

Approved: 1-31-95
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kenneth King at 1:30 p.m. on January 26, 1995 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Dennis McKinney, excused
Representative Vaughn Flora, excused

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Ellie Luthye, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dale Dennis, Ass't. Commissioner, Department of Education
Lt. Sam Grant, Kansas Highway Patrol

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman King called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

The Chair recognized Dale Dennis, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Education, to give an update on the transition of the school bus safety program from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Education. Mr. Dennis stated the transfer was recommended by the Secretary of Transportation to bring the State of Kansas in line with most other state departments of education which currently oversee school bus transportation. He cited some of the programs in place to promote safe riding practices and also some of the tools available. (Attachment 1)

Mr. Dennis then stood for questions. Chairman King asked if the current law requires all buses over 12 years of age to be replaced. Mr. Dennis alluded to KSA 8-2009a which states buses that were owned prior to the law taking effect would be exempt until July, 1998.

The Chair next called on Lt. Sam Grant from the Kansas Highway Patrol who gave a report on the inspections and what areas of the buses are carefully inspected.

Chairman King adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 1995.

Kansas State Board of Education

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

January 26, 1995

TO: House Transportation Committee

FROM: Dale M. Dennis, Asst. Commissioner
Division of Fiscal Services and Quality Control

SUBJECT: School Bus Safety Education Unit

My purpose in appearing before you today is to review the transfer of the School Bus Safety Education Unit from the Kansas Department of Transportation to the Kansas State Board of Education which became effective July 1, 1994.

The transfer was recommended by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation to bring the State of Kansas in line with most other state departments of education which currently oversee school bus transportation. We have received input from school district personnel that information concerning school transportation is now reaching them sooner. One of the methods of disseminating information to districts is a weekly newsletter which includes a section dealing with transportation issues.

The school bus safety team consisting of a supervisor and two trainers attended the Kansas State Fair last September. Their purpose was to promote safe riding practices with the aid of a miniature robotic school bus named Buster. Over 67,000 people observed Buster while at the fair and another 10,860 school children participated in the Buster Bus program in their schools. As required by state regulation, the school bus safety team also provides:

1. Monthly bus driver safety meetings including
 - a. smoking the school bus with a theatrical fogger
 - b. evacuation drills to drivers;
2. Evacuation drill demonstrations to students;
3. First aid and CPR classes;
4. Driver improvement classes; and
5. Annual recertification defensive driving classes.

(over)

Dale M. Dennis
Deputy/Assistant Commissioner
Division of Fiscal Services and Quality Control
(913) 296-3871
Fax No. (913) 296-7933

House Transportation Committee
January 26, 1995
Attachment 1

This unit, with a secretary, maintains a video library covering the following areas.

1. Safe driving practices
2. Driver education
3. School bus driver training
4. Defensive driving
5. Safe bicycle riding
6. Pedestrian safety
7. Seat belts
8. Drinking and driving
9. Special education

Kansas also provides annually a national survey on fatalities in the school bus loading and unloading area.

An advisory committee was organized to assist in making regulation and statute changes and provide input to the department on school bus issues. This committee consists of various individuals across the state.

Superintendents:

L. D. Curran, Altamont
Jim Lambert, Uniontown
Bill Muckenthaler, Argonia
Howard Shuler, Auburn-Washburn
Don Hague, Hoxie
Duane Rankin, Cimarron
Ron Wimmer, Olathe

Special Education

Director:

Roger Allen, Salina

Interlocal Directors:

Jack Reed, Oakley

Business Managers:

Jerry Primm, Rose Hill
Rex Lorenz, Emporia

Transportation Directors:

Ed Lignitz, Auburn-Washburn
Mike O'Bryan, Uniontown
Jim Helton, Syracuse
Barbara Pringle, Emporia

Kansas Highway Patrol:

Lt. Sam Grant or Sgt. Terry Maple

The one area of concern we have is the current funding level of the school bus safety team. The overwhelming response of the Buster Bus program and failure to identify several operating costs of this program when the unit was transferred have resulted in some financial shortfalls.