

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 26, 1998 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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: Donna Keyser, School Food Service Director,  
Manhattan-Ogden Schools  
Jim Williams, Riley County Commissioner  
Mark Tallman, KASB

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order and asked for action on the January 20 minutes. Senator Umbarger moved the minutes of the January 20 meeting be approved. Senator Bleeker gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

**SB 388--school food district service programs; contracts with municipalities**

Senator Oleen stated that this bill would allow for contractual arrangements between school districts and municipalities in the food service area. People from Manhattan, as well as KASB will appear today to speak as proponents of the bill.

Donna Keyser, School Food Service Director, Manhattan-Ogden Schools, presented her testimony, thanked the committee for the opportunity to appear, and stated the district had been approached by the Riley County Commission about the possibility of providing meal service for the county's new Law Enforcement Center. Her testimony included a small amendment which read, "... for the provision of meals to those for whom the municipality is responsible for providing meals," (Attachment 1) She ended her testimony by speaking of the benefits to the taxpayers; the county could save tax dollars by having a local vendor provide meals, and the district food service would have additional source of income to offset increasing food and labor costs.

Questions were asked of staff concerning municipalities and the requirements of contract bidding. Staff responded that school districts bid law is clear, but most county commissions have their own policies on bidding.

Jim Williams, Riley County Commissioner, told of the process of planning a new law enforcement center. It has been in the planning stages for several years. The Riley County Commission believes that it would be in the best interests of the taxpayers to contract with the local school district for jail food service. (Attachment 2)

Mr. Williams was asked what they planned to do on the weekends for food service. He replied that the school operates seven days a week, and cited Manhattan Day Care and the summer food service program as examples of their food service.

The Revisor added that the district can only provide service to non-profit daycare.

Discussion centered on the private sector and if it can bid in competition with the school district.

Mr. Williams said that private bids have never been competitive.

Senator Oleen commented that with regard to the private sector, the bill does not say the school districts will do it, but that it can be one that is considered; it is one of the options to be considered in saving dollars, but does not preclude the private sector.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ROOM 123-S-Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on January 26, 1998.

Mr. Williams stated that it is correct that Kansas State University can bid against the school district to provide these services.

Mr. Williams ended by saying that as they are statute driven, this would allow them to stay within the law.

Mark Tallman, KASB, spoke in support of the bill, stating his association believes that this kind of decision should be made at the local community level. It is another demonstration of why they support school board home rule. (Attachment 3)

The Committee and staff discussed wording that could be used to amend the bill. It was decided that Ms. Keyser's amendment would be adequate language fit the bill.

Senator Lee moved to amend SB 388 with the language contained in Ms. Keyser's testimony. Senator Oleen gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Oleen recommended SB 388 favorably for passage. Senator Emert gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairperson turned the Committee's attention to **SB 444, proprietary schools.**

Senator Emert recommended SB 444 favorably for passage. Senator Emert gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The Chairperson called for action on the January 21 and 22 minutes.

Senator moved approval of the minutes. Senator Emert gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 1998.



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No.388**  
**January 26, 1998**

Dear Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am Donna Keyser, School Food Service Director in the Manhattan-Ogden Schools. I would like to thank the Education Committee for the opportunity to speak on Senate Bill 388. Our district was approached by the Riley County Commission about the possibility of providing meal service for the county's new Law Enforcement Center. With one small change, Senate Bill 388 would allow the school district to enter into the bidding process. In order to provide meals for inmates, paragraph 2 of the bill should read "... for the provision of meals to those for whom the municipality is responsible for providing meals," rather than "for officers or employees of the municipality."

As a taxpayer, I believe it behooves public agencies to seek bids from as many sources as possible. When the possibility exists for a local vendor to supply a major service, both immediate cost savings and long term benefits to the local economy can be realized. The county could save tax dollars by having a local vendor provide meals, and the district food service would have an additional source of income to offset increasing food and labor costs.

The taxpayers of the Manhattan/Ogden school district have enabled us to build a facility that greatly enhances our capacity for providing meals; this is an opportunity for us to show our constituents an additional return on their investment.

*Senate Education*  
*Attachment 1*  
*1-26-98*

# SENATE BILL 388

TESTIMONY

OF

RILEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

JIM WILLIAMS

BEFORE THE SENATE EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

**SENATOR BARBARA LAWRENCE,**

**CHAIR**

Madam Chair, members of the Senate Education Committee, it is indeed a pleasure to address you this morning regarding Senate Bill 388. This legislation is important to Riley County. Riley County is in the process of planning a new law enforcement center. A major part of the center is a jail that needs food service. Meals can be either be prepared in an institutional kitchen located in the jail, or in another institutional kitchen located elsewhere in the community.

The local school district presently operates a large institutional kitchen. Riley County could contract with the local unified school district to supply the jail with meals. This is an attractive jail meal option for Riley County because it would eliminate the duplication of large institutional kitchens, built at public expense, in

*Senate Education  
Attachment 2  
1-26-98*

Manhattan. The Riley County commission believes contracting with the local unified school district for jail food service will therefore be in the best interest of all Riley County taxpayers.

In order for this to happen the legislature must grant authority to the local unified school district to enter into a food service contract with Riley County. Senate Bill 388 provides the local unified school district with the needed authority. I therefore urge you to favorably report Senate Bill 388 out of the Education Committee.

Thank you for allowing me time to testify. Are there any questions regarding my testimony?

KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS



1420 S.W. Arrowhead Rd, Topeka, Kansas 66604  
913-273-3600

TO: Senate Committee on Education  
FROM: Mark Tallman, Director of Governmental Relations  
DATE: January 26, 1998

**RE: Testimony on S.B. 388 - School District Food Service**

Madam Chair, Member of the Committee:

KASB appears today in support of S.B. 388, which expands the authority of school boards in the area of food service contracts. It would allow boards to provide meals to the officers and employees of municipalities.

This committee is certainly aware that our association believes that this kind of decision should be made at the local community level. If a school board and municipal governing board believe that providing meals through the school food service program is a good idea, they certainly should have the authority to do so.

This is another demonstration of why we support school board "home rule." This committee and the Senate have recognized this principle, and last year passed a school board local control bill, S.B. 37. Unfortunately, the House has not yet taken that position, which makes this bill necessary. We support this bill as an interim step. We hope you will continue to support efforts to adopt a broad school board home rule bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Senate Education  
Attachment 3  
1-26-98*