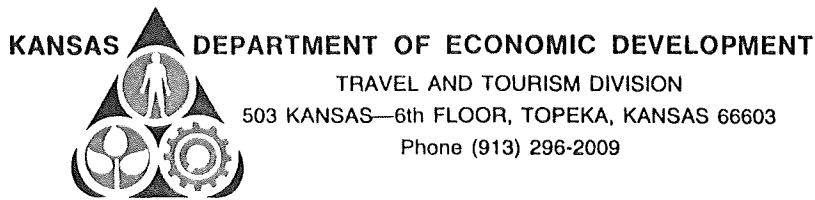
Concurrent Resolution

Urging the Celebration of Kansas Day

In Kansas Schools

Cathy L. Kruzic, Travel & Tourism Director
Kansas Department of Economic Development

January 24, 1984



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Travel and Tourism Division within the Kansas Department of Economic Development is encouraging your support of a concurrent resolution urging the celebration of Kansas Day in all of the schools in the state.

This is a very important concept in the continuing efforts of the travel and tourism program to improve the image of the State of Kansas in a number of ways, not the least being educating Kansans about the many merits of the state.

In the development of our program over the recent years it has become evident that there has been some disregard for the importance of the necessity to require that school aged children be educated about the history, as well as current events which impact the State of Kansas. We have traditionally received a large number of requests for information about things to see and do and places to visit, as well as Kansas historical information, from many of the schools across the state as they prepare to spend at least a portion of January 29th in providing information to students about Kansas. In previous years we have been somewhat inadequate in our ability to respond to specific requests, but we feel that with each year we may have made a great deal of progress. This includes the development of slide and film files, publication of a variety of promotional literature, and most recently we are pleased to have introduced the first edition of Kansas Too! which is aimed toward school children, grades 4-6. As you are aware, this publication will be available through an annual subscription and delivered either to the homes or to the schools of children.

Page Two

The State of Kansas has a great deal of history of which she can be extremely proud and "the many long hard years of struggle, bloodshed, privation, starvation and aspiration of pioneering Kansans" should not be forgotten.

The Travel and Tourism Division highly encourages you to respond positively to this concurrent resolution and any education issues that will increase the awareness of Kansas school children in an effort to develop a deep sense of pride among its citizens of all age levels. This Resolution will be a very important step towards attaining that goal of developing Kansans for Kansas.

In closing, I once again urge your support for SR 1639, a concurrent resolution urging the observance of Kansas Day in Kansas schools.



Testimony on H.B. 2618

by
John W. Koepke, Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

January 24, 1984
House Education Committee

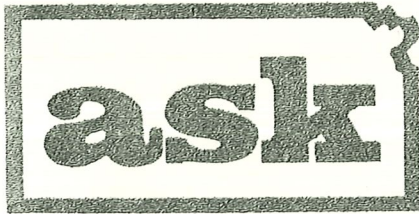
Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to represent the views of the 300 member boards of education who constitute the Kansas Association of School Boards. We also appreciate the long hours which the Interim Special Committee on Education devoted to the study of educational improvement. We believe, however, that the Interim Committee erred in its recommendation for the passage of H.B. 2618.

In reviewing all of the discussions which have been held regarding the issue of the length of the school day and school year, several things are apparent. One is a deep concern by all that better utilization be made of the existing school day. The other is that any significant extension of the mandatory school day would be prohibitively expensive.

Figures which have already been presented to you indicate the concern local boards have for the school day, since many of them are already exceeding the minimum proposed in H.B. 2618. Concerted efforts are being made statewide to review the utilization of the present school day and to diminish the class time lost to activities. We believe this local approach to the problem should

continue to be utilized and any mandatory extension of the length of the school day should be deferred until there is some general consensus on what the length of the school term and school day should be.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions.



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS

1700 College
Topeka, Kansas 66621
(913) 354-1394

Statement by

CHRIS GRAVES

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF KANSAS

(ASK)

Before the

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

on

HB 2618

An Act affecting the duration of the school day and the school term

January 24, 1984

ATTACHMENT V

(1-24-84)
HOUSE EDUCATION

Representing the Students of:

Emporia State • Fort Hays State • Kansas State • Pittsburg State • University of Kansas • Washburn University • Wichita State

Mr. Chairman, members of the House Education Committee, my name is Chris Graves and I am legislative director of the Associated Students of Kansas, representing the 80,000 students of Kansas public universities. Since the release of the report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education, ASK has spent a great deal of time considering its recommendations. Most of them we have supported, from improving teacher education programs to strengthening high school curricula to raising admission requirements at our state universities. However, one issue we have strongly opposed is an increase in the length of the school day. Therefore, I am here to speak in opposition to HB 2618.

Statement

Before I continue, I would like the committee to know how we arrived at this position. In September, ASK put on a conference for both high school and college students to discuss the recommendations of the National Commission on Excellence in Education. Students heard from members of the Board of Education and Board of Regents, as well as other educators and experts. Smaller discussion groups then reviewed each area in the Nation At Risk Report. From these discussions, committees of our Legislative Assembly drafted positions on each recommendation, which were then adopted by the full Assembly. My comments today reflect a diligent effort by students for relevant input into these issues.

We oppose a longer school day for the following three reasons. First, there seems to be general agreement that the present school day is not being used as effectively as possible, by both supporters and opponents of a longer day. Studies are frequently interrupted by activities; some schools include an activity period during the school day itself. Students may also load up their schedules with courses dealing more with extra-curricular activities, such as debate, drama, even physical education, than with English, math, and science.

I want to stress that we do not oppose extra-curricular activities. We strongly support them, but believe it would be better to move these activities to after school, rather than increasing the school day to gain more time.

Our second reason for opposing a longer school day is that there is no proof that time would really be put to productive use. Would it be divided up to give each existing class a few more minutes? Would the time simply be tagged on as part of an activity period, or study hall? Even creating a whole new class period might have little benefit if students simply scheduled in another "fun" elective.

If we cannot be sure more time would be used more effectively, we do not believe the benefits outweigh the disadvantages. One problem is that of "diminishing returns." Students - of any age - can only take so much time in the classroom before boredom and restlessness set in. A second is that additional time in school can interfere with part-time jobs and family responsibilities, such as care of younger brothers and sisters or farm work. This may not be as much a problem if extra time was really beneficial, but again, we are not convinced that it is.

We realize, of course, that adding an additional 15 minutes is not going to be a serious hardship. However, we really do not see how an extra 15 minutes - about 2 and 1/2 minutes for each current period - will provide any real benefit.

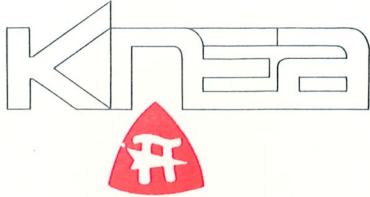
A related, but separate, issue in this bill is requiring seniors to attend six and a quarter hours per day instead of the current five. We think many seniors should attend at least a full six hours, but again, it's the coursework that is important, not simply being there. We support the National Commission's recommendations for higher graduation requirements, which we also believe should be the standard for admission to the state universities. If these requirements, which are even stricter than those recently adopted by the Board

of Education, were put into effect, seniors might need that sixth hour for graduation. If seniors need that period, they should take it, but if not, we do not believe it should be required.

Conclusion

Our position on this issue is simple: increasing the school day will not insure more efficient use of the school day. Tougher requirements will.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today. I'll be happy to respond to any questions.



Craig Grant Testimony Before
House Education Committee
January 24, 1984

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Members of the committee, my name is Craig Grant and I am representing Kansas-NEA. I am pleased to speak to the committee on HB 2618.

The main focus of HB 2618 is to add 15 minutes a day or 45 hours a year to the school term. This was one of the Special Committee on Education's responses to the National Commission's "Nation at Risk" report. It should be noted that many school districts (approximately 2/3) have extended the school day to over six hours and 15 minutes. The districts have done this locally in consultation with the professional educators and patrons based on the assessment of local needs.

Kansas-NEA believes that this system of local determination is the proper one. We also believe that a mandate from the state legislature will do little to improve the "quality" of education received by the students of this state. K-NEA believes that more effective use of the existing school day deserves the attention rather than just increasing the school time. Districts are presently assessing and modifying their present organizational patterns in an attempt to provide more education during the time now available.

Kansas-NEA would encourage the legislature not to mandate the additional fifteen minutes as proposed in HB 2618. Continued efforts by teachers, administrators, patrons and school board members to improve the quality of curriculum and instruction given to the students will provide the cornerstone for needed improvements in our state.

ATTACHMENT VI

(1-24-84)
HOUSE EDUCATION