

Approved: February 19, 1999

Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on February 5, 1999 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Cindy Hermes - Excused
Representative Kay O'Connor - Excused
Representative John Ballou - Excused

Committee staff present:

Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cheryl Collins, President, Kansas State Historical Society
Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
Jennie Chinn, Director of Education, Kansas State Historical Society

Others attending: See attached sheet

House Chairman Tanner welcomed all committee members and staff to the meeting. Chairman Tanner called on Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society, who made a few brief opening remarks and introduced the conferees.

Cheryl Collins, President, Kansas State Historical Society, felt that if students get a good background that it will give a connectiveness that will last all through their lives.

Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society, stated that although this committee is not in the position to act on appropriation requests, he felt that it was important to know about the program. Dr. Powers focused his remarks on another facet of the mandates to teach Kansas history in the schools. The mission of the Kansas State Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and interpret Kansas history and relate that history to the lives of Kansans. We feel obligated to provide access to Kansas history to all Kansans, particularly young people. The Kansas State Historical Society supported the enactment of the Kansas history mandate, and proposed the Kansas History Education Package as a carefully thought out plan to address the need for Kansas history materials in our schools. (Attachment 1)

Jennie Chinn, Kansas State Historical Society, attached to her testimony is the proposal. Beginning with the 1990-1991 school year the Kansas legislature mandated that "the state board of education shall provide for a course of instruction in Kansas history and government, which shall be required for all students graduating from an accredited high school in the state." Two major problems seem to face school districts: 1) the lack of teacher preparation in the subject knowledge, and 2) the lack of adequate teaching materials.

The State Board of Education has recently shown their concern and support in the teaching of Kansas history by including it as one of the subject areas included in the development of Standards for Civic-Government, Economics, Geography, and History. By integrating Kansas history into this process the Board has seen the need for accountability in this area. Jennie Chinn, stated it is one thing to mandate the teaching of Kansas history, but yet another. (Attachment 2)

The Kansas Historical Society staff stood for questions. Chairman Tanner thanked Dr. Powers and his staff and that the committee would give their attention to the budget request and wished the Historic Society continued success.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 1999.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



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KANSAS HISTORY CENTER

Administration
Center for Historical Research
Cultural Resources
Education / Outreach
Historic Sites
Kansas Museum of History
Library & Archives

HISTORIC SITES

Adair Cabin
Constitution Hall
Cottonwood Ranch
First Territorial Capitol
Fort Hays
Goodnow House
Grinter Place
Hollenberg Station
Kaw Mission
Marais des Cygnes Massacre
Mine Creek Battlefield
Native American Heritage Museum
Pawnee Indian Village
Pawnee Rock
Shawnee Mission

Testimony to the House Education Committee on the Kansas History Education Package, by Dr. Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society, February 5, 1999.

Chair Tanner and members of the Committee, I am Ramon Powers, Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society. We appreciate this opportunity to review with you the Kansas History Education Package that has been submitted to the Governor and the Legislature this year. Although this committee is not in the position to act on appropriation requests, we feel it is essential for you to be aware of the importance of this request for the state's K-12 educational programming.

The request for funding the Kansas History Education Package derives from the 1989 Legislative mandate that Kansas history be taught in the schools. Jennie Chinn, director of the Society's Education and Outreach Division, will review the mandate and how it relates to the implementation of the history standards being developed by the State Board of Education and the evaluation that will follow.

I want to focus my remarks on another facet of the mandate to teach Kansas history in the schools. In my presentation to this Committee last year I stated that: "An understanding of our state's past is important to all of us. Our history is the common cultural glue that binds us together, across a landscape of varied temperatures, rainfall amounts, and land forms. We have a common state government that gives us a common state history. With that history comes a sense of identity as Kansans; a sense of identity that provides a measure of self-esteem, a sense of worthiness as a community, and an understanding of why this state is as it is in this time and place. The weakness of our sense of state identity is directly linked to our lack of knowledge and promotion of our heritage."

A shared memory of our past provides the common context for community and state-wide dialogue about where we are today and where we need to go in the future. As we talk about the future of Kansas, the text for our discussions is the history we share--the experience of our past together.

HOUSE EDUCATION
Attachment 1
2-5-99

Last year I also related to this Committee that Kansas has a rich and proud heritage. A citizen wrote in 1905, that "All the world knows Kansas, knows Kansas as the first battle ground in the war for freedom, knows Kansas as the very cradle of freedom." I quote Eugene Ware's poem, *Three States*:

Of all the states, but three will live in story;
Old Massachusetts with her Plymouth Rock,
And old Virginia with her noble stock,
And Sunny Kansas with her woes and glory;
These three will live in song and oratory,
While all the others, with their idle claims,
Will only be remembered as mere names.

The mission of the Kansas State Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and interpret Kansas history and relate that history to the lives of Kansans. We feel obligated to provide access to Kansas history to all Kansans, particularly young people. We supported the enactment of the Kansas history mandate, and we propose the Kansas History Education Package as a carefully thought out plan to address the need for Kansas history materials in our schools.

Let me leave you with the quote from a teacher from Hays who made the following plea in response to a recent survey on how extensively Kansas history is being taught:

When Governor Mike Hayden mandated the teaching of Kansas history at the secondary level in Kansas schools, he and the legislature did not go far enough. By not requiring a specific semester or year-long course, the legislature has allowed school districts to slip back into complacency and allow teachers to work it in whenever and wherever they can. . . . We have such a rich history, we have an incredible story to tell. It is time that we stopped apologizing for our heritage. We must sing our own praises and instill pride in the youth of Kansas. We can only achieve this through education.

I trust that my grandchildren, Ashley and Kathy Kerns and Alex Haung, will have an opportunity in school to learn Kansas history that both sharpens their understanding of this place we call Kansas and also instills a sense of pride in place and in the struggles of those who preceded them here.

February 5, 1999

Testimony to the House Education Committee

By Jennie Chinn, Director of Education, Kansas State Historical Society

Last Friday, January 29, the Kansas State Historical Society held its annual Kansas Day celebration. It was a great success with 2,200 school children in attendance. In order to coordinate with the new exhibit on famous Kansan, we developed a jeopardy-style game for the students to play. Groups of students were asked to answer questions about Kansans and their achievement. The majority of the children who I observed play the game were between grades 4 and 8. The students could generally answer such questions as:

- What place did Dorothy leave when she went to Oz (Kansas), and
- What Kansas character works as a reporter in Metropolis, but grew up in Kansas (Clark Kent - Superman)?

Some of the questions in the game were quite hard such as:

- Who was the Kansan who invented the integrated circuit in 1958 which made the computers of today possible (Jack Kilby)?

However, I think what surprised me was the number of students who could not answer the following questions:

- What Kansan was a five-star general and a U.S. President (Eisenhower)?
- What Kansan was the first vice president of the United States to have Native American ancestry (Charles Curtis)?
- What Kansas governor ran for president in 1936 and later had a daughter who served in the United States Senate (Alf Landon)?

I tell you this story because I think it clearly illustrates the state of our children's knowledge about their home state.

Beginning with the 1990-91 school year the Kansas legislature mandated that "the state board of education shall provide for a course of instruction in Kansas history and government, which shall be required for all students graduating from an accredited high school in the state." Last year we came to you about the state of this mandate in the schools. Last winter the Historical Society collected data that revealed that many teachers felt that Kansas history was not adequately taught in the schools. Two major problems seem to face school districts: 1) the lack of teacher preparation in the subject knowledge, and 2) the lack of adequate teaching materials.

The State Board of Education has recently shown their concern and support over the teaching of Kansas history by including it as one of the subject areas included in the development of Standards for Civic-Government, Economics, Geography, and History. By integrating Kansas history into this process the Board has seen the need for accountability in this area.

I am currently co-chairing a committee of educators and community members to develop the history standards for the state. What the standards do is lay out the type of knowledge that each student should have at each grade level. Last year the state

adopted standards for reading and language arts and moved towards the adoption of state standards for math. At the current time standards are being developed for Social Studies and Science. These standards are scheduled to be considered for adoption in April. School districts will have one year to work with the social studies standards and then students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will be tested on the standards beginning in 2001. The result is that for the first time since the legislature mandated the teaching of Kansas history, schools will be accountable for their students performance in this area.

As you all know, it is one thing to mandate the teaching of Kansas history, but yet another to implement it – and implementation is impossible without adequate teaching materials. For this reason the Historical Society has developed a budget enhancement that we are asking the legislature to consider. The problem of resources is more acute in terms of Kansas history than any other discipline area defined by the curricula standards. After all, Civics-Government, Economics, Geography, World and U.S. History are all subjects taught throughout the United States. This means there is a commercial market for producing textbooks and other teaching materials about these subjects. State history is different. There is no commercial market for developing materials for the teaching of Kansas history. This is not a problem unique to our state. I recently had the opportunity to visit the state's of Iowa and Minnesota in regards to the teaching of state history. What I found there was that it is the state itself that has taken responsibility (through the state historical society) for developing their own teaching materials in regard to their history.

Using teacher input, from across the state the Historical Society has put together the plan you have before you (see attachment).

As we ask your support for this project, I would like to emphasis that the Historical Society sees this project in terms of partnerships. We are committed to developing materials that meet the standards that will be adopted by the Board of Education. We are also committed to working closely with the staff of the State Department of Education. We should make note, that the State Board of Education provided us with unanimous support for this project at their January meeting. The Historical Society is also committed to using Kansas teachers (who of course best understand what they themselves need) in the development of these materials.

We would be happy to answer any questions you might have. I Would like to point out that Kim Rasmussen, Social Studies Consultant with the State Department of Education is also here, if you have any questions of her.

KANSAS HISTORY EDUCATION PACKAGE

Kansas State Historical Society
FY 2000 Budget Proposal

Background:

K.S.A. 72-1117 requires that all students graduating from an accredited high school in Kansas must complete a course of instruction in Kansas history. The State Board of Education has determined that each school district shall offer a minimum of nine consecutive weeks of Kansas history and government within one of the grade levels of seven through twelve. The state has not provided teaching materials to enable school districts to meet this mandate. Unlike U.S. and world history which is taught throughout the country, there is no commercial market for developing state history materials. In many states the state historical society takes on this task. During the winter of 1997-98 the Kansas State Historical Society completed a teacher's survey that revealed that teachers continue to be in need of good materials for the teaching of Kansas history. This proposal was developed with data from the survey.

Proposal:

The Kansas State Historical Society proposes a three year project to develop a series of educational products for grades K-12. These products would be tied into the State Board of Education's social studies standards.

Classroom Materials for Teaching Kansas History:

- 1) Kansas History Primary Source Teacher Packets (\$300,000): Twenty thematic History Packets will be aimed at grades 7-12 and will present copies of twenty to twenty-five primary documents for use in the classroom.
- 2) Student Workbooks with Teacher's Guide (\$75,000): Age appropriate student activities will be presented in workbooks for grades K-2 and 3-6.
- 3) Teacher Resource Guide (\$100,000): A comprehensive guide would help teachers in grades K-12 locate statewide resources on Kansas history.
- 4) Access to Society Collections on the Internet (\$95,000): Historical documents would be digitized and placed on the internet to provide equal access to research materials for all students in the state.
- 5) Kansas History Textbook (\$150,000): Teacher's have expressed a strong interest in a textbook that is appropriate and challenging to middle school students.
- 6) Traveling Resource Trunks (\$80,000): Twenty trunks on four themes will provide classrooms with replica artifacts, games, media programs, and other hands-on materials for grades 3-8.
- 7) Kansas Encyclopedia on CD-POM (\$250,000): A general encyclopedia of Kansas history will be developed , aimed at grades 7-12.
- 8) Elementary Videos on Kansas History (\$250,000): Three videos on Kansas history would be developed for elementary school children.
- 9) Teacher Instruction for Teaching of Kansas History (\$135,000): Teachers not only need materials for the teaching of Kansas history but they also need training.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Expenditures	FY2000	FY2001	FY2002
-Primary Source Teacher Packets	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 150,000
-Student Workbooks	-0-	\$ 37,500	\$ 37,500
-Resource Guide	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	-0-
-Internet Access to Collections	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 40,000
-Textbook	-0-	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
-Traveling Resource Trunks	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 40,000
-Encyclopedia CD-ROM	-0-	-0-	\$ 250,000
-Elementary School Videos	-0-	\$125,000	\$ 125,000
-Teacher Training	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 100,000
Total	\$185,000	\$ 432,500	\$ 817,500

GRAND TOTAL \$1,435,000