

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

3:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 27, 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  
Dale Dennis, State Department of Education  
Judy Crapser, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Vernon Williams  
Craig Grant, Kansas-National Education Association  
Jerry Schreiner, United School Administrators  
John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Representative Ron Fox  
John McGuire, Legislative Intern for Representative Fox  
Representative James Lowther  
Mark Tallman, Association of Students of Kansas  
Bob Kelly, Kansas Independent College Association

The Chairman opened the hearing for today's meeting.

Representative Vernon Williams presented HB 2862 which establishes a Kansas Exemplary Schools Award Committee within the state department of education. (ATTACHMENT I)

Craig Grant, Kansas-National Education Association, testified in support of HB 2862. He stated that K-NEA was interested in ways to improve the quality of education and this legislation is aimed toward that goal.

Jerry Schreiner, United School Administrators, testified in support of the concept of HB 2862. He added that his organization would rather have the awards ideas that are incorporated in the bills being heard today ear-marked for an interim study so that the best ideas would be fine-tuned for the maximum benefit.

John Koepke, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of the concepts of today's hearings also. He stated that there was ample opportunity to marry the subjects of these three bills, whatever level the committee might wish to recognize. He also suggested a more thorough study of the concepts to avoid duplications.

Representative Ron Fox's presentation of HB 2934 was given by his legislative intern, John McGuire. (ATTACHMENT II) HB 2934 establishes a Kansas state committee on recognition of outstanding Kansas teachers.

Craig Grant, K-NEA, echoed his testimony of HB 2862 for this bill, HB 2934.

John Koepke, KASB, echoed his previous remarks for HB 2934 with one concern. He suggested that before measures are enacted, decide what will be recognized and the criteria wanted for requirements. His specific concern in HB 2934 was on lines 46 through 50.

Representative Jim Lowther presented HB 2879 which establishes a Kansas commission on incentive to excellence in education. (ATTACHMENT III)

Craig Grant, K-NEA, testified with concern of HB 2879. His concern was with the length of time being too short within this bill.

John Koepke, KASB, testified with the same concerns as Craig Grant of HB 2879. He added that every one had problems with the evaluation systems.

Representative Jim Lowther presented HB 2962 which establishes a Kansas loan program for teacher enrichment. (ATTACHMENT IV)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,  
room 313-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~a.m.~~/p.m. on February 27, 19 84

Craig Grant, K-NEA, testified in support of HB 2962. He stated that this concept would be of benefit to both the schools and teachers.

John Koepke, KASB, testified in support of HB 2962. He echoed the statements of Craig Grant.

Mark Tallman, Association of Students of Kansas, testified in support of HB 2962. He added that they support similar provisions for new students.

Bob Kelly, Director of Kansas Independent College Association, testified in support of HB 2962, with one reservation. That concern was connected with section 6, the guaranteed student loan program and the interest to be charged in connection with this legislation.

The Chairman turned the committee's attention to possible discussion and action of previously heard bills.

Representative Apt moved that HB 2947 be reported favorable for passage. HB 2947 requires establishment of a state university preparatory curriculum for admission to state universities. Representative Hassler seconded the motion. After much discussion, the motion carried. On call of a division there were ten votes for the motion and seven against.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 5:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the committee will be February 28, 1984 at 3:30 p.m.



HB 2862 is another bill concerning education in Kansas. From the number of bills introduced this year and from the variety of ideas expressed, one could easily conclude that this is indeed "The Year of Education in Kansas."

HB 2862 seeks to establish within the state department of education a structured, permanent ongoing Kansas Exemplary Schools Award Committee whose purpose is to develop, promote and supervise a program to identify, recognize and reward those schools maintained by unified school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that are unusually successful in meeting the educational needs of pupil.

The Exemplary Schools Award Committee would consist of five members appointed by the state board of educational and representing school administrators, local boards of education, parent organizations, elementary school teachers and secondary school teachers.

Although I do not yet have a fiscal note, I assume the cost to be relatively inexpensive especially in view of the fact the state board has already, just this year, inaugurated a program to identify, recognize and honor local school programs, such as library media, mathematics, reading and science, which are considered to be "excellent" programs.

Also, preliminary work has been completed in considering "some sort of program" which identifies "promising" students and then makes some type of yet-to-be identified enrichment program available for those students. An "ad hoc" in-house committee has recently completed some work toward this end and will make a presentation to the state board of education in March.

Additionally, you should know that the state board has elected to participate in the federal Secondary School Recognition Program initiated by U. S. Secretary of Education Terrill Bell. The thrust of this federal program is to select and disseminate the names of "model" schools to districts in all the states seeking ways to improve.

These are the beginning of fine programs and, although somewhat different in scope, could easily fit into the objectives and structure which would be established under HB 2862 for the recognition of excellent schools in Kansas.

It's high time we did openly recognize academic achievements of our Kansas schools. Although there is room for improvement, our schools in Kansas consistently rank above the national average in academic achievement.

We give so much attention and publicity to our athletes that our academic achievements are overshadowed and almost forgotten. We have the "top 20" for football and basketball. Since the 1984 legislative session opened, I have made note that our newspapers usually devote up to six full pages to report, in considerable detail and with large headlines, the accomplishments of athletic teams but do not devote nearly so much space (albeit there is not total neglect) to educational achievements. This would make it appear to the public at large that our priorities are in reverse of what they actually are.

Recently, this committee "sent a message" to our local school boards, via passage of Rep. Ed Rolf's bill, that we believe it was high time that our athletes make at least passing grades in order to continue to play.

Now, by passage of HB 2862, we can "send another message," not only to local school boards, but to the teachers, students and parents

that academic excellence rates even higher than non-academic. After all, the purpose of educational institutions is and should be to educate! We do have outstanding schools in Kansas. We should recognize them, reward them, and hold them up as examples to the other schools in Kansas. HB 2862 would establish a mechanism to do just that. I hope you agree.

I will be pleased to attempt to answer any questions of committee members.

Rep. Vernon L. Williams  
91st District  
February 27, 1984

RON FOX  
 REPRESENTATIVE, TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT  
 JOHNSON COUNTY



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
 VICE-CHAIRMAN ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
 MEMBER ELECTIONS  
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 LEGISLATURES COMMITTEE ON  
 NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

HB 2934 is an attempt to address the question of how do you promote excellence in the classroom. I understand HB 2862 and HB 2879, and I applaud the efforts of the authors of those bills. After reviewing all three bills, I find a common concern; how do you reward excellence in education. Regardless of whether you agree with the traditional concept of "merit pay", these three bills go beyond those traditional boundaries. I will not belabor extensive time on the details. I would suggest this committee take the ideas given in HB 2862, HB 2879, and HB 2934 and combine them in an act for enrichment of education.

Thank you.

*Atch. II*

*Jim Louder*

TESTIMONY OF 2879

COMMISSION ON INCENTIVES TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Another idea for improving the quality of education in our state is embodied in House Bill 2879. The bill addresses the reality that there appears to be a proliferation of ideas on such things as merit pay, master teachers programs, and career ladders that are cropping up all over the country. The job of the commission would be to gather as much information as possible and evaluate it for the benefit of the state board and the school districts in Kansas.

The commission will only be in existence until December 31, 1984, so we're really not creating another new level of bureaucracy.

The idea for this grew out of my request for legislation to provide for a pilot or experimental merit pay program to be funded by the state. There seemed to be too many problems in trying to accomplish this - constitutional and otherwise. But, I still felt that Kansas schools needed the benefit of using the best features of new programs and avoiding the problems and pitfalls as they were identified. Consequently this gem of an idea was produced by our revisor and I want to give Avis the credit for formulating the concept as you see it here in House Bill 2879. When I first read the draft, I was excited about it and I think if it is enacted, findings of the commission could really be a boon to any or all of our school districts in Kansas. If the commission gathers a mass of information and data as mentioned in section 2a, analyzes it, determines the attributes and indicators of success or failure of the plans they've studied, then make the findings available to all concerned, along with specific recommendations, not only will a great deal of time be saved, not only will a great amount of money be saved, but it could result in many districts moving

*Att. III*



quickly to implement new, successful programs.

I should have prefaced this objective, however, with the assumption that there is a great deal to be gained through the implementation of certain career incentive plans for public school teachers - and administrators. A statutorally created commission with legislative endorsement will give immediate impetus, clear intentions, ~~to~~ define goals and a deadline to the State Board of Education. It also ~~gives~~ gives legislation that the Legislature can point to and say, yes, this is one more act taken in response to the public outcry for public quality in education. We could, of course, leave it all to the state board, but I feel that they need to know where the legislatures priorities lie and this commission would provide them assistance and valuable background data in a relatively short period of time.

*Jim Louche*

KANSAS LOAN PROGRAM FOR TEACHER ENRICHMENT

HB 2962

House Bill 2962 embodies an idea to help improve the quality of instruction in our public schools. As drawn, it would provide for forgivable loans covering tuition and fees for teachers ~~attaining~~<sup>obtaining</sup> endorsement to teach in a field of specialization deemed to be necessary by the board to maintain or improve the educational program of the district.

The loan program then could assist, for example, an art teacher in being certified to teach math or science. Loans would not be made to assist a teacher in the "improvement of knowledge of subject matter in a field for which the teacher presently holds endorsement to teach".

Teachers taking advantage of the program would have one half of their loan cancelled after they taught in the new field for one year and would have the remainder of the loan cancelled at the end of the second year. If the committee would treat the bill favorably, I would suggest that an amendment to provide for a second purpose for the loans. This would be for improving teaching skills when such improvement is recommended by the local board for the teacher.

Actually, it was my original intention to include such an emphasis on improvement and thus the title of the loan program: Loans for Teacher Enrichment.

Note that section 5b provides that loan funds are to be prorated if the legislature does not appropriate a sufficient amount. However, I don't think it would take a great deal of money to fund this program. According to the Board of Regents, the number of graduate hours in education during fiscal year 1983 totaled just over 72,000 for a master's

*Atch. IV*

degrees, <sup>and</sup> in education specialists. The cost per credit hour for fall 1984 is estimated to be approximately \$27.50. If every hour qualified for a loan, the fiscal note would be \$1,980,000. If 10% qualified, the fiscal note would be \$19,800. Of course fees would increase this, but <sup>it</sup> would appear to be a fairly low cost program in all.

In talking with teachers in the past, I've noticed that often the cost of attending summer sessions has been a deterrent and this is especially true when they need to work at some summer job. Certainly just covering the fees and tuition is a minimal amount of help but it would be of some help at that.

Finally, I would like to see this idea tried for two or three years and then sunsetted so it could be evaluated to see if it would warrant a permanent continuation.

Amendment to HR 2962

In Sec 2, line 34, after "is", ad (a)

in line 40 by striking ~~or teaching skills~~ <sup>all after "matter"</sup>  
in line 41 by striking skills, in line 42 after  
teach, insert: (b) to assist teachers in the improvement of  
teaching skills when such improvement is recommended by  
the board to be in the best interest of the teacher and the  
educational program of the USD in ~~developing~~ developing  
performance capacities.

in Section 4 (a)(2) in line 68 after  
"education" insert: or to improve teaching skills  
as recommended by the board to be in the best interest  
of the teacher and the board in developing performance  
capacities.

in Sec 6 (a) in line 97 after education, insert:  
or was employed as a teacher ~~in the field of~~  
~~specialization in which the board~~ ~~in the~~  
~~field~~ in the  
field in which the board had recommended  
the need for improvement in teaching skills

then add onset after three years