

Approved: March 21, 1996
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 1:30 p.m. on February 22, 1996 in Room 526-s of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Sue Chase, KNEA
Jacque Oakes, Schools for Quality Education

Others attending: See attached list

SB 606: Authorizing the establishment of state charter schools

Sue Chase addressed the committee as an opponent of **SB 606**. KNEA's concerns with **SB 606** is that it creates a whole new statute and system for charter schools instead of fixing the current system. KNEA understands that problems exist in the current charter school statute, but believe that changes can be made to the current system to address the needs expressed by the proponents of the bill. Representative Lowther has introduced a bill (**HB 2915**) in the house which makes changes in the current statute that address the concerns raised by the proponents of **SB 606**. KNEA supports the changes made in **HB 2915** and would be open to other modifications, if necessary, to address concerns raised by people who have attempted to charter schools (**Attachment 1**).

Jacque Oakes addressed the committee as an opponent of **SB 606**. She stated that Schools for Quality Education have a legislative policy opposing the operation of a charter school independently in a school district without that school being under the jurisdiction or the legal responsibility of the local board of education. Schools for Quality Education believe that school board members are elected and obligated to be answerable and accountable for their own particular school district and to the voters who reside there. Those voters have elected those school board members in order to have local control over their own schools. Charter schools, as written in **SB 606**, would certainly take away local control (**Attachment 2**).

The committee held further discussion.

Senator Walker made a motion to delete Sec. 5, except (c) and (e) in **SB 606**. Senator Kerr seconded the motion. The motion is on hold.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 1996.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 22, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
Diane Gjerstad	USD 259 - Wichita
Karen Frieberg	AFB
Jacquie Dabbs	SDE
Susan Porter	mtm
Onum Burne A	USD 301#
Harold Pitts	OBSERVE
Pam Ulmer	OBSERVE - Leadership Olathe
Wendy Gordon	Leadership Olathe
Berny Hawley	Leadership Olathe
Judith Hoonen	Leadership Olathe
Charles Vinhole	Leadership Olathe
Karen Sparks	DOB
Rosin Lukon	Olathe USD 233
Gerald Anderson	USA of KS
Glenda Ryan	Concerned Women for America
Duce Soden	Kansas NEA
Carl Oswald	LEADERSHIP OLATHE
DENNIS LINOSEY	" "
Melba Hise	KACC



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

Susan Chase Testimony Before
Senate Education Committee
Wednesday, February 21, 1996

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the committee for allowing me to address this committee on SB 606 on behalf of the Kansas National Education Association. We have signed up to speak in opposition to this bill, but we are not opposed to the concept of charter schools. In fact, NEA is in the process of assisting its members in the development of charter schools in Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, and Wisconsin. These projects will be the basis of a five-year research project in the area of Charter Schools by the National Education Association.

Our concern with SB 606 is that it creates a whole new statute and system for charter schools instead of fixing the current system. We understand that problems exist in the current charter school statute, but we believe that changes can be made to the current system to address the needs expressed by the proponents of this bill. Would it not be better to modify the current system and give it a chance to work before creating a new one? Representative Lowther has introduced a bill (HB 2915) in the house which makes changes in the current statute that address the concerns raised by the proponents of SB 606. We support the changes made in HB 2915 and would be open to other modifications, if necessary, to address concerns raised by people who have attempted to charter schools.

Many of our members do not see the need for charter schools. In Kansas, many of our members are participating in the innovations that have been alluded to in connection with charter schools without the need for the chartering process. We have many examples of districts, school boards, administrators, communities and teachers who are willing to make adjustments in the teaching and learning that takes place in order to better the education of their children. We are also aware of other examples where our members have not been able to make changes they believe are beneficial for the learning of their students. Therefore, we ask that you examine very carefully any changes made to the system of charter schools in this state. We have a very good system of education in this state and we would not want actions taken to jeopardize the good that is currently happening.

We ask the committee to consider changes to the current Charter School Law that would facilitate those who have a need to work outside the school district and not create another system of charter schools.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Senate Education

2-22-96

Attachment 1



Schools for Quality Education

Bluemont Hall Manhattan, KS 66506 (913) 532-5886

February 21, 1996

TO: SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: SB 606--authorizing the establishment of state charter schools.

FROM: SCHOOLS FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am Jacque Oakes representing Schools For Quality Education, an organization of 105 small school districts.

We appear in opposition to SB 606 which would establish state charter schools.

Our organization has a legislative policy opposing the operation of a charter school independently in a school district without that school being under the jurisdiction or the legal responsibility of the local board of education.

We believe that school board members are elected and obligated to be answerable and accountable for their own particular school district and to the voters who reside there. Those voters have elected those school board members in order to have local control over their own schools. Charter schools, as written in SB 606, would certainly take away local control.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senate Education
2-22-96

Attachment 2

"Rural is Quality"
