

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR GUS BOGINA at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1984 in room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Joseph C. 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:

SB 626 - An act concerning school district finance; relating to budgets of operating expenses (Education)

Proponents:

Mr. Craig Grant, Director of Political Action, K-National Education Association
Mr. Howard Shuler, Superintendent, USD 437, Auburn-Washburn School District (on behalf of United School Administrators)
Ms. Marian Warriner, State Finance Lobbyist, League of Women Voters of Kansas

Vice-Chairman Gus Bogina called the meeting to order in the absence of Chairman Joseph C. Harder. The Vice-Chairman announced that the hearing on SB 626 would continue, and he called upon Mr. Craig Grant of K-NEA, who testified as an opponent of SB 626. Mr. Grant's testimony is found in Attachment 1.

Vice-Chairman Bogina then recognized Mr. Howard Shuler, Superintendent of USD 437, who stated that he is testifying as an opponent of SB 626 on behalf of United School Administrators. Mr. Shuler pointed out how the removal of budget controls in SB 626 would disturb the balance of equalization under the School District Equalization Act. Mr. Shuler further noted that without budget controls, the gap between high and low wealth districts would become wider. Mr. Shuler stated that some USD's are having difficulty financially under the current budget controls and that to remove the controls completely would affect the SDEA formula drastically. The Superintendent also pointed out that a no-limit budget authority would cost the state more money. In responding to questioning, Mr. Shuler replied that budget amounts per pupil definitely have a bearing on equal opportunity for Kansas students.

Mr. John Koepke testified that KASB continues to oppose the elimination of budget limits for school districts. He also supported the contention that removing the budget lids would tend to increase the disparity that already exists between high and low wealth school districts. Mr. Koepke affirmed that the State Equalization theory is based upon equal opportunity for spending with equal effort...not just equal spending. Mr. Koepke warned of the problem that could arise when there is not enough state money to fully subsidize poor districts' maximum budget increases. Mr. Koepke stated that there are only two ways to accomplish KASB's goal for funding education: 1. Increase budget limits, and 2. Increase the state level of funding.

Mrs. Marian Warriner testified as an opponent to SB 626, and her testimony is found in Attachment 2.

At the conclusion of the hearing on SB 626, Vice-Chairman Bogina asked the Committee's pleasure regarding SB 601. Senator Angell moved to amend SB 601, and his amendment is found in Attachment 3, "Reports of Standing Committees". Senator Parrish seconded the motion to amend SB 601, and the amendment was adopted. Senator Angell then moved that SB 601, as amended, be recommended favorably for passage. This motion was seconded by Senator Parrish, and the motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Bogina adjourned the meeting.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: February 9, 1984

GUEST LIST

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION</u> |
|------------------|--|---------------------|
| Faura Stroupe | Box 102 LORRAINE KS | Close-Up KS |
| Sharon Moss | Box 127 Bushton, KS | Close-Up KS |
| Diana Suiter | Box 4 Lorraine, KS | Close-Up KS |
| John Rye | Topeka | KASB |
| M.D. McKinstry | TOPEKA | USA |
| Frank Shuler | Topeka | USD 437 USA. |
| Jacqueline Dakes | Yates Center | KASB |
| Paul M. Dorn | Topeka | Kan Att Gen Office |
| Lilena Sander | Hays | Close-up Kansas |
| Angela Matney | Hays | Close Up Kansas |
| Mirya Mayo | Hays | Close Up Kansas |
| Terisa McCall | Hays | Close Up Kansas |
| Gary Ryarik | Hays | Close Up Kansas |
| Jacinta Rupp | Hays | Close up Kansas |
| Fancy Lindberg | Topeka | K-NEA |
| Bob Sherman | 418 S. C Arkansas City | K-NEA |
| Craig Grant | Lawrence | K-NEA |
| Fran Raines | Winfield | K-NEA |
| Susan Davis | Winfield | K-NEA |
| Tom Scates | Winfield | K-NEA |
| Ruth Thomson | Winfield | - |
| AIVANA TAFUR | MADRID ESPAIN 3159 CARLOCK WICHITA. | K.S. - CLOSE UP |
| Kitty Dillman | Wichita | K.S. - close up |
| ERIC DEWITTE | NICE, FRANCE | KS - Close up |

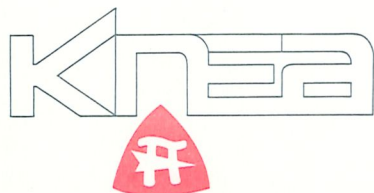
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 p.m. PLACE: 254-E DATE: February 9, 1984

GUEST LIST

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mary Mitchell | R. # Princeton, Ks 66078 | Farm Bureau |
| Dorothy Dushar | Richmond, Ks. | Farm Bureau |
| Manda E. Harman | Lawrence, Ks. | LKVK |
| Mary Elva Dimer | Topeka, Ks. | Lg. of Women Voters |
| Jessie Kering | Princeton, Ks. | Farm Bureau |
| Armeda Edwards | Ottawa | USD 290 Bd. Ed and Fr. Co Farm Bureau |
| Michelle Roberts | Desoto, Ks. | Close-Up Kansas |
| Jonathan Boyce Copeland | Desoto, Ks. | Close-Up Kansas |
| John Lloyd | Topeka, Ks. | K-NEA |
| Ken Fernandez | Topeka | K-NEA |
| Elizabeth Page | Ottawa | Farm Bureau |
| Shirley Pehel | Wichita, Ks. | Close-Up Ks. |
| Kenneth Pharis | Wichita, Ks. | Close-Up Kansas |
| Mike Turner | Manhattan, Ks. | K-State Collegian |
| Elizabeth Baker | Ottawa, Kans. | Fr. Co. Farm Bureau |
| Bertha Sylvestre | Ottawa, Kans. | " " " " |
| Pat Uining | Richmond, Ks. | " " " " |
| Jamie Smith | Topeka | K-NEA |
| Jan Patrick | DeSoto | Close-Up |
| Obra Kendrick | Mulvane, Ks. | Board of Education # 263 |
| Dorothy Duckett | El Dorado, Ks. | K-NEA 263 |
| Connie Zuer | Prairie Village, Ks. | PTA |
| Kary Jones | Prairie Village | PTA |

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bob Postus | Topeka | KSW-TV |
| Aran Raines | Winfield | KNEC |
| Judy Standley | 510 Eastview, Mulvane, Ks. 67110 | Women's Club |
| Pat Seehus | #3 Willardill Court | Women's Club |
| Virginia Headman | 319 Louis, Mulvane, Kansas 67110 | USD 263 Board Member |
| Ellen Gombrows | Topeka | Ks. Action for Children |



Testimony for Craig Grant Before
Senate Education Committee
February 9, 1984

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the committee, my name is Craig Grant and I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to SB 626.

Kansas-NEA has talked to members of this committee and, in fact, to all legislators since the start of the 1984 legislative session. Our message, I hope, has been a consistent one--give teachers a chance to negotiate for higher salaries for the 1984-85 school year. Teachers want and deserve those higher salaries and our teachers should be paid no less than the national average.

Now to the bill before us today. One would think that with our previous message we would support the concepts embodied in SB 626. This would allow districts to increase budgets by whatever amount is necessary to increase salaries. This would, in fact, give us a chance to get higher salaries for teachers by negotiating with an unlimited budget upon which we could draw.

However, now to the practical realities of the situation. The theory of equal educational opportunity has been with us for more than ten years. That theory was defined as equal expenditures per pupil. Although the equalization formula has not accomplished what we would like it to, it has not allowed further disequalization in districts to the extent that existed before its enactment. SB 626 would make it possible for "runaway disequalization" to occur again in Kansas. The concept of equalization, whether true or only hypothetical, creates a psychological barrier in districts as to what to do. Although I share with many of you the belief that local districts should take the responsibility to deal with the problem of teacher salaries instead of hiding behind budget limitations, I do not believe that districts are prepared to come to grips with the challenge. As legislators clothed with the responsibility to fund our schools, you will need to help them handle the situation. The elimination of all budget controls has a good chance to cause chaos and confusion in our districts.

continued

Attachment 1

Kansas-NEA believes that an easing of budget controls is necessary so that boards of education, by a vote of that board, can deal with the many demands placed on a district. Kansas-NEA further believes that rather than easing budget controls to the point of unlimited budget authority, constraints must be developed so that the "runaway disequalization" fears, whether true or hypothetical, can be alleviated.

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

LWVK LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KANSAS

909 Topeka Boulevard-Annex

913/354-7478

Topeka, Kansas 66612

Feb. 8, 1984

Sen. Harder and members of the Committee:

I am Marian Warriner speaking for the League of Women Voters of Kansas in opposition to SB 626.

With a no budget limit situation, we would anticipate a greater spread in budgets per pupil and in property tax levy rates in our 305 districts.

Although state money would still be distributed on an "equalized basis", the situation would not provide equal educational opportunity. The greater dependence on property tax would make a child's education more dependent on the wealth of his parents and neighbors, a violation of the Supreme Court ruling.

Second, unless the state is prepared to put substantially more money into public education, the ratio of state aid will drop and the goal of 50% state support for public school funding would drift farther and farther away.

Marian Warriner

Marian Warriner
State Finance Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of Kansas

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your Committee on Education

Recommends that Senate Bill No. 601

"AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to the offering and maintenance of educational programs thereof; amending K.S.A. 72-130, 72-1046a, 72-1103, 72-6734, 72-6757, 72-7039, 72-7047, 72-7301, 72-8301, 72-8303 and 72-8309 and K.S.A. 1983 Supp. 72-1046, 72-1106, 72-1107, 72-7033, 72-8212, 72-8213 and 72-8302 and repealing the existing sections; also repealing K.S.A. 72-6744."

Be amended:

On page 1, in line 40, by striking all after "agreement"; in line 41, by striking all before "five" and inserting in lieu thereof "may be for any term not exceeding a term of";

And the bill be passed as amended.

Chairperson