

Approved: *B. Lawrence*
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on January 21, 1997 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Bleeker - Excused

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: 1997 Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalists
Karen Pinkall, Sharon Stephens, Melanie Campbell, Penelope Wika, Kay Barkis, Marilyn D. Brothers, Judy Beemer
Kansas Teacher of the Year, Nancy McRoberts

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order and stated that the Committee was delighted to have the 1997 Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalists and the Teacher of the Year present. The Committee looked forward to hearing from each teacher and was anxious to find out what is going on in the classroom.

The Chairperson gave background on how the Teacher of the Year Finalists are selected and stated that Kansas has been a participant in this program since 1960. The process goes from district to region and then to state. The state selection then participates in the national teacher selection process.

The teachers stood and gave their names and the schools at which they taught. They are: Karen Pinkall, Rural Center Elementary School, Chapman USD 473; Sharon Stephens, Emporia High School, Emporia USD 253; Melanie Campbell, West Indianola Elementary School, Seaman USD 345; Penelope "Penny" Wika, Manhattan High School, Manhattan USD 383; Kay Barkis, Louisburg Elementary-Middle School, Louisburg USD 416; Nancy R. McRoberts, Olathe North High School, Olathe USD 233; Marilyn D. Brothers, Benton Elementary School, Circle USD 375; and Judy Beemer, Arkansas City High School, Arkansas City USD 470.

Chairperson Lawrence asked the Teacher of the Year, Nancy McRoberts, what she would be doing this year. Ms. McRoberts replied that she would be meeting with various councils on education related topics. This would include the State Board and Friends University. She will be taking a trip to Dallas in the near future and to Washington, D.C. In April. July will find her at the International Space Camp. There is a possibility of a two-week trip to China on behalf of the K-NEA. She can take four students with her to China. Educational information will be interpreted to the Chinese and they will reciprocate with like information. Ms. McRoberts commented that between all teachers present there is 159 years of classroom experience.

The Chairperson opened the meeting to questions from the Committee. Numerous questions and responses were given on qualified admissions, remedial classes, vocational technical schools and colleges, special education and at-risk students. All teachers agreed that parents, as well as students, need to be educated so as to spend more time with children in reading and communications skills. When both parents work, little time is spent in verbal interaction with children. Cultural literacy and the added work for the teacher of having to teach manners to students was discussed. Also commented on was the fact that many kids work and close at restaurants. This leaves little time for class preparation.

Ms. McRoberts told of the program she works with that involves pregnant teenagers. In response to one of the members of the Committee, she stated that the program is not glamorized or are the teens made to appear as heroines. At the inception of the program, Ms. McRoberts had to go to both the east and west coast for information for the focus and concept of the program. It has proven to be a program that really works.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on January 22, 1997.

Among several things the teachers would like to see are increased funding for special education and more staff development time to learn and deal with special issues, as often there has not been any background to deal with issues that arise.

The teachers all agreed that good things are going on in education; there is more interaction and more communication to inform teachers of what is going on in their fields of expertise.

It was suggested to the teachers that they write down their ideas and concerns and submit these to the Legislature for its information.

Chairperson Lawrence stated that due to time considerations the meeting would have to be concluded and thanked the teachers for their generous responses.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 1997.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 21, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Karen Pinkall	Chapman USD #413 - KTOY
Judy Beemer	Ark City USD #470 - KTOY
Kay Barkis	Louisburg USD #416 KTOY
Melanie Campbell	Seaman USD #345 KTOY
Marilyn Brothers	Circle USD #375 KTOY
Brilla Highfill Scott	USA
Grant Denny	Sen. Goodwin's Office
Chris Wilson	Chapman USD #473 - El. Principal
Janelle Albertson	State Dept. of Ed.
Risden Day	Capital Journal
John Knapke	KASB
Andy Douglas	State Dept. of Ed.
Ken Bahr	Assoc of Community Colleges
Sue Chase	KNEA
Baenie Sparks	DOR