

Approved

2-20-90

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Don E. Crumbaker at
Chairperson

3:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on February 15, 1990 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Lowther, excused

Committee staff present:

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Dale Dennis, Department of Education
Thelma Canaday, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Ken Grotewiel

Dr. Robert Haderlein, Chairman, Southeast Kansas Regional Service Center

Dr. John Battitori, Superintendent, USD #248, Girard

Dr. Jack Reed, Superintendent, USD #445, Coffeyville

Dr. Dennis Thompson, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, Superintendent, USD #507

Ms. Janet Loeppke, Board Member, USD #215, Lakin; Board member, Southwest Plains Regional
Service Center; Board Member, High Plains Educational Coop

Representative Bowden

Representative Wagnon

Ms. Kay Meadows, President of School Board, USD #501

Representative Sebelius

Mr. James Lambert, Superintendent, USD #235, Uniontown

Dr. Bill Biggs Superintendent, USD #246, Arma

Mr. Steve Guy, School board member, USD #363, Holcomb; President, High Plains Educational
Coop; Board member, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center

Ms. Jennie West, Principal, USD #209, Moscow High School

Chairman Crumbaker opened the meeting by giving a welcome to all those present for this historic committee meeting using two-way interaction video.

The chairman recognized the following sponsors who made today's presentation possible:

AT&T

Centrex Audiovisual Systems - Topeka

Craw-Kan Telephone - Girard

Kansas Department of Administration, Division of Information Systems and Communications

Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation - Topeka (Kansas Telecommunications Consortium)

Mid-America Association for Computers in Education (MACE)

Pioneer Telephone - Ulysses

Southeast Kansas Education Service Center - Girard

Southwest Plains Regional Service Center - Sublette

Southwestern Bell Telephone

Compression Labs, Inc. - San Jose, California

Grass Valley Group - Grass Valley, California

Kansas State Board of Education

Elkhart Independent Telephone Company

Chairman Crumbaker explained the format for the meeting. The chairman said two bills would be heard, HB 2813 and HB 2818. As each bill is considered the sponsor of the bill would explain the bill, then the interlocal in Southeast Kansas would have opportunity to give input on the bill, followed by the interlocal in Southwest Kansas. Monitors located at the front of the room gave everyone in the hearing room the opportunity to both see and hear the testimony given from these two locations.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION,

room 313-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on February 15, 1990.

Chairman Crumbaker called the meeting to order and called on Representative Ken Grotewiel to explain HB 2813, concerning school districts and the maintenance and teaching of preschool and kindergarten.

Representative Grotewiel said more and more programs are being put into the schools and yet the public feels there is a lack of performance. Representative Grotewiel pointed out education for 3-4 year olds is important to give children the ability to think and adapt to their environment. Representative Grotewiel said it has been established that children who have been through preschool get along better in school. Representative Grotewiel said we need to accept the reality of one-parent households and become involved in developing the social and language skills of preschoolers.

Representative Grotewiel urged the committee to act favorably on HB 2813.

Chairman Crumbaker through electronic technology switched to Southeast Kansas and introduced Dr. Robert Haderlein, Chairman of the Southeast Kansas Regional Service Center.

Dr. Haderlein responded with gratitude for being part of this historic meeting and called on their first presenter, Dr. John Battitori.

Dr. Battitori said he supports the concept of preschool public education but is concerned about the time line outlined in HB 2813 and feels it would overwhelm many school districts. Dr. Battitori pointed out funding is another concern as there would be need for additional facilities as well as more staff and materials. Dr. Battitori opposed HB 2813 even though he supported the concept.

Dr. Jack Reed spoke against HB 2813. Dr. Reed said much research has been done on early education. Dr. Reed said the Coffeyville Schools have tried the all day kindergarten program but have abandoned the program. Dr. Reed said it was too expensive a program for the public schools to provide care and nurturing for \$150.00 a day when the same care could be obtained at \$30-40 a day in private facilities.

Chairman Crumbaker called on Superintendent Dennis Thompson from the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center. Dr. Thompson introduced Ms. Janet Loeppke to speak on HB 2813.

Ms. Loeppke testified against HB 2813. Ms. Loeppke feels the mandate in HB 2813 is an infringement on parental rights and responsibilities and takes away their freedom of choice of when their children can begin school. Ms. Loeppke believes the family unit should be left intact and children should be left with the freedoms of childhood rather than being put in situations of pressure to succeed. Ms. Loeppke feels the schools have sufficient mandates to follow at the present time without adding more.

Representative Bowden responded to the comments made by the conferees in Southeast Kansas. Representative Bowden said the authors of HB 2813 planned to offer amendments which would remove the mandate feature from the bill. Representative Bowden said the changing world in which we live demands serious decisions about the needs of our children as we approach the 21st century.

Hearings on HB 2813 were closed by Chairman Crumbaker.

The chairman opened hearings on HB 2818, concerning school districts and relating to prohibiting the infliction of corporal punishment upon pupils.

Representative Wagon spoke in favor of HB 2818. Representative Wagon said she had been involved in the YWCA for many years setting up programs to provide education for families with problems where physical abuse has occurred. Representative Wagon said laws have been passed that prohibit use of corporal punishment in day care centers and other areas to protect children. Representative Wagon asked that a standard be set across the state that children are not for hitting.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Ms. Kay Meadows testified in favor of HB 2818. Ms. Meadows said teachers are required by law to report evidence of abuse of children and it seems contradictory to allow spanking as a form of discipline in the school. Ms. Meadows believes it is essential that children receive an education in an atmosphere where they welcome the challenge of education rather than an atmosphere of fear and intimidation.

Representative Sebelius spoke in favor of HB 2818. Representative Sebelius said this bill is not a new idea but is modeled after a North Dakota law and 19 states have similar legislation on their books. Representative Sebelius said the top twenty schools in Kansas, population wise, have already taken action to ban corporal punishment. Representative Sebelius said there are more appropriate methods of discipline in the schools than the use of corporal punishment.

Chairman Crumbaker switched to Southeast Kansas and asked Dr. Haderlein to introduce the next speaker.

Dr. Haderline introduced Superintendent Tim Lambert from USD #235.

Mr. Lambert said his school system decided to retain the policy of corporal punishment and use it only after other measures have been tried. Mr. Lambert said corporal punishment is used an average of three times a year and there have been no complaints from parents. Mr. Lambert said he believes corporal punishment can be used as an effective last resort policy. He asked the committee to consider HB 2818 unfavorably.

Dr. Bill Biggs testified in support of HB 2818. Dr. Biggs said his school tries to use good practical alternatives to corporal punishment such as caring procedures instigated by teachers, at-risk programs, and more counselor intervention. Dr. Biggs pointed out corporal punishment sends the message "might makes right". Dr. Biggs asked the committee to consider HB 2818 favorably.

The chairman called on Coordinator Dennis Thompson in Southwest Kansas for the next conferee. Mr. Thompson introduced Mr. Steve Guy, school board member of USD #363.

Mr. Guy testified against HB 2818. Mr. Guy said spankings were performed under very controlled conditions and parents are advised corporal punishment is being used at the school. Mr. Guy believes corporal punishment is a deterrent to unacceptable behaviour.

Ms. Jennie West said her district does not use corporal punishment. Ms. West said while she agrees with HB 2818 she feels this is an option that should be left to local districts as they will have to defend them. Ms. West said in her experience corporal punishment served as a humiliation rather than a deterrent.

A short period of questions followed the presentations.

The chairman concluded the hearings on HB 2818.

Chairman Crumbaker again thanked all those who had made today's meeting possible. The chairman gave special recognition to Mr. Dale Dennis, Assistant Commissioner of Education and Dr. Lee Droegmiller, Commissioner of Education.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Crumbaker.

The next meeting will be February 19, 1990 in Room 519-S at 3:30 p.m.