

Approved: March 19, 1992
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rick Bowden at 3:30 p.m. on March 18, 1992 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bill Reardon - Excused
Representative Bruce Larkin - Excused
Representative Anthony Hensley - Excused

Committee staff present:

Dale Dennis, Board of Education
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes Office
Shirley Wilds, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Bob Severance, Director, North Central KS Area Vo-Tech School
Mark Tallman - KASB
Gerald Henderson - USA

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rick Bowden.

Chairman Bowden announced a change in the agenda for Thursday of this week. House Bill 2922 will be held over and heard at next Tuesday's committee meeting (March 24); and next week Thursday, March 26, a report from the State Board of Regents is scheduled regarding regents center and student tuitions.

Chairman Bowden also announced that the committee will work previous bills at tomorrow's meeting.

Hearing on SCR 1631:

Connie Hubbell. In written testimony, Ms. Hubbell listed the goals set out in SCR 1631 for Kansas public education. She states in order for the State Board to realize all planned endeavors, increased appropriations will be necessary to unified school districts, postsecondary and vocational institutions. She said the State Board recommends SCR 1631 be passed favorably, with appropriate revenues. (See Attachment #1.)

Mark Tallman. Mr. Tallman said SCR 1631 was developed by KASB as part of their "Quest for Quality" program and believes the resolution should be approved as a companion to the school reform elements in HB 2892. In addition, Mr. Tallman said the resolution would also serve as a starting point for the Commission on Education Restructuring and Accountability. (See Attachment #2.)

Gerald Henderson. Mr. Henderson said USA encourages the committee to accept the SCR 1631 as amended by the Senate, and then recommend its adoption, and brings into alignment the goals of America 2000 and Kansas 2000. (See Attachment #3.)

Hearing on SB 731:

Dr. Robert Severance. Dr. Severance appeared in support of SB 731, and said the bill is permissive legislation to offer a type II AVTS (that has no bonded indebtedness capability) and alternative method of financing. In addition, he said the bill is a "clean-up" bill and there are no tax dollars involved. (See Attachment #4.)

Representative Crumbaker made a motion to pass SB 731 favorably and to be placed on the Consent Calendar; seconded by Representative Jones. Motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting is March 19, 1992, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 519-S, Statehouse.

Upon completion of its business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Kansas State Board of Education

120 S.E. 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

March 18, 1992

TO: House Education Committee

FROM: State Board of Education

SUBJECT: 1992 Senate Concurrent Resolution 1631

My name is Connie Hubbell, Legislative Coordinator of the State Board of Education. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before this Committee on behalf of the State Board.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1631 sets out the goals for Kansas public education as follows:

- (1) Assist families in early childhood education and school preparation, in family involvement in the educational process, and in providing basic services for young children;
- (2) To provide all students with strong competencies in fundamental skills, especially communications, mathematics and problem solving;
- (3) To prepare students for success in postsecondary education and employment, including college, vocational and on-the-job training;
- (4) To provide a safe, orderly learning environment for all students; and
- (5) To involve the entire community in the education system.

As a result of these goals, the Legislature requests the State Board of Education to collect and disseminate information and provide support to local school districts regarding the following indicators of progress toward attainment of the state goals: (1) school readiness, (2) student competencies, (3) postsecondary and vocational preparation, (4) safe learning environment, and (5) community involvement.

The State Board of Education supports all of these goals as well as the collection and dissemination of information to assist local unified school districts. This would have to be done in light of appropriations made available. For example, there is only one (1) staff person in the agency that serves as an advisor in mathematics.

Dale M. Dennis
Deputy/Assistant Commissioner
Division of Fiscal Services and Quality Control
(913) 296-3871

Education
Attachment #1
3/18/92



Testimony on S.C.R. 1631
before the
House Committee on Education

by

Mark Tallman, Coordinator of Governmental Relations
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 18, 1992

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

KASB proposed S.C.R. 1631 because we believe Kansas cannot make meaningful progress on education improvement and establish real public accountability until we reach a consensus on what we expect from schools and how we will measure progress.

This resolution was developed by KASB as part of our "Quest for Quality" program. It was designed to encompass (1) the national goals developed by President Bush and the governors, which are the foundation of the national America 2000 strategy, (2) the direction of the State Board of Education's Quality Performance Accreditation plan, and (3) many ideas embraced by various interim legislative committees and national educational improvement reports.

As the resolution was drafted, we proposed five goals similar but not identical to the national education goals. Following suggestions in the Senate Education Committee from other education organizations, we proposed including the actual national education goals in the resolution.

*Education
Attachment #2
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The resolution then lists five specific strategies to achieve those goals. For each strategy, at least one performance indicator is presented to measure progress on that goal. Each indicator has been selected because it will be required under Quality Performance Accreditation, or can be drawn from readily available data. For example, several indicators are based on the State Board's new mathematics test, which was implemented last year, and the new communications test, which will begin next year.

The resolution also endorses continued development of Quality Performance Accreditation based on high standards for all students and calls on the State Board to develop meaningful sanctions for schools and districts that fail to achieve those outcomes. Finally, it calls for annual reports on progress toward meeting the state goals.

KASB urges the adoption of state education goals for the following reasons:

We believe that state efforts at educational improvement must begin with an agreement on what educational improvement means, and how to measure it. We think you have already endorsed this same concept by including outcomes in the House school finance bill.

Once goals and performance indicators are adopted, school boards, administrators and teachers will understand clearly what is expected, how priorities must be established, and how progress will be measured.

Such goals will provide parents, school district patrons and the state electorate at large with an easily understandable "report card" on the school districts' performance. Districts which fail to meet high standards will be more accountable to both their own patrons and to state government.

Attach[#] 2-2

In fact, the major difference between these goals and the Q.P.A. outcomes you included in H.B. 2892 is simply our desire to make the outcomes more understandable to the public.

Note that these indicators are based on showing improvement. We have not suggested "benchmark" levels of performance for several reasons. First, in most categories we do not yet have the data to determine what benchmark standards are appropriate. Second, school districts serve vastly different student populations. Setting state benchmarks too high may penalize some districts in the short run; setting them too low may allow complacency. Third, we believe that all districts can and should improve, no matter what the current level of performance.

KASB believes that a system of state goals, outcomes-based accreditation standards, and appropriate enforcement sanctions is the most meaningful program for educational improvement. Such a system will require school boards, administrators and teachers to develop strategies that work for them, rather than have piecemeal reform concepts imposed by the state. It will hold them accountable for improving the qualities of their graduates, better preparing them for the workplace or postsecondary education.

We believe this resolution should be approved as a companion to the school reform elements in H.B. 2892. It would also serve as a starting point for the Commission on Education Restructuring and Accountability already passed by the House. It will focus attention on the important issues of school improvement and accountability.

Thank you for your consideration.

Attach # 2-3



SCR 1631

March 18, 1992

Testimony presented before the House Committee on Education
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director
United School Administrators of Kansas

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas appreciates the opportunity to rise in support of SCR 1631. We support the amendments made in the Senate which brings this bill in alignment with the goals of America 2000 and Kansas 2000. Our suggestion to the Senate Education Committee was that we all need to be working toward the same general goals so that all concerned can be about the same task, improving Kansas schools.

As you are well aware, the Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) program now underway in Kansas schools has as a major component the establishment of mission statements and goals for each school district and for each school building. All of this is directed at answering the question we have been talking about for some time, "What do we want Kansas kids to know, be able to do, and in fact be like when they complete our programs?" The QPA process is getting us ever closer to an agreed upon answer to that question.

We would encourage the committee to accept the resolution as amended by the Senate, and then to recommend its adoption.

GWHLEG/SCR1631

*Education
Attachment #3*

#4

SENATE BILL # 731

March 18, 1992 - 3:30 p.m.
Room 519 - South

Dr. Robert Severance, Director
North Central Kansas Area Vo-Tech School
Beloit-Hays-Norton

History of Original Legislation

- - Was originally designed for NWK-AVTS-Goodland
 - - Representative Don Crumbaker
 - - Student Union and Student Housing
- - Was utilized by NCK-AVTS Beloit
 - - Student Housing
 - - Student Union

Reason to Amend Present Statute

- - NCK-AVTS wants to refinance present bond issue on Student Union and student housing.
- - NCK-AVTS wants to make an addition to student union and continue capability to expand student housing.
- - Population numbers in both Sherman and Mitchell Counties have diminished below 7,250 - 9,000 level.
- - Suggested that population numbers be dropped and specific Vo-Tech Schools to be affected to be named specifically to avoid future changes.
- - None of other AVTS's indicated interest in this bill.
- - No other changes in original legislation.

Summary

- - Bill is permissive legislation to offer a type II AVTS (that has no bonded indebtedness capability) an alternative method of financing.
- - This bill is a "clean up" piece of legislation
- - No tax dollars involved.

Questions and Suggestions

*Education
Attachment #4
3/18/92*