

Approved: 1/21
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 13, 1998, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley - 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: Bill Marshall, State Program Coordinator, HOSTS Corporation
Jim Eickhoff, HOSTS Corporation
Lisa Stinson, HOSTS Coordinator, Caldwell Elementary School
Geri Green, HOSTS Coordinator, Caldwell Elementary School

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Lawrence welcomed the Committee back and mentioned the new seating chart. She told the Committee that conferees were present today to discuss a program that has been very successful in the Wichita school system - the HOSTS program. Exciting results have been seen in test scores of children who have been reading and performing below grade levels in several academic areas. The program has been in place three years.

Chairperson Lawrence visited the Caldwell school in November and witnessed what things have been done with the program. She wanted the Committee to hear what has been done and hopes that Committee members can visit the school if the opportunity arises and see the program in action.

The Chairperson introduced Bill Marshall, State Program Coordinator, HOSTS Corporation, who, in turn, introduced Jim Eickhoff, HOSTS Corporation. Lisa Stinson and Geri Green HOSTS Coordinators at Caldwell Elementary School were present to give general information on the program. Mr. Marshall mentioned that there were others who had wanted to be present to speak, but could not attend today.

Jim Eickhoff began the discussion, using the example of removing several children's training wheels from their bikes at one time and stating that this would be disastrous as all children wouldn't be ready for this at the same time. The HOSTS program is individualized instruction for students, based upon their needs and challenges. It is bringing in the quality of mentoring; a significant other who will impact upon a child's academic life tremendously. There is a broad basis of support in all types of constituencies, NEA and education associations in several states, for example. HOSTS is working with several states in looking at how to provide services for kids in a cost effective way with accountability.

Lisa Stinson and Geri Green shared the podium, giving their credentials in the teaching field. They have shared college and teaching in the same building; they have shared ideas and children and have supported and encouraged each other along the way.

Ms. Stinson told of how they tried new strategies and different things with good results, but still did not reach those few children who were not learning. This was not acceptable to them. Ms. Stinson and Ms. Green had a couple of years of job sharing, but Ms. Stinson did not want to be a part of a profession where it is okay to lose even one child. Then the district picked up the HOSTS program and Ms. Green shared the HOSTS information and experience with her. Ms. Stinson decided to become involved with it and has not regretted the three years she has spent with the program. It has been an exciting and memorable experience.

Ms. Green handed out packets to the Committee which contained graphs and charts showing how HOSTS benefits students. (Attachment 1), and told of the benefits HOSTS is to those children who have fallen through the cracks and become further behind every year as she showed the achievement rates and Mat-7 Gains. HOSTS has provided a structure to run an academic tutoring program in which they can individualize instruction for the students needed to be served, using those skills that will help the child function in a more effective way.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ROOM 123-S-Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on January 13, 1998.

Once a child's needs have been determined through testing, activities specific to the child's needs are integrated using HOSTS database of curriculum aligned materials. The mentors pick up the children's packets, sit down with an individual child and work together to achieve results; a one to one instruction. She ended her talk by stating that tax dollars are being used in a program that works.

The Chairperson asked Ms. Green to state what this does for children whose behavior is often disruptive in the classroom.

Ms. Green responded by giving the example of an angry third grader, who learned that there was someone who believed in him and who was not going to allow him to give less than his best. This type of child seems to crave attention and responds to the attention he gets at this special time. There are also children who merely blend into the background and do not speak out in class. They learn to raise their hands, speak out and participate.

Mr. Marshall spoke briefly as to what he had seen as a principal of the frustration level of children who year after year are not learning. The way to prevent this is to get them to where they can be academically proficient in school. He distributed material entitled "Changing the World One Student at a Time", (Attachment 2) on file in the Senate Chairperson's office.

Mr. Eickhoff stated that in this quality management process what they want to do is to go back to the community and show the return on the dollar investment, and more importantly, the time investment.

The Chairperson questioned that, with regard to the parents, is it the time they don't have, or the resources; they don't know what to do or how to do it. She asked about parental involvement.

Ms. Stinson stated that a few parents had become involved; they are thrilled with what they see in their children, but don't feel they are empowered to help.

In response to a question by a Committee member, it was stated that it takes approximately five minutes to prepare the child's folder and thirty minutes for the mentor and child to work together.

Mr. Marshall replied to the cost factor of the program. The cost varies; it could be as low as \$2,000 or as high as \$30,000. Wichita is using the total elementary package which is around \$24,000, with the license fee \$5200. HOSTS is a for-profit

Ms. Stinson stated that teachers react and respond to the program according to their different philosophies and theories. Classrooms are becoming very diverse, presenting different needs and concerns.

After further questions and comments, the Chairperson thanked all the conferees and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is January 14, 1998.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 13, 1998

NAME	REPRESENTING
<i>Ken Baker</i>	<i>Nays USD 489</i>
<i>Lisa Stinson</i>	<i>Wichita USD 259</i>
<i>Jim Bickhoff</i>	<i>HOSTS</i>
<i>Geri Green</i>	<i>Wichita USD 259</i>
<i>Bree Marshall</i>	<i>HOSTS</i>
<i>Harshel Peck</i>	<i>W.</i>
<i>Don Ryan</i>	<i>USD 321</i>
<i>Beverly</i>	<i>self</i>
<i>Stacy Farmer</i>	<i>RASB</i>
<i>Bob Vancrum</i>	<i>USD 229</i>
<i>Diane Gjerstad</i>	<i>USD 259</i>
<i>Jacqueline Dakes</i>	<i>SQE</i>
<i>Susan Chase</i>	<i>KMEA</i>
<i>GERALD HENDERSON</i>	<i>USA</i>



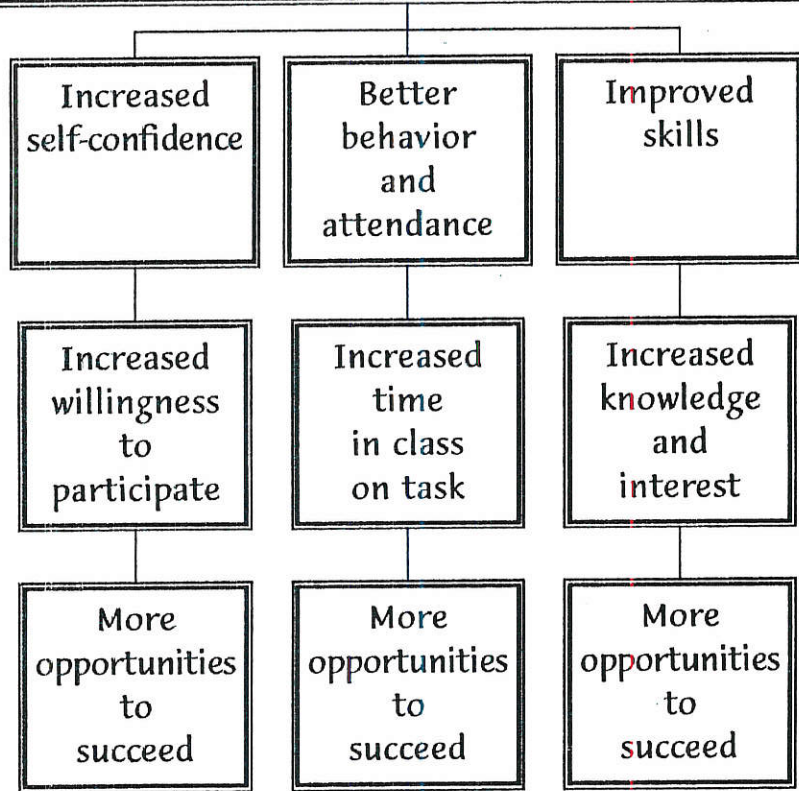
GABRIELLA MISTRAL, Chilean poet

Senate Education
Attachment 1
1-13-98

Help One Student To Succeed

1-2

How HOSTS Benefits Students



1-2

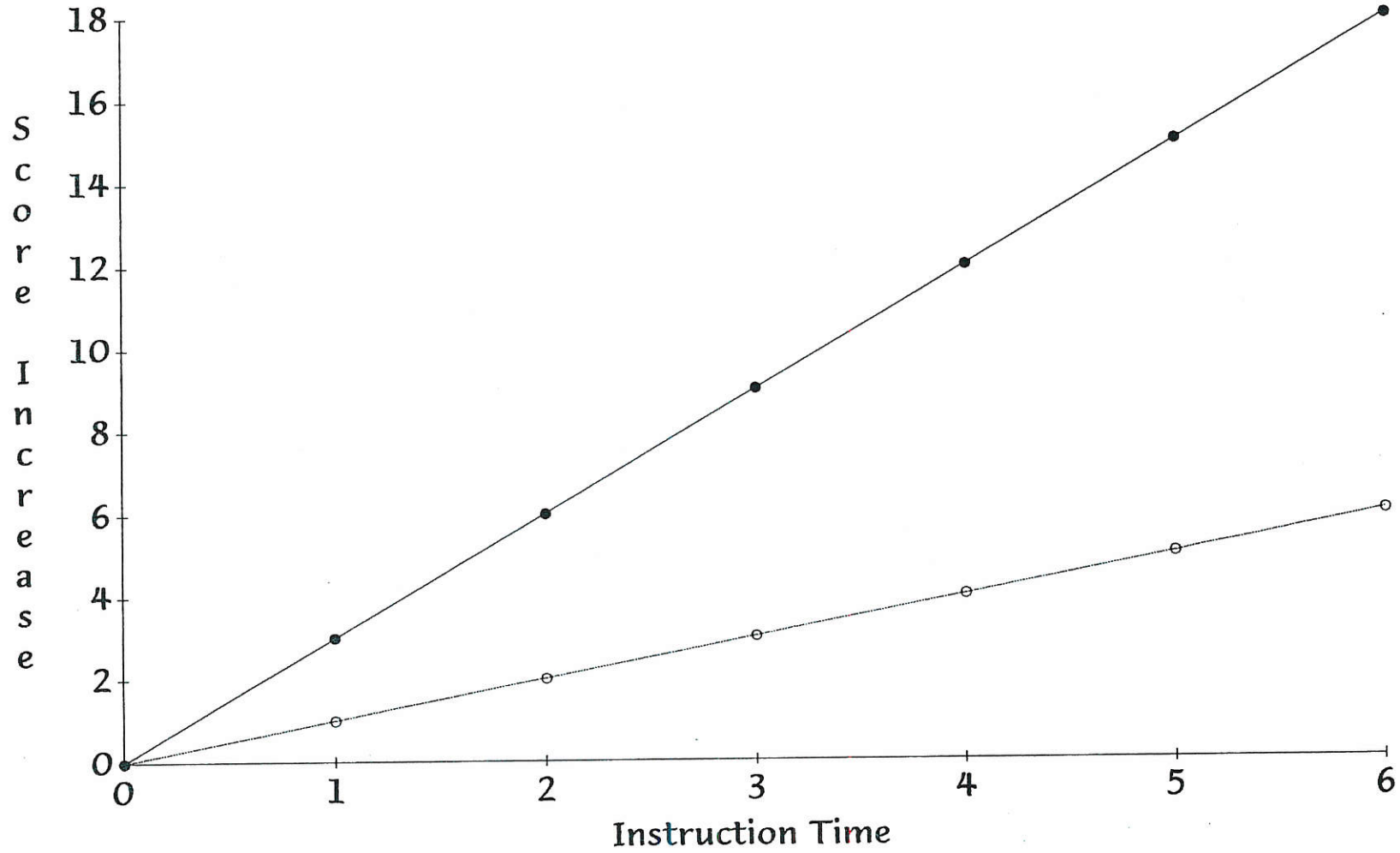
HOSTS
Year-end Results
Caldwell Elementary School
May 1997

Grade Level	Number of Students	Average Growth
Grade One	15	5 months
Grade Two	18	2 years
Grade Three	13	2 years 1 month
Grade Four	7	1 year 8 months
Grade Five	8	1 year 7 months
	61 (Total)	1 year 6 months (Average)

Achievement Rates

Reported in terms of months

1-4

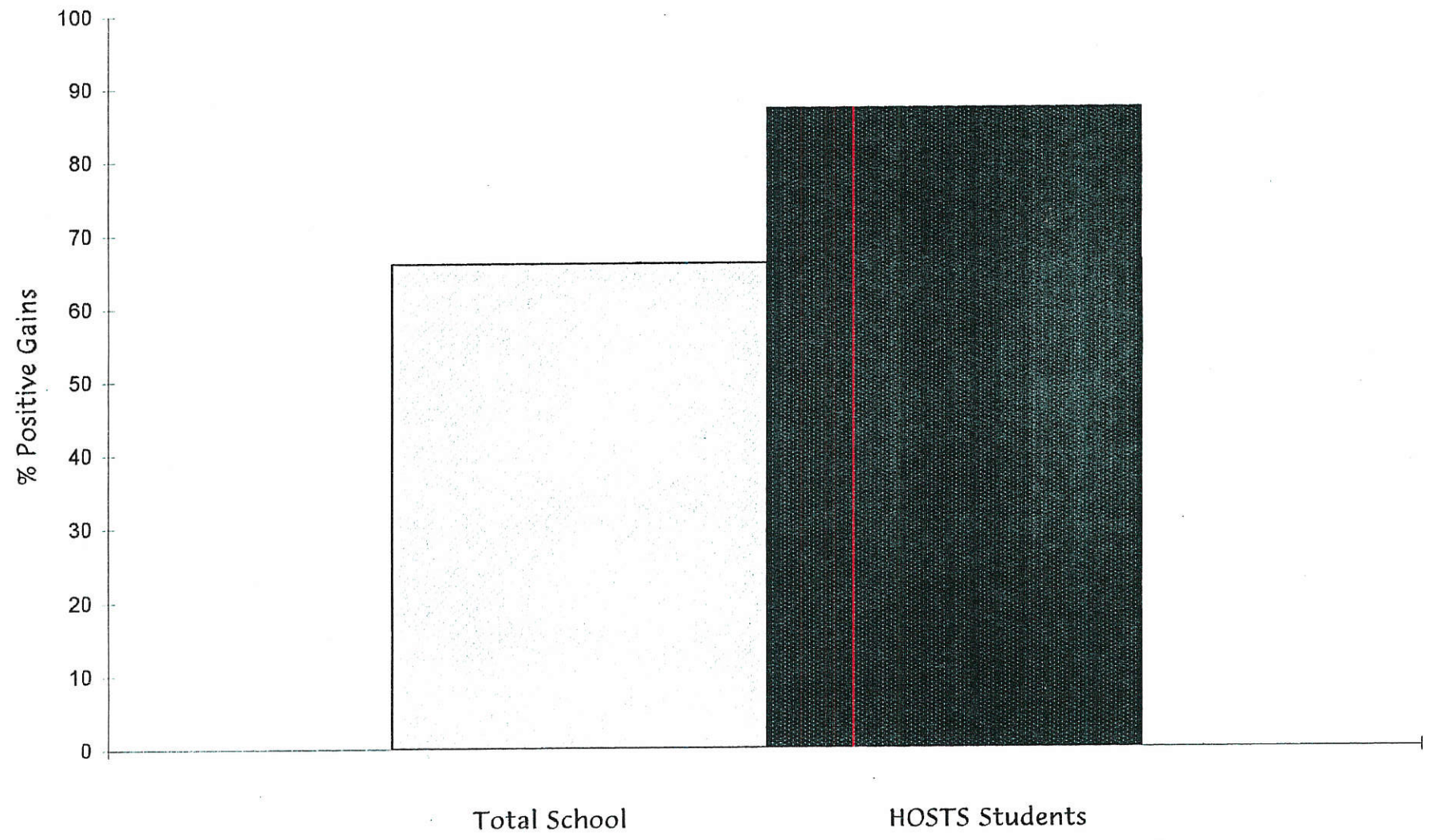


○ Average Achievement

● HOSTS Achievement

1-5

MAT-7 Gains



Barbara Lawrence

Jan 12, 1998

This letter is to commend the HOST program and the people who work within it. My son was selected to participate and has greatly benefitted from it. It has helped in his studies as well as his social skills. He always looked forward to going and was full of excitement when he had been there and was talking about it that evening. Through the year his progress was such an improvement that his confidence was beginning to improve and he has become very self confident and has very good self assurance.

The mentors are a big part and so much needs to be done to continue the promotion of the program. My son has even seen his mentors at various places out of the school setting and they as well as he have been able to communicate well.

It is my sincere hope that this program will continue to grow and that more people are able to help mentor. My son was lucky enough to be in the HOST program and I hope the program will help other children as much as it has helped my son in so many ways.

Thank you

Kim Shannon

HOSTS Highlights

Caldwell Elementary School - 5528 E. Boston - Wichita, Kansas 67218 - 833-2795 October 27, 1997

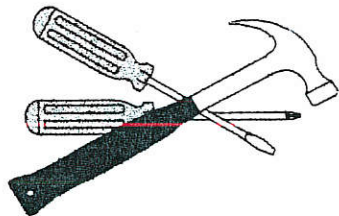
Welcome - or welcome back - to HOSTS! This is our third year at Caldwell, our third year of HOSTS, and if mentor numbers are any indication, this is far and away going to be our best year ever! Never before have we started the year with so many mentors! Never before have we served so many students for so many days each week! It's so exciting to see mentors returning for a second or third year! It is equally exciting to train brand new mentors for their first year! It is wonderful to know we aren't scaring mentors away and that they are willing to return each fall. It is also very gratifying to know that people still listen to us when we talk about HOSTS, and that there are still people in our community who are willing to Help Our Students To Succeed. As partners, we are very happy to know 'our' program is working. As teachers, we are thrilled to know 'our' students will have the opportunity to get back on track this year. We want you to know that we know we would have no program, our students would have no such opportunity, without your help. Thank you so much for making the decision to share your time and talents. Thank you for making the decision to Help One Student To Succeed.

Number of students being served - 65

Number of mentors working in HOSTS - 97

Number of sessions not covered - 17

Number of sessions covered by mentors - 243



HOSTS Improvements: Those of you who know us know we are always looking for ways to, um, adjust the way things work in the HOSTS room. We try to keep things as simple as possible for mentors while making them as effective as possible for students. That is why we introduced the new student notebooks when we trained mentors this year. That is also why we

keep interrupting your sessions with students. (Sorry.) It's just that we feel by making adjustments now to parts of our lesson plan which seem to not be working well for many of you, we feel we can help the rest of the year go more smoothly for everyone. Again, our goal is to make things simpler and more effective - never to confuse and annoy. So, when (and not if ☺) we introduce something that doesn't make sense to you, please ask. Just as you want to Help Our Students To Succeed, we want to help our mentors to succeed. (Even if it doesn't make a very good acronym!)

? *The parking lot is always full! What can I do? Answer: Finding a parking place can be a problem. It is perfectly okay to parallel park along the curb in the Caldwell parking lot (in the bus zone) AS LONG AS you arrive well after 8:00 and AS LONG AS you leave well before 3:00. The 'No Parking' signs are there to clear the way for school busses to drop off and pick up students before and after school. It is fine to park along the curb at any other time. You may have to park on Boston street (the street south of Caldwell, between the school and Dillons). Also, the manager at Dillons has given the okay for us to use the north row of parking in the Dillons lot. Let us know if you continue to have trouble.*

Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go. William Feather.

As you work with your student next week, talk with him/her about what this phrase means. Talk about how sometimes, if we just keep trying, we can accomplish much.

1 - 8

Winifred C. Larsen
6406 Aberdeen
Wichita, KS 67206
316/683-3523
January 13, 1997

Senator Barbara Lawrence
Kansas State Legislature
Topeka, Kansas

Re: Education Committee Hearings

Dear Senator Lawrence:

I am sorry that I am unable to attend the hearing you are holding on January 13, 1998. I am a veteran of volunteering in the Wichita Public Schools, having served as one for the past 23 years. Many years I gave 40 or more hours per week to tutoring/mentoring and working with and for children.

This is my third year as a mentor with the HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) program at Caldwell Elementary. This program has made the best use of my time and gotten more results than any other I have experienced in the last 23 years. Students are first tested to find out what skills are missing and then are assigned to mentors. The students meet daily with a mentor for thirty minutes. The first couple of weeks the children come, they drag in and don't show us many smiles. But after a two or three weeks, the students discover that they are having success in completing tasks with their mentors. Now the students try to be first into the room and greet the mentors with smiles and a great willingness to work. The difference? Now they are working on and attaining the skills they had missed before. They no longer feel like failures, the bottom of the barrel, the potential dropouts further down the road.

Regular one-on-one tutoring doesn't give the students the same advantage as the HOSTS program. When you work with a student in a non-HOSTS environment, you usually work on the daily assignments of the student - the skills that may have been missed two or three years ago and are still not a part of the student's workable knowledge have not been addressed. The student may be able to bring up her grade in the specific course she and the mentor are working on, but the likelihood of continued success without the tutor is not as good because the holes in her skill bank are still there. HOSTS gives the student not only the skills needed to be an independent learner but the "I can do it" attitude, through positive reinforcement, which makes learning and achieving an education a pleasure and an attainable goal.

While Wichita, as an urban district, may have a greater number of children who desperately need the HOSTS program, I am sure there are students in every district in this state who would also greatly benefit from this program. In a time of tighter and tighter budgets, and greater and greater inequities in spending, it is imperative that what money can be made available be utilized in working with children to give them a more level playing field, a chance at achieving a high school diploma and the ability to contribute to the world in the years to come. No child should ever have to drop out of school because they 'couldn't keep up.' HOSTS is giving some of the children who would probably have been dropouts a few years from now, the chance and the skills they need to be able to succeed in school and in life.

The diversity of students in this state - socio-economically, racially, ethnically - means that most schools receive kindergartners with a wide range of knowledge and skills. Without a program such as HOSTS, that range of skill just grows wider and wider. It is the responsibility of the public schools to provide a good and appropriate education for each student enrolled. Please help the schools do the job assigned them by funding programs which enable all students to learn and succeed in this competitive world.

Respectfully,

Winifred C. Larsen
Site Council Chair, Caldwell Elementary
HOSTS mentor

Caldwell Elementary School
Wichita, Kansas 67218
January 21, 1997

Wichita Public Schools
Board of Education
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Members of the Board:

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you how the HOSTS program greatly benefits my classroom throughout the school year.

As a third grade teacher at Caldwell Elementary, I observe and experience the positive impact of the HOSTS program on a daily basis. I see students return from their HOSTS sessions with smiles and a display of confidence. Upon their return, HOSTS students will often comment on their newly developed skill or their ability to read and comprehend a written passage. Many times our classroom will stop for a few moments and listen as the HOSTS students retell a story or share their experiences.

I have found the excitement that the HOSTS students experience is contagious. Their shared experiences stimulate learning for the entire classroom.

As I assess and plan for my student's individual learning needs, I have the confidence of knowing the HOSTS teachers are always available to assist me with ideas and materials.

Our HOSTS program at Caldwell not only meets the academic needs for our children, but it gives each HOST recipient an invaluable gift of time with an attentive, caring adult.

The Caldwell staff and student population are indeed fortunate to have the HOSTS program as a part of our team.

Sincerely,

Pat Ford
Pat Ford

Ann H. Baker
1725 N. Cypress
Wichita, Kansas 67206

January 20, 1997

Dear Dr. Larry Vaughn and U.S.D. 259 School Board Members:

Please allow me to share my experiences as a H.O.S.T. mentor.

As a mentor at Caldwell Elementary School for two years, I have helped two students, one each year, to improve their reading skills. This one-on-one program enables children to advance their reading to the appropriate grade level. It is an exciting and enjoyable process.

HOST is respectful of a volunteer's time:
no weekly/monthly meetings to attend,
no at-home preparation,
no week-end sessions,
no traveling out of the city,
and no snacks to bring.

The program only requires:
a one hour basic training session,
a quick review of the students work folder before each session,
a half-hour with a student once a week at school.

As a retired Children's Librarian for the Wichita Public Library, I know the value and importance of children reading at their appropriate level. In my roles as a Cub Scout leader, religious children's educator, and community volunteer, I would like to encourage the use of this program in more of our neighborhood schools.

The School Board would do our youth and the community a great service by expanding the HOST program to other schools in our district.

Sincerely,



Ann H. Baker (Mrs. Roy R.)
HOST mentor
Caldwell Elementary School

1-12

*Paul
American
Family
Agent*

PAUL F. MASTERSON
8020 E. CENTRAL SUITE 140
WICHITA, KANSAS 67206-2360
OFF: 634-0122 FAX: 634-0180

January 17, 1997

Wichita Public Schools
Board of Education
c/o Caldwell Elementary
5528 E. Boston
Wichita, KS 67218

RE: HOSTS PROGRAM

Dear Members of the Board,

It is with much gratitude that this letter is prepared!
I am in my second school year as a mentor at Caldwell and
have found this experience to be quite rewarding.
Each student, which I have worked with, has shown dynamic
increased abilities in their skills. Reading appears to always
be the most obvious area in which the students show great strides
in improvement.

Each Tuesday at 1:00p.m. I look forward to spending time
with my student. However, I believe the students look forward to
this much more. The short 1/2 hour I spend is one on one and
they need this attention so desperately to concentrate on their
personal needs.

Many others in the community should be exposed to HOSTS, as
they too will find how wonderful this program is for tomorrow's
children. The children are also exposed to so many fine mentors
and the exposure to the diversities in society are of value too.

Sincerely,

Paul

AMERICAN FAMILY
INSURANCE
AUTO HOME BUSINESS HEALTH LIFE

1-13



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Admissions

May 7, 1996

Wichita Board of Education
USD 259
201 N. Water
Wichita, Kansas 67202-1292

Dear Board Members:

It has been my privilege to serve as a HOSTS mentor this past academic year. My husband originally introduced me to the program, as he is a mentor at Kelly Elementary School (and has really enjoyed the opportunity to share his time.) My personal experience has been exclusive to Caldwell Elementary School. Each Tuesday this school year, I have been working with two young boys, a 1st grader and a 4th grader. I have personally witnessed tremendous growth in both of the young boys with which I have had an opportunity to work. The environment which has been created is extremely nurturing and one where each success is celebrated.

Lisa Stinson and Geri Green serve as the coordinators and I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to brag about these two outstanding women. It takes some very special people to make volunteers feel welcome and appreciated each and every week. Ms. Stinson goes out of her way every time I am there to visit with me about my mentees. They provide us constructive feedback via a weekly newsletter which allows us to improve our mentoring skills. They also have a knack for making each mentor feel special and really valuable.

I have been so impressed with HOSTS that I have encouraged students at Wichita State University with whom I work to get involved with the program. Several of them have and they are equally impressed. It is extremely rewarding to work with a program that is achieving such success. It is encouraging to see the progress each student can make when one-on-one attention is provided. Not only do the mentors see it, but the teachers see it as well. Lisa and Geri remind us on a regular basis just how much the teachers appreciate the efforts of the HOSTS mentors. Most importantly, however, is the fact that the tests results support what we are all witnessing--that these students are succeeding as a result of the time and talents of dedicated volunteers and staff members.

Please know that I plan to continue my work as a HOSTS volunteer and will continue to encourage others to Help One Student To Succeed as well!

Sincerely,

Christine Schneikart - Luebbe

Christine Schneikart-Luebbe
Director of Admissions

1-14