

Approved: 2/14/96
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Mason at 3:30 p.m. on January 29, 1996 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: John Ballou (excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Sherman Jones
Karen Lowery, Kansas Association of School Boards
Susan Chase, Kansas National Education Association (by letter)

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Mason opened the hearing on SCR 1612 - concerning curriculum about African Americans.

Senator Sherman Jones appeared in support of his Senate Concurrent Resolution, **SCR 1612** (Attachment 1). He related his educational experience in which African American input to Kansas development was not studied. This resolution encourages the State Board of Education to include Kansas African American achievements in their curriculum. Senator Jones recommended the resolution be amended to include enrolled copies of this resolution to be distributed to only the Commissioner of Education and the Board of Education.

Karen Lowery, Coordinator of Governmental Relations-Kansas Association of School Boards spoke in support of **SCR 1612** (Attachment 2) and Susan Chase, Kansas National Education Association presented a letter (Attachment 3) in support of **SCR 1612**.

Chairman Mason, seeing no other proponents or opponents for **SCR 1612**, closed the hearing.

Representative Shore moved that Senator Jones amendment be passed favorably (strike additional organizations from line 32 to line 37). Representative Morrison seconded. Avis Swartzman suggested line 13 be amended from "is" to "was" because of the time lapse between the writing of the resolution and passage. This was added to the original amendment at the concurrence of those making the motion. Motion carried.

Representative Ballard moved that SCR 1612 be passed as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Shore. Motion carried.

Final action on SB 325 - concerning the state educational institutions, providing for payment by certain persons of fees at resident rates. Avis Swartzman suggested the bill be updated to change 1994 entries to 1995.

Representative Reardon moved the technical changes be accepted and passed and the motion was seconded by Representative Horst. Motion carried.

Representative Horst moved SB 325 be passed favorably and Representative Morrison seconded. Motion carried.

No other business or announcements were offered.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 1996.

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CHAIRMAN LEGIS. BLACK CAUCUS

**Testimony by Senator Sherman Jones
House Education Committee
Monday, 1-29-96**

Mr. Chairman and members of the House education committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to make comments on SCR 1612. I have always been a strong advocate of education at all levels. As a high school student, my highest level of achievement was in geography and history. Both subjects offered great questions for me to ponder. Geography allowed me to wonder about far away places, the peoples who lived there, their cultures and how they were different than me - History asked a much greater question --- who did what, where, when and why they did it. As a youngster, my exposure to national and state history was from books that were handed down to my school by the majority Board of Education. As I got older and moved to a more liberal and open society, I started learning that american history took on a new appearance. Many persons had impacted our nation's development that I knew nothing about, and felt that I should have had that information as a 10th grader in high school.

State history enlightenment is even more eye opening and revealing. My home state is two hundred years older than Kansas, obviously, I became strongly interested in certain areas of the historical development of my adopted state. It seems that I learn a little more each year how African Americans have played an important role in Kansas development hence the history of this state is sprinkled with African American input. It should be taught in our state school systems as the truth and facts of this state's development.

Many people, worldwide, know something about the 1954 Brown vs. Board

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Attachment 1

of Education case that dramatically changed our public education system in this country - But very few even in Kansas, know who the person was that argued the case in Topeka - few know that the first African American female lawyer in America was a Kansan.

To request the State Board of Education to encourage local boards and schools to include Kansas African American achievements in their curriculum is not a mandate by any means, but a reminder that many achieved and we should take note and report it properly and truthfully.

Thank you.



TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Karen Lowery, Coordinator of Governmental Relations
DATE: January 29, 1996

RE: Statement on S.C.R. 1612

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of S.C.R. 1612. The resolution encourages the State Board of Education to make available to school expanded curricular offerings regarding the contributions made to Kansas history by African-Americans.

The Kansas Association of School Boards supports furthering the awareness of the contributions of Kansans of African descent. With new awareness, the education of all Kansas school children will be enriched. We also believe a much greater understanding and appreciation of the state's history and the role that many African-Americans played in the development of the state will result from passage of this resolution.

KASB supports this resolution and stands willing to work with the State Board of Education to ensure its fulfillment. Thank you.

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Attachment 2



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 W. 10TH STREET / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Susan Chase
Written Testimony before
House Education Committee
January 29, 1996

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to provide this written testimony on SCR 1612. The Kansas National Education Association and the National Education Association have a long standing history of support for programs and curricula that create an awareness of the contributions of minorities in the growth and development of this state and this country. KNEA currently has a resolution which states that educators must be involved in the implementation of programs for minority students "which promote both the preservation of their cultural heritage and their role as participants in the U.S. society." NEA's resolution states "The Association supports efforts that provide for dissemination of information and programs that include the values, heritage, language, culture, and history of the Black American; and celebration of Black History Month as a means of acknowledging the contribution of Black Americans to the history and development of these United States."

We strongly feel that all students must be provided information on the contributions of minorities to the progress of this state. Unfortunately in the past many of these contributions have been overlooked. Therefore, as educators we believe it is necessary to make a conscious effort to include the contributions of all people that make up the United States.

We applaud this body for recognizing the need for this effort and strongly support the measure you have before you.

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Attachment 3