

Approved: 4/11
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on March 6, 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: Robert Vancrum, USD 229 Blue Valley
Diane Gjerstad, USD 259 Wichita Public Schools

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order and stated the agenda was the continuation of:
SB 604--school districts, fees for maintenance of full-day kindergarten

The Chairperson stated that several questions had been asked on the preceding day and those people concerned had returned with the answers to those questions. She called on Robert Vancrum, USD 229 Blue Valley, to present his information to the Committee.

Mr. Vancrum stated the number of kindergarten students in the district was 1134. Currently the 19th elementary school is under construction. There is a pilot program in the district of which he was not aware in which 66 students go full day. There are 165 children who attend the extended YMCA program. This is just the educational program that the YMCA operates. There also is a daycare program that it operates. There are at least 100 students that go to private full-day kindergarten programs that are not in the district. They go to these during the day and start first grade in the district. There are also a number of teachers that have stated they believe approximately 80 percent of students go to some type or kind of all-day kindergarten, but there is no documentation to support this.

Mr. Vancrum stated that parents are paying for the pilot program, but he does not know how much.

A member of the audience volunteered to Mr. Vancrum that he had spoken with Dr. Benson of the district and he had told him the parents are paying \$200 a month.

Mr. Vancrum clarified that the program is an extraordinary school pilot program of 66 children. He also added that kindergarten students are not the most expensive in terms of supplies or materials.

Mr. Dennis, KSDE, stated that this amount would equal about half of the base. The base is \$3670 and half at \$200 a month would not be too far from half the base.

The Chairperson called on Diane Gjerstad, Wichita public schools, who provided a paper on kindergarten count. (Attachment 1) There are approximately 4,000 children involved in kindergarten; of that figure, 3281 are in all-day school programs. These figures were broken down by sites. There are approximately 58 elementary buildings. What she has penciled in next to the site are the number of children who are eligible for free or reduced lunch in that building. There are approximately 42 classrooms half-day kindergarten and 145 all day kindergarten classrooms. Funding involved is Title 1 and some LOB.

It was commented to Ms. Gjerstad that she could probably get the cost per student of all-day kindergarten and half-day kindergarten since the district has its version of the Coopers & Lybrand accounting system that allows it to allocate costs back to the classrooms.

Ms. Gjerstad replied that she knew the district could go to building level, but was not sure of classroom level; she will find that out.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ROOM 123-S-Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on March 6, 1998.

Dale Dennis, KSDE, distributed a paper entitled, "Funding all-Day Kindergarten " (Attachment 2) A telephone survey of 32 unified schools districts showed 28 General and Supplemental Funds, 3 Title 1 funds, and 1 Private Funding. Also listed was a chart showing the number of full day, everyday kindergarten buildings in Kansas along with the total number of students attending such classes. The range was rural/urban. Out of 8,000 students, Wichita probably has 40% of the State. The rest are scattered all over the state.

Mr. Dennis stated that the reason they listed funding as general fund and supplementary general funds is because when the district gets ready to charge the source of finding, it depends upon how things have gone through the year; they can charge the general fund or LOB. That could vary depending upon other costs.

Mr. Dennis was asked if there are any districts that have an LOB exclusively dedicated for full-day kindergarten. If districts are running a full-day kindergarten at their expense, it is either less teachers or larger class sizes or less technology.

Mr. Dennis replied that the one LOB earmarked most is technology. He also stated that there are approximately 33,000 kids involved in kindergarten, which makes it close to 24 percent. If this would be fully implemented, it would cost approximately \$66 million. He gave the example of Hays, Kansas, who were at about 75 percent and then was fully funded the third year. From listening to school people, the pressure from the parents would be tremendous to have this. There would be serious building problems, with some having to rent facilities. There is very strong support from parents for the program.

Mr. Vancrum stated that free and reduced lunch children were excluded from the bill which means that they could attend free of charge.

The question of funding being asked, the response was it would have to be funded out of the general fund with, hopefully, some foundation money. The foundation in MR. Vancrum's district has been in place a long time and it hasn't yet reached \$100,000. They would much prefer to see state funding for full-day kindergarten, but it is a tough situation.

Senator Langworthy moved to recommend SB 444 favorably for passage. Senator Bleeker gave a second to the motion.

A show of hands showed a tie vote. The Chairperson broke the tie by voting aye.

The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 1998.



Kansas State Department of Education

120 S.E. 10th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182

March 5, 1998

TO: Senate Education Committee
FROM: Dale M. Dennis, Deputy
Commissioner of Education
SUBJECT: Funding All-Day Kindergarten

We have surveyed, by telephone, 32 unified school districts that currently operate all-day kindergarten programs in some of their schools asking them how they funded the one-half day of kindergarten that is not mandated.

Listed below are the results of the survey.

<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>No. of U.S.D.'s</u>
General and Supplemental ^{LOB} General Funds	28
Title I	3
Private Funding	1

Listed below is a chart showing the number of full day, everyday kindergarten buildings in Kansas along with the total number of students attending such classes.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>No. of Buildings Full Day, Everyday Kindergarten</u>	<u>No. of Students Full Day, Everyday Kindergarten</u>
1992-93	65	3,375
1994-95	110	4,857
1995-96	113	4,959
1996-97	152	6,731
1997-98	171	7,992

*Senate Education
Attachment 2
3-6-98*