

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:30 a.m. on January 24, 1995 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Oleen

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Brenda Dunlap, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Connie Hubble, State Board of Education
Kathleen White, State Board of Education
Lee Droegemueller, Commissioner of Education

Others attending: See attached list

Kathleen White, State Board of Education, stated that the most important goal of QPA is student academic achievement, and that the Board of Education has revised QPA to reflect this. In addition the paperwork and time involved to collect data have been addressed and modified as much as possible. However, she emphasized that the time commitment and the amount of paperwork is greatest in the first two years of implementing the program. After the program has been implemented, only updating of data is necessary and the time commitment and paperwork is greatly reduced. In addition, to help schools facilitate the communication of data, computer software will be provided to all USDs at no charge to help them collect QPA data and transmit it back to the State Board of Education.

Commissioner Droegemueller stated that the test driven curriculum has been created and revised to better meet business and industry needs as employers have requested that students be better prepared to enter the work force after graduation. He also stated that one of the positive outcomes of the assessment tests is the ability to identify students who are testing poorly and are at risk such as African American and Hispanic students. Then resources can be directly focused on those students to give them extra attention and assistance to facilitate improvement in their learning and testing.

Senator Downey stated she was concerned about the assessment tests being the only measure for accreditation. Connie Hubble assured her that assessment tests are only one portion of the guidelines used to determine accreditation. She continued saying the State Board of Education feels accreditation is an important way to show the public the Board is accountable to them for the funds being spent on education.

There was discussion between the panel and the committee members of mastery and retesting, and outcome based education being mandated at the state level. Kathleen White assured the committee that these programs are selected on a local level and are not mandated by the State Board. In fact, the State Board is not mandating any specific program to achieve the higher standards. All program selections are to be made at the local level. There was also discussion regarding sex and AIDS education programs in the schools. Ms. White stated the State Board asks local schools to provide some sort of program, provides a list of suggested resources to help them develop a program, but does not mandate any specific program. She also indicated that the State Board does approve and would not object to local schools having only an abstinence based sex education program. The final topic of discussion was the goals developed by the local schools targeting the areas they wanted to work on as directed by the QPA guidelines. Many teachers devoted a great deal of time and effort to develop their local goals, and felt when the outside review teams came in to review the goals, and discarded the goals for other State mandated goals, that all their time and effort had been wasted. Ms. White stated only math and reading are required to be included in the goals, and the outside teams were not being instructed to throw out local goals in favor of State goals. The outside teams are intended to help the local schools achieve their goals and to determine that continuous improvement is occurring.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 1995.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 1-24-95

| NAME | REPRESENTING |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Deanna Bennett | Wichita Eagle |
| David Brower | KASB |
| Jim Allen | KFLC |
| Lee Swallow | KSBE |
| Robin Lehman | Olathe District Schools |
| Craig Shove | KSBE |
| Sharon Frieden | KSBE |
| Bill Musick | S + Bd of Ed |
| Marsha Strahm | CWA |
| Sister Mary Stanislaus Porter | St. John's School - Beloit |
| Kathryn Eisler | Beloit, KS. |
| Judy Lutz | Minneapolis, KS |
| Peg Dunlap | KNEA |
| GREG HANSEN | INTERN - SEN. HARRINGTON |
| Jim McDAVITT | Ks Education Watch |
| Paul Davis | Sen. Hawley |
| Diane Gierstad | USD 259 |
| Susan Chase | KNEA |
| Kathy Sexton | Div. of Budget |
| Craig Grant | KNEA |