

Approved _____

2/2/89
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Cindy Empson at
Chairperson

3:30 a.m./p.m. on February 1, 1989 in room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Chairman Crumbaker, Excused
Representative Reardon, Excused
Representative Hensley, Excused
Committee staff present:
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ben Barret, Legislative Research
Dale, Dennis, Department of Education
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mr. Larry Hedges, Project Director, "Educating Kansas for the 21st Century"

The meeting was called to order by Vice chairman Empson in the absence of Chairman Crumbaker.

Vice Chairman Empson called the committee's attention to the minutes of January 11, 1989; January 23, 1989; and January 24, 1989.

It was moved by Representative Williams and seconded by Representative Pottorff that the minutes for January 11, 1989; January 23, 1989; and January 24, 1989 be approved. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Empson drew the committee's attention to a statement by the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce setting forth their resolution on School Finance. (Attachment 1)

Vice-Chairman Empson introduced Mr. Larry Hedges, Project Director of "Educating Kansas for the 21st Century".

Mr. Hedges explained the purpose of the project was to bring together citizens and educators and allow a wider range of ideas and goals to be heard in determining the structure of education for the 21st century. (Attachment 2). Mr. Hedges asked the committee to appoint representation for the proposal review meeting planned for April 14-16, at Washburn University.

A short period of questions and discussion followed Mr. Hedges' presentation.

The meeting was adjourned by the Vice Chairman at 3:52 p.m.

The next meeting will be February 2, 1989 in Room 519-S at 3:30 p.m.



SHAWNEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RESOLUTION SCHOOL FINANCE

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Shawnee Area Chamber of Commerce, representatives of the business community of the City of Shawnee, is proud of the Shawnee Mission School District, and

WHEREAS, the continuance of the tradition of excellence of educational programs for our students is a top priority on the community agenda, and

WHEREAS, such continuance is dependent on adequate and appropriate financial support, and

WHEREAS, the Shawnee Mission District has received no general state aid from the State of Kansas for several years under the current formula, and

WHEREAS, the State legislators are now considering changes in the formula this year, and

WHEREAS, such consideration appears to be untimely inasmuch as a state-wide reappraisal of property is underway, with no accurate reappraisal information to be available until March or April of next year, and

WHEREAS, there is a companion concern relative to the sufficiency of the Income Tax Rebate and the problems that would result from any reduction in that rebate,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Shawnee Area Chamber of Commerce recommends that the legislature delay any changes to the School District Equalization Act until 1990 and that the Income Tax Rebate be maintained at a minimum of 20% and preferably increased to a higher percentage.

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PRESENTATION TO HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
February 1, 1989
"EDUCATING KANSAS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY"
Larry Hedges, Project Director

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to acquaint the members of this committee with a statewide project, "Educating Kansas for the 21st Century," that began as a grassroots citizens' initiative. I will tell briefly what we plan to do, who "we" are, and what we ask of this committee.

In about ten days a large brochure, that opens into a poster, will arrive on the campuses, and in the schools and communities of the state. It will say, essentially this:

There will be a unique statewide conference this September 14-16. It will bring together a cross-section of several hundred educators, policy-makers, community leaders, some students, and citizens--young and old, rural and urban, and leaders of our communities--towns, plus professional, ethnic, interest group, academic specialty.

The brochure will say that the agenda will be a serious, long-term, values-based discussion and debate about what fundamental goals, assumptions and priorities in education should guide Kansas into the next century. There'll be this kind of stocktaking: What do we really seek from education? Why? What do we mean by education today? What are our hopes, for our children and grandchildren, our communities and state? What choices, and habits, will take us closer to those hopes, or further away from them? How should education be restructured? Why?

This brochure will also say that the presentations at the conference will be edited into a proceedings, and into a series of articles for Kansas newspapers. And that during the 1989-1990 school year, there are plans to use ideas and speakers from the conference to help local communities and schools have local forums and inservice.

The brochure will offer a rationale, list topics and key questions, and announce this: Dear, fellow Kansan. A unique statewide conversation about education and our future--across regions, institutions, jurisdictions and curricula--is about to begin. Send in, by April 7, a proposal for a paper you'd like to present, to help set the terms for discussion--at the conference, through publications and in local programming.

We are filling out a statewide panel to review the proposals April 14-16, and thereby determine which should be developed into presentations. Once this creates a skeleton of topics and speakers, panels will be fleshed out with appropriate panelists, in the spirit of the project.

Our panel will include school teachers and administrators, college professors and officers, school board members, business and civic leaders, a newspaper editor, and the Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, among others.

We want this project to be not just another conference. We want it to be a catalyst, to have a ripple effect apart from the conference

*Attachment 2
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it. We want it to be genuinely useful to deliberations, debate and decision-making in education policy. We want it to serve as an honest broker, bringing representatives of the diverse stakeholders in education to the round table of discussion.

We want to broaden participation of citizens and educators in the policy process, and to enable policy-makers to hear, in a way that might not otherwise be possible, the ideas, hopes and concerns of citizens and educators, and to be able to engage in dialog.

Our project recognizes that the political process requires that you grapple with education issues in certain ways, and that you receive input from the parties at interest in light of the way you must deal with those issues: among other issues, you grapple with funding levels, funding strategies, governing structures and policies. With changes in technology and society these issues get complicated, harder for citizens to participate with you in, and for you to hear them, and be able to question them.

When you think about it, these questions are about educational means--ways and means, we call it. Our project recognizes these are necessarily the way you must spend your limited time, given the press of other business always competing for your attention. I hope you will not think us presumtuous in offering the possibility that the most fundamental questions about education are the very hardest to find the time and the forum to think and talk about in public life: the goals, for learners and society, that we're educating toward, the values and assumptions they're based on, and how best to accomplish the those goals.

We ask this committee to appoint representation for our proposal review meeting, this April 14-16, at Washburn University. To consult with us as we flesh out the conference panels, and draw the cross-section of Kansas policy-makers, educators, scholars, community leaders. To help us relate the ideas and the process to real issues and concerns, through publications and local forums and school inservice.

Our hope is that the education committees--House, Senate and Legislative Planning--will work with us, through designees, to see that the project is helpful to your work and to institutions and communities.

Our project is sponsored by the University of Kansas, Kansas Chapter of the National Education Association, Southwestern Bell Telephone, and the Kansas Citizens' Forum, a nonprofit, tax exempt, nonpartisan organization formed in 1987 to organize such forums and programs. The three programs of KU involved help demonstrate our approach. The School of Education, the Division of Continuing Education, and the Hall Center for the Humanities. The Kansas Committee for the Humanities, which brought you Carrie Nation a short time ago, has given us a generous grant to get us started.

Many of you will remember reading or hearing about a conference, in December 1987, in Topeka, entitled "Kansas Habits, Kansas Hopes." That was our first poject, and this is our second. The sponsoring groups are providing mostly inkind support. We are raising the remainder from individuals and organizations in the state.

I'll stop here, and answer any questions I can, except to say that I hope you'll agree to work with us, and help make our project, our process useful and positive for the future of Kansas.

A-2-2
2/1/89