

Approved: 1/28
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 20, 1998 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Downey

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: Teacher of the Year team:
Dana Sprinkle, Saline USD 307
Darla J. Mallein, Emporia USD 253
Linda Lilja, Santa Fe Trail USD 434
Mary Lee Edwards, Yates Center USD 366
Kathi Flexman, Blue Valley USD 229
Rhonda Reist, Olathe USD 233
Marilyn L. Shaw, Dery USD 260
Martin J. Jays, Towanda, Circle USD 375

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order and welcomed the 1998 Kansas Teacher of the Year and finalists. (Attachment 1) The mission of the team is commitment to improving schools, student performance, and the teaching profession in Kansas.

Darla J. Mallein, Emporia Middle School Emporia, Kansas, is Kansas Teacher of the Year. She is competing for the national title. She introduced the finalists from the four regions of the state. Each finalists gave a few brief comments about where and what they teach.

The Chairperson asked for questions from the Committee.

Questions were asked and answered regarding in-service and truancy.

The Chairperson added that she had called the person in charge of truancy problems in her district and asked how many of the truants were not reading at grade level. The person told her that she would be surprised at how bright some of these children are. There are also some preconceived notions in this area. Gifted children sometimes do not respond well in the classroom.

The area of national board certification was discussed. One of the Committee stated that it appeared to be an extremely rigorous course of training that is aimed at people who are already our best teachers.

Ms. Lilja responded in favor of the plan as it is and stated the great benefits it has brought to the teachers throughout the country and, of course, Kansas.

It was asked if the problem might be at the other end of the spectrum where there are teachers who are very good learners, but not, necessarily, good teachers. Should this be the focus instead of trying to make super teachers out of already very good teachers.

Ms. Lilja stated that the accomplished teachers, or good teachers are the ones that will raise the level of the profession. The team is only as strong as its weakest link. She cited the example of two teachers that were struggling and are now out of the teaching field.

The suggestion was agreed with that students could go out in the field with teachers for a longer period of time. The more time spent in the field with exposure to more teaching styles will get the better teachers.

The comment was made that one does not graduate from college a teacher; one graduates with all the skills ready to become a teacher. Mentoring, instruction and help is needed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ROOM 123-S-Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on January 20, 1998.

When asked about QPA, several team members stated that they are focused and working together, but the paper work makes it difficult. It was very hard at first.

Another team member stated she thought it was very good and the only way education was going to keep moving in the state.

Another comment made was that QPA is not that big nebulous thing anymore; it is not as fearsome and ferocious as many thought it was going to be. It has been good to identify and work on areas of weakness.

Chairperson Lawrence mentioned the new IDEA mandate that all students be tested and asked how will that work with students who will have to have adapted tests and be scored in a different way.

It was suggested that there could be some revised tests put out by the state that could be revised again and modified yet again. The time element and the resources expended are the biggest concern.

Chairperson Lawrence thanked all the members of the Teacher of the Year team and told the Committee that meetings would begin promptly at 9:05 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 1998.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 20, 1998

NAME	REPRESENTING
Marilyn L. Shaw	Ks. Teacher of the Year Program - Derby
Shonda Geist	Kansas Teacher of the Year - Olathe
Darla Moller	KS Teacher of the Year Team - Emporia
Kathi Fleeman	KS Teacher of the Year Team - Blue Valley
Dana Sprinkle	KS Teacher of the Year Team - Salina
Martin Hayes	KS Teacher of the Year Team - Topeka and g
Robert E. Johnson	ELL - Saline Dist. 307
Mary Lee Schwank	KS Teacher of the Year Program - ^{USD # 369} Gates Center
Linda Lijia	^{Santa Fe Trail USD # 434} KS Teacher of Year Team, Scranton
Janelle Albertson	KSDE
Roger Toelker	Senator Huskey Office
Bella Highfill Scott	USA
Christy Lewis	KNEA
Gene Neely	KNEA
Mindy Krobokw	ENEK, Emporia
Barbara Fealy	Emporia, K-ENEK
Dorothy Rockefeller	L of WV
Courtney Wyzick	Intern

1998 Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalists

Region 1



Dana Sprinkle
Happy Corner Elementary
School, Salina
Ell-Saline USD 307



Darla J. Mallein
Emporia Middle School
Emporia USD 253



Linda Lilja
Scranton Elementary School
Santa Fe Trail USD 434



Mary Lee Edwards
Yates Center High School
Yates Center USD 366

Region 3



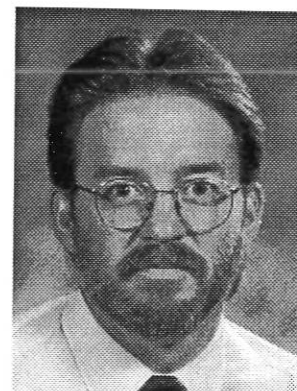
Kathi Flexman
Mission Trail Elementary
School, Leawood
Blue Valley USD 229



Rhonda Reist
Olathe North High School
Olathe USD 233



Marilyn L. Shaw
Derby Middle School
Derby USD 260



Martin J. Hays
Circle High School, Towanda
Circle USD 375

Region 4

Mission

The Kansas Teacher of the Year leads a team of exemplary teachers committed to **improving schools, student performance, and the teaching profession** in Kansas. The Kansas Teacher of the Year and finalists serve as ambassadors for Kansas education, making public appearances across the state. The Kansas Teacher of the Year represents the state in the National Teacher of the Year program sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic Inc.

A strength of the Kansas program is its team concept. The program involves the Kansas Teacher of the Year, state finalists, and district nominees. They join a network of exemplary educators who are education leaders in Kansas. Who can better speak about the educational successes and needs of students than those closest to them – classroom teachers!

Senate Education
1-20-98
Attachment 1