

Approved: _____
Date

B. Lawrence

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on March 11, 1997 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Jennison
Brad & Holly Snyder, Fairview, KS
Milissa Metcalf, Collyer, KS
Allaire Homburg, Superintendent USD 293, Quinter, KS
Dana Lewis, Collyer, KS
James Crosby, Alta Vista
Representative Aurand
Scott Hill, State Board of Education
Senator Hardenburger
Steven Hall, Chapman, KS
Kevin Elliott, Chapman, KS
Eldon Noel, Chapman, KS

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order. She stated that there were several conferees on:

HB 2098--enrollment and transportation of nonresident pupils

Representative Jennison led off the testimony on the bill, stating that the need for this bill arises when families living in sparse areas live closer to an attendance center in a neighboring district than they do to the attendance center in their own school district. Families who find themselves in this situation have always been able to go to the school outside their district with approval of that school, however, unless the students home school district allowed it, the receiving school could not send buses to the students homes to pick them up.

Representative Jennison said that in recent times, with both parents working, it places a hardship for parents to have to take a child to a pre-determined pick-up point. This seems like an inconvenience to which parents should not be subjected. (Attachment 1)

Brad and Holly Snyder, parents from rural Fairview, Kansas, appeared in support of the bill and stated that there are 58 students from the Fairview area attending Sabetha schools this year. The children have to meet the bus at an abandoned gas station. Fourteen concerned Fairview parents went to the Hiawatha School Board with the problem and proposed that one school bus stop in Fairview at a local church. The request was turned down on the basis of money. Each child that attended Sabetha from their district represented \$3600 from the state they did not get. The 1996 school year presented new problems. The Sabetha bus stop was changed to a public rest stop four miles south of Sabetha for safety reasons. For the Snyder family this means an eight mile round trip three times a day to meet the school bus. (Attachment 2)

Milissa Metcalf, parent, presented testimony in support of the bill. (Attachment 3) Mrs. Metcalf, her husband and children live in the Trego school district. Ten years ago the district decided to close the Collyer school where their children attended school. They decided to send the children to the Quinter school district. For nine years the Quinter buses picked up the children in Collyer. This year the Trego Board decided not to allow the Quinter buses into Collyer. This has caused a great hardship on all the families who send their children to Quinter. Passage of this bill will once again allow the buses to come into Collyer and pick up the children.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ROOM 123-S-Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on March 11, 1997.

Allaire T. Homburg, Superintendent USD 293, Quinter, appeared in support of the bill and stated the decision of USD #208 Board of Education was purely monetary. Now that children equal money, the Board has decided they now want those children to attend school in WaKeeney. The bill would not change Quinter's enrollment, but would allow students from Collyer to once again be transported safely on the buses. (Attachment 4)

Dana Lewis, student, appeared to testify for the bill. She is a 14 year old Freshman at Quinter High School who lives in Collyer. She told of her experiences in moving from Texas to Kansas and how friendly the Quinter students and teachers are to her. She would like to continue attending school in Quinter. Passage of this bill will allow her to attend the school of her choice. (Attachment 5)

James Crosby, Alta Vista, appeared in support of the bill and stated in the current second grade class attending the Alta Vista Elementary School there is a 9-1 student-teacher ratio. He feels this creates a more positive learning environment than the current 23-1 ratio at the Alma Learning Center. He also stated that his daughter's health warrants a closer proximity to her doctor. (Attachment 6)

Scott Hill, State Board of Education, spoke in favor of the bill. His interest as a Board member is a provision that directs the Board to review applications and make a determination based on a set of criteria. It is the belief of the State Board of Education that this process can be handled locally without involvement of the State Board. He would encourage adoption of language that states if the applicant for out of district transportation meets the criteria set out in legislation, they automatically receive transportation to those parents desiring to send their children to the nearest and most convenient school. Since this criteria is clearly laid out, the decision process is essentially removed from the Board; consequently, the Board would like to see the formality also removed. (Attachment 7)

Mr. Hill was asked if he was speaking for the Board. He stated that although no formal stand has been taken, of the 10 Board members, 8 strongly support the bill, with 2 taking no position on the issue.

Robert King, Superintendent USD 473, introduced Steve Hall and Kevin Elliott, Chapman High School students. Mr. Hall gave testimony in opposition of the bill while Mr. Elliott assisted with a chart. Mr. Hall stated the concern over the potential for long term decline in the student population. The bill would take away more authority from the local school board. They do not need the State Board of Education overriding a local school district's decisions and controlling the lives of the pupils. (Attachment 8). The chart showed the district boundaries and where those pupils resided who would be impacted by the bill.

A petition signed by persons who do not feel that **HB 2098** is in the best interest of USD 473 was distributed with Mr. Hall's testimony and labeled (Attachment 8a)

Mr. Eldon Noel, Abilene, made a few comments in opposition to the bill, stating that he did not think it would be in the best interests of the district.

Representative Aurand spoke in favor of the bill, stating that the essence of the bill has to do with a family's ability to send their children to school in their home community. Through unification, consolidation and the closing of attendance centers, districts are often large and of bizarre shape which do not take into account proximity of the school to the child's residence. In closing he stated the bill will allow students to attend the school that is closest to where they live and the community they consider to be their home town. (Attachment 9)

Representative Aurand's wife, Gina Aurand, submitted written testimony in support of the bill and is labeled (Attachment 9a)

As it was past the 10:00 hour, Vice Chairperson Langworthy thanked all the conferees and adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 1997.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 11, 1997

NAME	REPRESENTING
Bud Lynch	58 kids from Fairview area
Holly Snyder	58 kids from Fairview area
Kati Lottus	35 students from ^{Colley} Quinter.
Ann Miller	35 student from Colleyer to Quinter
Joni A. Evans	35 students from Colleyer to Quinter dist.
Melissa Metcalf	35 students from Colleyer to Quinter dist.
Dana Lewis	35 students from Colleyer to Quinter
Steven Mollach	USD #251
Grant Peany	Sen. Goodwin's office
Harshel Rose	cit.
Jacque Oakes	S&E
Gerald Henderson	USA of KS
Bob Vanceum	USD #229 Blue Valley
Robin Lehman	Olathe USD 233
Pat Lehman	Olathe USD 233
Glen K. Noel	Abilene KS 76482 July 86
Robert King	Chapman USD #473
Steve Hall	USD #473 Chapman
Kevin Elliott	USD #473 Chapman

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
117TH DISTRICT
HODGEMAN, LANE, NESS
RUSH AND FINNEY COUNTIES

House Majority Leader

TESTIMONY ON HB 2098

Madam Chairman and Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding House Bill 2098. The need for 2098 results when families living in the sparse areas of Western Kansas live closer to an attendance center in a neighboring district than they do to the attendance center in their own school district. Families who find themselves in this situation have always been able to go to the school outside their district with approval of that school, however, unless the students' home school district allowed it, the receiving school could not send buses to the students' homes to pick them up. Many families have dealt with this situation by meeting school buses at district lines or some other pre-determined pick-up point. To me this has always seemed like an inconvenience a family should not be subjected to just to go to the school closest to their residence, probably located in the town where they go to church, buy groceries and visit friends.

In recent times, rural Kansas like urban Kansas has seen more and more families with both parents working. The inconvenience that existed before is now exacerbated, when not only do the parents need to meet a bus at some pre-determined point in the middle of no where, but they must make it to work on time sometimes in a different town, in a different direction up to 50 miles away. Then arrangements must also be made to meet the bus after school. This situation makes it very difficult for a family to send their child to the closest school if the school cannot pick the child up at the residence.

Senate Education
3-11-97
Attachment 1

TO: Members of the Senate Education Committee
FROM: Brad and Holly Snyder from rural Fairview
DATE: March 11, 1997
SUBJECT: Support for ~~Senate Bill~~ HB 2098

We are in support of ~~Senate Bill~~ HB 2098 and are very grateful for the opportunity to explain our position and tell you why this bill would provide a long awaited solution. Our goal is to provide safe, efficient, and practical school bus service to and from our home for our children.

We have three children, Trent who is in the 2nd grade, Shayna who is in the 1st grade, and Travis who is in preschool. Our children currently attend school at USD #441 and it is our intention that they will continue to do so. Our reasons for this decision are numerous. Brad and I, Sabetha graduates ourselves, have come from a long line of Sabetha graduates. Most of our extended family live in or around the Sabetha area and are available to help us out in the event of an emergency. We both work in and around the Sabetha area. We attend church in Sabetha. Our doctor is in Sabetha. We do our shopping in Sabetha. Sabetha is the town and community we identify ourselves with; the place we call home. It only makes sense for our children to attend school there also. Brad and I have chosen to be an active part of our children's education; attending all their school functions and volunteering to help with classroom parties, etc. This would not be possible if they were attending school 20 to 30 miles away from our workplaces.

The Fairview School consolidated with Hiawatha, USD #415, in 1966. We assume this was an attempt to fix something that wasn't working. The Fairview Board Members who made these decisions are all deceased, so their reasons for consolidation are sketchy. We have heard it said that Hiawatha promised Fairview they could always maintain their elementary school. The elementary school was closed down a few years later.

In 1973, my family (Holly) moved to the house where I now reside with my husband and our own family. Our home is 1 mile within the Hiawatha district lines. We live 6 miles from the Sabetha schools, 12 miles from Hiawatha schools, and more than 20 miles from Hiawatha's Middle School in Robinson. I was in the 2nd grade when we moved to this location and I attended Sabetha schools along with my sister and my brother. At that time, the Hiawatha School District would not allow a Sabetha School District bus to enter their district and pick us up for school, even though the request was made several times. There were years that a Sabetha School Bus actually went right by our house, due to their bus routes, and could not pick us up. Therefore, my parents had to meet the Sabetha school bus at an open and operating gas station just inside the Sabetha district lines, which was about 2 1/2 miles from our home. This meant meeting the bus twice a day for my parents -- there were years they had to meet the bus three and four times a day due to kindergarten and activity bus routes.

Over the past 24 years, the number of kids from the Fairview area attending Sabetha schools has grown from a few to 58 students this year. Some other factors have changed also. In 1994, we began meeting the bus at the same gas station with our kindergarten age son. The only difference being that gas station is now closed and abandoned. Fourteen members representing a group of concerned Fairview parents went to the Hiawatha School Board with the problem and a proposed solution. We asked for one Sabetha school bus stop in Fairview at a local church. Our request was turned down on the basis of money. Each child that attended Sabetha from their district represented \$3600 (plus additional money depending on enrollment numbers and other factors) from the state they did not get. What the Hiawatha School Board was telling us was that \$3600 (money that they were not getting anyway because those children are already attending

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Attachment 2

Sabetha schools) was more important than the safety and well being of our children. We, concerned parents of Fairview, have made our request annually for one Sabetha school bus stop in Fairview to no avail.

The 1996 school year presented new problems of its own. We are no longer able to meet the bus at the abandoned gas station. The Sabetha bus stop was changed to a public rest stop four miles south of Sabetha for safety reasons. I don't believe the stop is a bit safer and it is further away. My husband and I now have three children attending school at Sabetha. This means an eight mile round trip three times a day to meet the school bus.

We, my husband and I, decided since we hadn't got anywhere as a group we would try another approach as an individual family. We proposed a land transfer and followed the Recommended Procedure for Transfer of Territory from One School District to Another (K.S.A. 72-7108). We gathered all our information and presented our request for the land transfer to both superintendents and both school boards. We had the support of the Sabetha school board. When we presented our proposal to the Hiawatha school board, we did get a motion for the land transfer to proceed but the motion died for lack of a second. We were never given a reason why. The only families affected by the land transfer was our family and another family already attending Sabetha. Our next request of the Hiawatha school board was for Out-of-District Transportation, which Hiawatha does grant to individuals attending a school on its south border. Again, we were turned down.

We believe we have a major problem here. In our small rural community it affects 58 kids, a strong majority of school age children in the Fairview area. Over the years, the Fairview area students attending Sabetha USD #441 have had no representation on either school board. We are convinced the local school board is not going to help us. We believe change will have to come from above them. Something was not working back in 1966 when consolidation occurred. Something is not working now and we are told nothing can be done. We refuse to take no for an answer. We were extremely encouraged and once again had some hope when this bill passed the House. Senators, it is our prayer that you will give this bill your most sincere consideration, as we keep striving to correct something that seems so wrong. We are not talking about \$3600 per head, we are talking about our children and to us they are priceless.

We want to thank you for listening to us and working with us for a solution to a problem that is not just going to go away.

MILISSA J. METCALF, TESTIMONY
SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 11, 1997

Honorable members of the Senate, and honored guests, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to visit with you.

My name is Milissa Metcalf and I am here to testify in favor of H.B. 2098. I am a citizen of Collyer and a mother of four children. My children, ages 17, 16, 13, and 8 attend the Quinter school district. We live in the Trego school district. Ten years ago the district decided to close the Collyer school where my children attended. At that time my husband and I, along with three other families, decided it would be best for our children to attend the Quinter school district. My husband and I made this decision based on several reasons. One was because my son has a heart abnormality and we wanted him close to his physician who practices in Quinter, also we both work in Quinter so if our children would need us we would be close to them. The other three families decisions to send their children to Quinter were also based on the fact that either or both parents worked in Quinter. At that time we went to the Trego School Board meeting and asked for permission for the Quinter buses to come into Collyer and pick up our children. The Trego Board agreed to this very optimistically. For the following nine years the Quinter buses have continued to come into Collyer and pick up our children, until this school year when the Trego Board decided not to allow the Quinter buses into Collyer. During these nine years the number of children from Collyer that attend Quinter school system has increased to 35 students. The reasons these families are sending their children to Quinter vary but most decisions are based on convenience and closeness of the Quinter schools.

When, as a community, we learned of the buses not being allowed into our town we got together and discussed what our options would be. Most of the families were very adamant about not moving their children into the Trego school system even though it would mean the inconvenience of them finding a way of getting their children to and from the Quinter schools. My husband and I felt it would be detrimental to our children after 9 years of going to Quinter, to move them to an adjoining district. They have established their friendships in Quinter and especially my three oldest have become very active in the sports and extra curricular activities of the Quinter high school. But the main reason is that the Quinter school and community has accepted us as part of their family and friends.

One situation that really affected my husband and I was what one family would have to endure if they would send their children to the Trego school system. The mother owns a business in Quinter and the father is a truck driver. They have a kindergartner and a 3 year old. If their only busing option is to send their children to the Trego school this is what their situation would be. The mother goes to work in the morning taking their small child with her to a baby-sitters in Quinter. Their school age child gets on the bus to attend school in WaKeeney, after school the child can not come home on the bus because he is too young to stay by himself. Both parents are at work and there are no daycare's in Collyer so there is no other choice for this family but to find daycare for their school age child in

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Attachment 3

WaKeeney. This is 20 miles away from where they work. After the mother gets off work, which is sometimes 6:00pm she would have to stop and pick her small child up at the daycare in Quinter and then travel not just 8 miles to Collyer but an additional 12 miles to WaKeeney and pick up her kindergartner at his daycare. The inconvenience of covering all these miles each day after work would be tremendous.

The convenience of our children attending the Quinter school became very apparent to me last Friday. Our youngest, Natalie in second grade, had a small in-school play. All parents were invited to come and watch the play, which was to last only 20 minutes. I was able to clock out of work 5 minutes before the play was to start and drive the two blocks to the school and watch her play and then drive back to work. I was gone a total of 30 minutes. If she was attending the Trego school, attending a play such as this would have meant I would have had to drive a total of 1 hour round trip for a 20 minute play, taking me away from work a total of an hour and twenty minutes, something I can not afford to do. Having our children this close to us also means when they get sick or even just a headache and need a Tylenol, as a parent I can run up to the school give my child the medication and a hug and be back to work within 10 to 15 minutes, something that could not be done if they attended the Trego schools.

Not having the buses as we have had has caused a great hardship on all of the families that send their children to Quinter. Having to find a way for their children to school, especially if their job hours do not coincide with school hours or meeting the Quinter bus at the district line. After school many of the Collyer children have to wait for their parents to get off work to take them home. With our children, that means having to wait an hour to an hour and half before they can get home.

For the above reasons and many more I have been asked by the other families from Collyer to ask you to vote yes on H.B. 2098. We, as citizens of Collyer, are asking you to look at the most important issue of this bill, the family's and children's well being. By passing H.B. 2098, the buses would once again be able to come into the Collyer community and this will give these families less sacrifices and allow for better family support and relations.

ALLAIRE T. HOMBURG, TESTIMONY
LEGISLATIVE HEARING
March 11, 1997

Honorable members of the legislature, and honored guests: I would like to thank you for this opportunity to visit with you. My name is Allaire Homburg, and I am the Superintendent of Schools at Quinter, U.S.D. # 293. Quinter U.S.D. # 293 is a small school district located 50+ miles west of Hays, on I-70.

I am here to testify in favor of H.B. 2098. In order to explain why we are in favor of this bill, I need to tell you about our unique circumstances. Our school district is located on the east part of Gove county. The county to our east is Trego. Collyer is a small community on the west edge of Trego County. Collyer is a part of U.S.D. # 208, although the town of Collyer is eight miles from Quinter and 12 miles from WaKeeney. Approximately nine years ago the Board of Education of U.S.D. # 208 closed the elementary attendance center at Collyer. At that time, the people of Collyer that had school-age children, decided where they would send their children. Many of them decided to have their children attend school in Quinter, for various reasons. Up until this year, a bus from Quinter U.S.D. #293, was allowed to transport those children living in the Collyer area to Quinter to attend school. This year the Board of Education of U.S.D. # 208 decided that they would no longer allow a bus from U.S.D. # 293 to enter their district to transport students to Quinter. This has created some difficulty for the Collyer students and parents. We now pick up some of those students within the boundaries of our district. This means that the parents have to either take their children to the pick up point, or take them all the way to Quinter.

The reason for the decision of the U.S.D. # 208 Board of Education was purely monetary. Now that children = money, the U.S.D. # 208 Board has decided that they now want those children to attend school in WaKeeney. Earlier when the Collyer school was closed the patrons of Collyer tell me that they were "encouraged" to attend school at Quinter. We were glad to have these students attend school at Quinter. We are still very pleased that these students are "our" students.

This bill that you are now considering would not change our enrollment. It would, however, allow our students from Collyer to once again be transported safely on our buses. We do not intend to do anything differently than we have been doing for the past nine years. We only want to be allowed to do what we were formerly allowed to do.

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Attachment 4

Honorable members of the legislature, and honorable guests:

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to visit with you on behalf of my fellow peers and classmates of Collyer, KS.

My name is Dana Lewis. I am a 14 year old freshman at Quinter High School and live in Collyer. I am speaking to you this morning concerning H.B. 2098.

This past summer, I was finally given the opportunity to come to Kansas to live with my mother. When I arrived, I had a choice as to where to attend high school. I could go to Quinter, seven miles west, or WaKeeney, 12 miles east. Because of my mom being in the Quinter area for the past eight years, I knew some of the students and felt more comfortable there.

On the first day of school, I was scared and nervous. But as the day progressed, I became more comfortable with the students as well as the teachers. They were very friendly and were willing to help me if I needed them. Just because I was new, they did not look at me funny or talk about me. They did not leave me by myself all the time and they were not mean to me.

Coming from Texas, I thought that Quinter was far beyond "a good school." I was shocked at how much the teachers cared about their students and all they wanted was the best for them. At first, I struggled with my grades. But the teachers as well as the rest of the staff, helped me along, and now I am on the Honor Roll.

All of the students in Collyer, including myself, love Quinter and prefer to stay there.

I know adults have the knowledge and wisdom to make the best decisions for us, but they also teach us how to make the best decisions. And we all choose to attend Quinter, so please let us continue to go to Quinter and not force us to change because of bureaucracy. When WaKeeney closed the school in Collyer approximately ten years ago, they did not seem to care where we went. But now that dollars and cents are involved, they seem to be more interested. Quinter welcomed the students and did not care about money.

I would like to continue attending school in Quinter, and by passing H.B.2098. you will allow the bus to enter Collyer and pick me up as well as my fellow school mates.

In closing, I would like to say that we are not old enough to vote, so we rely on our parents to voice our opinion and their own. We do not want to go to WaKeeney, so I am asking you on behalf of the students of Collyer, KS to please allow the bus to pick us up and drop us off everyday so that we attend the school of our choice. Again, thank you for your time.

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Attachment 5

March 10, 1997

Senate Education Committee
Room 123 South
Capital Building

I respectfully submit the following testimony in support of Senate Bill 2098. As a parent and educator, I firmly believe in the public education presently in place in the State of Kansas. I also believe that freedom of choice was one of the greatest possible gifts our forefathers gave to the people of this great nation. Yet, with this freedom, we are also faced with limitations. One such limitation is the right to choose where to send your child(ren) to school without the benefit of transportation from your chosen school district.

In our case, we face the following problems, on a daily basis:

1. We consider Alta Vista our home and currently do all of our business and banking in this community. We also own a business within the Alta Vista community. "Hometown Pride" is something we have tried to instill in our children since they were old enough to understand the term.

2. The distance the school age children currently travel to school is 4 miles. These distances are not the routes taken by the U.S.D. No. 417 busses (see attached 1996-97 Bus Route), but is the distance traveled by one of their parents to get them to school.

The distance both of our children would have to ride the bus to the Alma Learning Centers is approximately 18.5 miles, depending on the bus route. In that 18.5 miles, there are a total of sixteen curves that post a speed limit below 55 MPH. Five of these curves slow vehicles to 40 MPH and there are seven curves that warrant yellow caution signs, but do not slow you below 55 MPH. We feel that this highway is a risk to our children that need not be taken.

This also does not take into consideration a freshman in High School who participates in three sports. U.S.D. No. 417 provides an activities bus from Council Grove to Alta Vista, on a daily basis. U.S.D. No. 329 does not provide the same for our child which would allow him to grow socially, emotionally, and athletically.

The distance to and from the Alta Vista Elementary School does not accurately take into effect the problem of time children in this portion of the district would spend on the bus, both in the morning and at night. The ride for the Croasby's in U.S.D. No. 417 would be approximately 45-50 minutes in the morning, but only 5 minutes at night. Would the time on the bus in U.S.D. No. 329 meet the recommendations of the Kansas School Transportation Regulations dated July 1, 1992 that state, "Whenever practicable, transportation routes shall be planned so no student will be required to ride in the school vehicle more than one hour for each trip, or be compelled to walk more than one mile to board the school vehicle"? Why should our children have to ride a bus 37 miles a day, or farther depending on the bus route, when they can board a U.S.D. No. 417 bus that already travels within 50 feet of our front door and ride approximately 20-25 miles a day on roads that are much safer than Kansas Highway 4?

3. U.S.D. No. 329 was unaware that any school age children lived in this portion of the district until they were notified by myself and U.S.D. No. 417. When asked why we were not notified regarding the

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Attachment 6*

enrollment of our children in the U.S.D. No. 329 schools, we were informed that the dates of enrollment were published in the Alma and Wamego newspapers and that it was the parents responsibility to get their children enrolled. We fully agree that it is our responsibility to ensure that our children obtain a quality education. However, we disagree with the fact that the U.S.D. No. 329 border comes within two miles of Alta Vista and they choose to ignore the patrons on this end of their district.

4. Bailey Crosby was diagnosed by Dr. Daniel Frese of the Morris County Health Clinic, as having a mild mitral valve prolapse with associated trace mitral insufficiency. This diagnosis was first given in December of 1994. Bailey has been examined on numerous occasions since then and it has been determined that she still has the same diagnosis as was originally stated in the enclosed Echocardiographic Report. We feel that if something were to go wrong (flared temperature may cause heart damage with this condition) it would be extremely beneficial to have her closer to her own doctor, someone that is familiar with her condition.

5. In the current second grade class attending the Alta Vista Elementary School, there is a 9 -1 student to teacher ratio. We feel that this creates a more positive learning environment then the current 23 - 1 ration at the Alma Learning Center.

6. The National Education Goals Report of 1994 currently states Goal 8 as, "Every school will promote partnerships that will increase parental involvement and participation in promoting social, emotional, and academic growth of children." If this goal is truly to be met with success, our children must be afforded the opportunity to not only attend the school of their choice, but must be given the chance to grow socially and emotionally through the perks associated with a quality public education.

These perks include riding busses to and from school, after school activities, and the extra-curricular activities that come with attending school. We feel that these social and emotional extras would be unattainable in U.S.D. No. 329 because of the time and distance considerations for the children in this area. Please allow our children to be well rounded members of todays society and give them the opportunity to not only attend the school of their choice, but allow them to have the perks most children enjoy on a daily basis.

We would like to thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and hope that Senate Bill 2098 can be passed to improve the education system within our state. More importantly, we ask that Bill 2098 be passed to allow the academic, social, and emotional growth of all of the children in the same situation we are currently in.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. James D. Crosby
Rural Route 1, Box 191
Alta Vista, Kansas 66834

1996-97 BUS ROUTE
 BUS # 6
 DRIVER: DEB MCDIFFETT

MAP #	TIME	PARENTS NAME	STUDENTS NAME	GRADE	DISTANCE	SCHOOL
29	7:10	ANTHONY BURNETT	JASON PHELPS	11	OD	CGHS
30	7:13	ROGER ZIMMERMAN	KATRINA KRISTEN	7 4	5+ 5+	AV AV
31	OC	JOHN BORG	STARLA	12	5+	CGHS
32	7:21	DAVE DRESSMAN	JESSE KNIGHT	6	5+	AV
33	7:22	KEVIN HILL	VALERIE ASHLEY	8 K	OD OD	AV AV
34	7:27	BILL UNRUH	KRISTA SCOTT	12 8	5+ 5+	CGHS AV
35	7:32	KEN BARRETT	CARA RAY TRACIE	11 9 6	5+ 5+ 5+	CGHS CGHS AV
36	7:34	DALE HEIDEMAN	DENISE DIANA DARREN	9 7 5	5+ 5+ 5+	CGHS AV AV
38	OC 7:43	STEPHANIE SHIPLEY DALE ANDRES	HEATHER STACIE ERICA	K 12 8	5+ 5+ 4.1	AV CGHS AV
39	7:45	GREG HALLGREN	DANIELLE	5	3.5	AV
40	7:47	MIKE CORDONE	SARA CHRISTA JORDON	11 K PS	5+ 3.0 5+	CGHS AV DWES
41	7:48	MICHAEL GOIN	JASON ASHLEY	10 6	5+ 2.8	CGHS AV
42	7:50	LARRY FRESE	AMBER BRANDY	12 8	5+ 2.3	CGHS AV
	7:53	ALTA VISTA SCHOOL				

→ We would pick up your children at approximately
 7:00 - 7:05 in the morning.

They would be delivered home after school
 at approximately 3:55 p.m.

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC REPORT
CARDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT
ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
TOPEKA, KANSAS

FINAL IMPRESSION OF:

M-MODE X 2-D SECTOR X DOPPLER STUDY X

DATE : 12/1/94

NAME : Crosby, Bailey P.

MED REC ID # : Morris County Hospital

REFERRING PHYSICIAN : Dr. Frese

TAPE : 0-49 CS : LOCATION : 435-1513

This is a repeat study to better exclude the possibility of congenital heart disease in this five year old. Please see Dr. Flatt's previous dictation.

RESULTS :

The study quality was excellent.

The cardiac chamber and aortic root were normal in size. Right and left ventricular systolic function were normal. The aortic valve had three leaflets which were thin and pliant and moved normally. There was no evidence of aortic stenosis or aortic insufficiency. The mitral valve leaflets were normal in appearance. There was mild mitral valve prolapse and trace mitral insufficiency. The tricuspid and pulmonic valves were well seen and were normal in appearance, and the flow patterns across these valves were normal. There was trace pulmonic insufficiency which can be seen in normal studies. The flow pattern in the pulmonary artery was normal. The flow pattern in the ascending and descending aorta was normal. There was no color flow evidence of atrial septal defect, ventricular septal defect, or patent ductus arteriosus.

FINAL IMPRESSION : Mild mitral valve prolapse with associated trace mitral insufficiency. No other abnormality is seen.



.TECH : PM

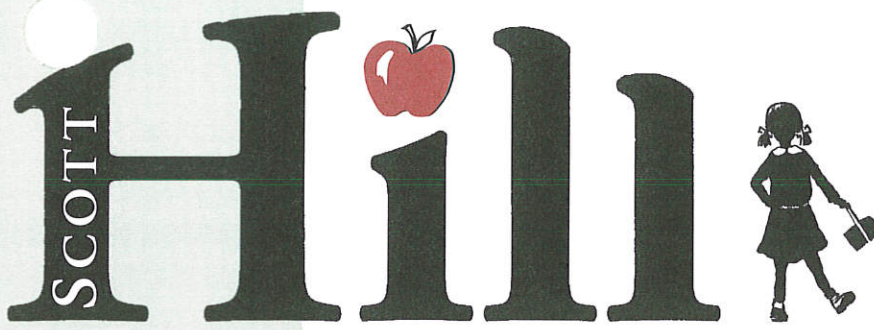
bj

D&T. 12/2/94

cc: Dr. Frese

INTERPRETED BY :

F. James Weyrens, M.D.



1209 3300 Avenue, Abilene, Kansas 67410
(913) 598-2317 • Fax: (913) 598-2492

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Scott Hill and I am a member of the State Board of Education. This testimony is in reference to HB 2098. This bill potentially affects 200 to 300 students attending out-of district schools. It allows these students to be transported by the district that receives them. It has the potential to ease the transportation burden on those parents desiring to send their children to the nearest and most convenient school.

My interest in this bill, as a State Board member, is a provision that directs the Board to review these applications and make a determination based on a set of criteria. It is the belief of the State Board of Education that this process can be handled locally without the involvement of the State Board. We would encourage you to adopt language that states, in essence, that if the applicant for out of district transportation meets the criteria set out in the legislation, that they automatically receive that transportation.

It appears to me that due to the number of students affected and the increased burden that would be placed on the State Board of Education to individually process these applications, it would make common sense to streamline this operation. Since the criteria is clearly laid out, the decision making process is essentially already removed from our Board, consequently we would like to see the formality also removed.

Once again thank you for your attention and I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

Dr. Warren Freeborn, Treasurer
6th District  Republican

*Senate Education
3-11-97
Attachment 7*

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2098
MADE TO THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON
2/11/97**

This testimony is submitted to the Senate Education Committee by Steve Hall, a Senior at Chapman High School, and Kevin Elliott, a Junior at CHS. Also present from USD #473 are Robert King, Superintendent, and Eldon Noel, patron.

Unified School District #473 is very concerned about the possible passage of House Bill No. 2098.

Our concerns are based on the following points:

- The potential for long term decline in our student population with resultant financial loss. In '97-'98 USD #473 has the potential to lose 226 students in grades 7-12 should HB 2098 become law -- this equates to better than 17% of our present enrollment.
- This bill takes away more authority from the local school board that has the best knowledge and input about each situation. We don't need the State Board of Education overriding a local school district's decisions and controlling the lives of our pupils.
- Passage of this bill could adversely affect patron support for future LOB's and Bond Issues. Why would a property owner, who no longer has an educational commitment to their home district, want to support such issues?
- Since the present state aid formula is based on the number of FTE pupils a school district has, passage of HB 2098 could encourage others to actively recruit not only pupils but also student athletes.
- Lastly we feel that passage of this bill could create an equity issue. The schools in the four (4) most populous Kansas Counties have been exempted from HB 2098, yet schools in rural districts haven't. Even with desegregation issues, is it fair to include one group of Kansas schools (rural) and not another (urban)?

Chapman High School is an institution whose history is of exceptional interest, for it was the first county high school to be established in the United States in 1887. Students from rural Dickinson County have attended our high school for over 100 years. We are proud of the fact that recently all seven (7) of the USD #473 attendance centers were recommended for full North Central/QPA accreditation. USD#473 has always been committed to providing a quality education for the youth of rural Dickinson and Geary Counties. HB 2098 has the potential, over a period of time, to be financially ruinous to rural school districts such as USD #473. Please don't penalize all of the rural school districts in Kansas for the actions of a few. Thank you for hearing our concerns related to this bill.

*Senate Education
3-11-97
Attachment 8*

PETITION

We the undersigned do not feel HB 2098 is in the best interest of Unified School District # 473.

Gay Opat

Jean Book

Camela Hada

Cennie Janderberg

Tat Edwards

Ridge Albrecht

Terri Albrecht

Deane Warta

Nancy J. Wierski

Kimberly Jones

Max Linder

Luella Elliott

Ronald L. Smith Sr.

Salvin Bush

Patricia Chewing

Jerry Schwab

Conna Rutz

Kim Burt

Lorina McMillan

Shirley Smith

Marish Bunkhobbi

Gene Clark

Jennifer Clark

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

Margaret Sackett

Kathy Lay

Claudia Opat

Senate Education
3-11-97
Attachment 8a

PETITION

We the undersigned do not feel HB 2098 is in the best interest of Unified School District # 473.

Morris Edwards

Karl Detrich

[Signature]

Edith Louise Neubauer

Kandace Schlappey

Samuel [Signature]

[Signature]

Patrick M. Irvine

Diana D. Irvine

Elwood Sherraden

Mary Sherraden

[Signature]

Patricia Chamberlain

Maureen Daisy

Karen [Signature]

Darlene Stillwagon

Virginia Adams

Mary E. Irvine

PETITION

We the undersigned do not feel HB 2098 is in the best interest of Unified School District # 473.

J. Opt

Jean Book

Camela Thada

Connie Jaderberg

Tot Edwards

Ridge Albrecht

Jessi Albrecht

Diane Warta

Nancy J. Waderski

Deanna Stalder

Fany Hess

Jim Haslam

Kim Hall

Shades Picking

Booky Strauss

Jim Rogers

Virgil Adams II

Carrie Sprouse

Ka. Veltre

William Spruff

Ernie Kelley

Ray Patterson

Linnay Clark

Michele Eagleburger

B. Proctor

Debra Angiano

Lanise R. Cook

Walter E. Kury

Jim Stalder

Carolyn Hess

CLAY AURAND

REPRESENTATIVE, 109TH DISTRICT
SMITH, JEWELL AND PARTS OF
PHILLIPS, REPUBLIC, AND
OSBORNE COUNTIES



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE CHAIR: UTILITIES
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
RULES AND REGULATIONS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2098

Madame Chair and members of the Education Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify this morning on HB 2098. The essence of this bill has to do with a family's ability to send their children to school in their home community. Through the years unification, consolidation, and the closing of attendance centers has led to the formation of districts that are large and often of bizarre shape and which do not take into account proximity of the school to the child's residence. This is a standard that should be at the top of the list of considerations rather than at the bottom.

Currently in Kansas the law allows for children to go to a school outside of their district if that school is willing to accept them. However that school is not allowed to pick them up unless the district in which they reside grants permission. This permission is often not granted because of every district's desire to get the 3648 dollars of base funding that follows each student. The fact that this monetary consideration is afforded more weight than the parents wishes or the child's best interest is something that needs to be changed.

I would like to give you an example of which I am familiar. Neighbors of mine who have 4 children in grade school live 27 miles from the district's school. If they attended this school they would have to get on the bus before 7 a.m. and ride over an hour before arriving. There is, however, another school that is only 13 miles away. This school is where both parents graduated. It is the town where the mother works. It is the town where they attend church. It is THEIR COMMUNITY. It is this school that the parents want their children to attend. Since the bus from this school is not allowed to pick up these children, their parents are forced to drive them to and from school daily or provide other arrangements. If they attended the school in their home district, these children would travel an extra 46,000 miles by their 8th grade year. Although this family has the ability to provide the needed transportation to get their children to their hometown school, not all families are so fortunate. This bill will lessen the burden on many families in this type of situation and allow for more flexibility in their daily routine.

In closing, what this bill will accomplish is to allow students to attend the school that is closest to where they live and is in the community they consider to be their home town. It is what is in the best interest of these children and families, not the dollar amount on their heads, that you should give priority when you consider this bill. Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Senate Education
3-11-97
Attachment 9

DATE: MARCH 11, 1997

TO: THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: GINA AURAND

SUBJECT: HB 2098

Madame Chairman and members of the Education Committee, I would like to thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on HB 2098. As a parent, this bill is very important to me because in 3 years I will have to decide whether or not to put my 5 year old on the bus or to drive her to a school that is closer than our district school. At this time I would have to put Lexia on a bus at 7:00 a.m. where she would have to change buses and ride 25 miles to school. However, I have many reservations about a five year old being on the bus longer than an hour especially when we have a good public school literally eleven miles down the road. This school is located in the town we consider to be our home town. It is the place where we bank, where we go to church and the place that most of our neighbors send their children.

We currently have two families near us that drive their children to school everyday because our school district will not allow the bus of the closer school to cross district lines. These parents have been forced to be inconvenienced twice a day for years, but continue to do it because they feel that it is what is best for their children. In the next three years the number of children being driven to school in our area will grow from six to ten.

What bothers me the most about this is that the school district will not allow the bus to come in to pick up these children NOT because they feel that their school can provide them with a superior educational experience, but rather that these children to them symbolize \$3648 apiece that they will not collect from the state. It upsets me that when we talk about educational issues

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Attachment 9a

the first question asked is rarely, "What is best for the child?", but rather "How is this going to affect the district, administration or faculty?". All too often it seems that what is best for the student and their family is given little or no consideration.

Studies have shown that children learn and test better when they are not working on empty stomachs. I find it hard to believe that a five year old who has to eat breakfast at 6:30 A.M. in order to get on the bus at 7:00 A.M. will learn well on the graham cracker and milk they receive at 10:00A.M. and then make till 12:45P.M. when they get home for lunch.

Parents should be able to have their child go to a closer school if they feel it is in their child's best interest. Who knows what is best for a child, their parents or a school board? My child is not \$3648, she is an active 21 month old who, in a short time, will be an active 5 year old. Without your help, for 186 days a year, I will have to drive either to meet a local bus or take my child all the way to school. On the days when this is just not possible for me I will have to enlist the help of my husband, family, or friends. I am able and willing to make this sacrifice for my children, but not all families are so fortunate. Because in many families both parents work and they are not able to make this commitment, even though they would like to. Their decision has been made for them.

As a parent I feel that it is ridiculous that with half day kindergarten my child will spend almost as much time on a bus as she will inside a classroom. As you consider this issue please consider the children who are affected. Thank you for your attention and your time.

Gina Aurand
Rt. 1 Box 151
Courtland, KS 66939
913 361-4900