

Approved: May 2, 1996  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Senator Dave Kerr at 1:30 p.m. on March 11, 1996 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Tim Emert  
Senator Nancy Harrington  
Senator Barbara Lawrence  
Senator Lana Oleen

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mark Tallman, KASB  
Gerry Henderson, USA  
Sue Chase, KNEA

Others attending: See attached list

**SB 725: Kansas council on the future of postsecondary education**

The committee held little discussion on **SB 725**.

Senator Langworthy made a motion to pass SB 725. Senator Downey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**SB 729: Relating to short term suspension of pupils from school**

Mark Tallman addressed the committee as a proponent of **SB 729**. This bill would allow school personnel more flexibility to remove dangerous or disruptive students from the classroom, helping to achieve safer, more orderly schools. Second, by lengthening the maximum short-term suspension from five to ten school days, Kansas would be consistent with federal special education law, which allows for ten day suspensions. Under current law, if Kansas educators believe a special education student should be suspended for those ten days, they must go through the procedure for a long term suspension. KASB urged the committee to pass **SB 729** (Attachment 1).

Gerry Henderson addressed the committee as a proponent of SB 729. He stated that USA supports the change in statues which will bring Kansas in line with federal guidelines for the maximum length for short-term suspensions (Attachment 2).

Sue Chase addressed the committee as a proponent of SB 729. She stated that KNEA believes that SB 729 gives schools more flexibility in dealing with students who have become disruptive to the learning environment and would allow school districts more latitude in dealing with discipline (Attachment 3).

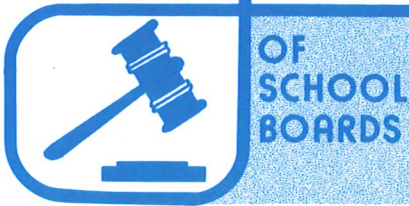
The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 1996.

# SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 11, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mark Tallman	KASB
David G. Monvial	Washington University
Rosin Lehman	Althe USD 238
Denise Aylt	USA
Stephen Jordan	Bd of Regents
John Hebert	Bd of Regents
Craig Grant	KWEA
Ted D. Ayres	Regents Staff
Jon Josseland	KU
Kathleen Whitey	Ks. St. Bd. of Educ.
GERRY HENDERSON	USA or Ks
Merle Hues	KACC
Jacquie Oakes	SQE
Meggan Briggs	KAAUTS



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**TO:** Senate Committee on Education  
**FROM:** Mark Tallman, Director of Governmental Relations  
**DATE:** March 11, 1995

**RE: Testimony on S.B. 729 - Short Term Student Suspensions**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today as a proponent of S.B. 729, concerning short-term suspensions from school. We see two major benefits of this legislation.

First, it would allow school personnel more flexibility to remove dangerous or disruptive students from the classroom, helping to achieve safer, more orderly schools.

Second, by lengthening the maximum short-term suspension from five to ten school days, Kansas would be consistent with federal special education law, which allows for ten day suspensions. Under current law, if Kansas educators believe a special education student should be suspended for those ten days, they must go through the procedure for a long term suspension.

This provision was contained in S.B. 1, which passed this committee and the Senate last session. It was removed by the House Education Committee and ultimately lost in conference committee. We hope you will make another effort to enact this change.

We urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

SENATE EDUCATION  
3-11-96  
ATTACHMENT 1



**SB 729**

Testimony presented before the Senate Committee on Education  
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director  
United School Administrators of Kansas  
March 11, 1996

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas supports the change in statues which will bring Kansas in line with federal guidelines for the maximum length for short-term suspensions. We would point out to the committee that nothing in this bill will likely change the fact that most short term suspensions are for less than the current five day maximum.

We urge the committee to report **SB 729** favorably.

LEG/SB729

SENATE EDUCATION  
3-11-96  
ATTACHMENT 2



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

Susan Chase Testimony on SB 729  
Senate Education Committee  
Monday, March 11, 1996

Thank you Madam Chair and members of the committee for allowing me to speak in support of SB 729. I am Susan Chase and I represent the Kansas National Education Association.

The Kansas National Education Association in 1994 formed a Task Force on Safe Schools. This task force spent a year developing recommendations for actions by the Association to support and encourage a safe learning environment for students and teachers. We believe it is important to allow school districts more latitude in dealing with discipline.

We believe that SB 729 gives schools more flexibility in dealing with students who have become disruptive to the learning environment.

We urge the committee to support SB 729. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

SENATE EDUCATION  
3-11-96  
ATTACHMENT 3