

Approved: April 10, 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 March 3, 1999 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Helgerson - Excused

Committee staff present:

Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department  
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes  
Connie Burns, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Elizabeth Koch, Chairman of the Board, Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas  
Shelly Chenoweth, Executive Director, Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas  
Sheila Heine, YEK Instructor/Chairman, Business Dept.  
Janelle Wright, YEK Student, Topeka High School  
Paul Wemmer, YEK Student, Wichita North High School

Others attending:

See attached list

The Joint House and Senate Education Committees, chaired by Representative Ralph Tanner and Senator Barbara Lawrence, met jointly for a presentation on Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas.

Elizabeth Koch stated that she and Charles brought the program to Wichita in 1991. The organization is a great example of the private sector coming together with a public entity. This was started in the public schools, forming a partnership, and providing a market solution to problems our society is facing. She stated that they are not asking for money. What they need are champions - someone who will stand up and talk about the benefits of this program. Encourage the businesses in your communities to take a serious look at the ways they can support education, either financially, or through the commitment of time. With help this program can just be the start of companies in this area who will make a public commitment to teaching students about business and entrepreneurship, and who see that a little extra effort with our students reaps benefits far beyond the investment. (Attachment 1)

Shelly Chenoweth spoke on program highlights. The program teaches free enterprise fundamentals through hands-on-experiences, encourages students to enhance their business skills for future career opportunities, continue into higher education. The program is a non-profit organization. (Attachment 2)

Shiela Heine, Topeka, spoke on the program that was started in Topeka High last fall. She was very excited about this workable program for the community and the students.

Janelle Wright and Paul Wemmer, both students in the program, spoke very enthusiastically about it. The program in Wichita is one year, and the program in Topeka is one semester.

The chairman thanked everyone for coming and wished them great success with their program.

The hearings on **SB 27 -Kansas committee on school district finance and quality performance, repealer, SB 28 - State council on vocational education, state advisory council for vocational education, repealer, SB 29 - School term, special exceptions, repealer, SB 30 - School laws, publication by state board of education, repealer, SB 31 - Special education services for developmentally disabled children, repealer, SB 32 - Kansas commission on education restructuring and accountability, repealer, SB 33 - Bond issuances before school district unification, repealer, SB 34 - State minimum competency assessment program, repealer, SB 35 - School district bond issuances, validation, repealer, SB 36 - School districts, provision and maintenance of water closets, repealer, SB 37 - School district self evaluation and accreditation, repealer** were opened.

Senator Emert appeared before the committee as a sponsor of the eleven bills. He stated that these eleven bills are repealers of useless, unneeded, outdated statutes in the area of education. (Attachment 3)

Hearings on **SB 27, SB 28, SB 29, SB 30, SB 31, SB 32, SB 33, SB 34, SB 35, SB 36, and SB 37** were closed.

**Representative Morrison made a motion to report SB 27, SB 28, SB 29, SB 30, SB 31, SB 32, SB 33, SB 34, SB 35, SB 36, SB 37 favorably for passage and because the committee is of the opinion that the bills are of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Representative Bethell seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 1999.



**Testimony to the Committees on Education,  
Kansas Senate and House of Representatives**

**Elizabeth Koch**

March 3, 1999 - 9 a.m.

Good morning. I am Liz Koch, and I would like to thank you for this opportunity to talk to you about a program that is close to my heart, Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas, otherwise known as YEK. I know there is a lot of fervor right now about Y2K - that's not us! We are solving problems, not creating them!

YEK uses market principles to solve social problems. We develop new skills, but we also provide fundamental lessons important for life - that you can do well by doing good.

This organization is a great example of the private sector coming together with a public entity, in this case the public schools, forming a partnership, and providing a market solution to problems our society is facing. This is what Charles and I believe, and why we helped bring YEK to Kansas in 1991.

Representatives from YEK had the chance to address this group a few years ago, and we are thrilled with the growth of our program since that time. Let me share with you some of the progress we've made since then.

YEK came to Topeka High School last fall. We expected about 50 students. More than 200 signed up. Once we got over the initial shock, we worked with the leaders at the school to accommodate all of the students who expressed an interest in YEK. Added to the program in Wichita, we have 450 students in Kansas involved in YEK.

When it comes to YEK, I'm often asked, "What can I do to help?" Well, let me make it clear, I'm not asking for money. What we need are champions - someone who will stand up and talk about the benefits of this program. A number of companies now provide help -- Cessna, Boeing, Salomon Smith Barney, among others. We need more. You know the leaders in the communities you represent. Tell them about YEK, and other similar programs that provide valuable skills to our children. Encourage the businesses in your communities to take a serious look at the ways they can support education, either financially, or through the commitment of time.

As evidence of the support that continues to build, we have a special announcement this morning. We are thrilled to say we can now name a Topeka company as a YEK supporter - Hill's Pet Nutrition has awarded YEK a gift of \$19,000, to be directed toward scholarships and venture capital grants.

With your help, this can just be the start of companies in this area who will make a public commitment to teaching students about business and entrepreneurship, and who see that a little extra effort with our students reaps benefits far beyond the investment.

Another way we can use your help is by encouraging your school districts to welcome these programs, and to realize all they have to offer.

Acceptance by school administrators is a crucial link to YEK's success, and we have nothing but praise for the open-mindedness and flexibility we found at Topeka High. Dr. Patty Pressman and her staff have been incredibly helpful as we launch our program for the first time outside of Wichita. Winston Brooks from Wichita has given us the same kind treatment, and we express our gratitude for their acceptance.

We understand federal and state funding for education is and will remain a volatile subject with many points of view. We appreciate this chance to highlight a program that has relied on other sources of funding to add value to the school systems.

As I have met these students in groups or one-on-one, I must admit I haven't seen the bad kids that everyone seems to talk about. I have met kids who need guidance and some help focusing on what is truly important, but they are all hungry for learning and ways to improve their own situations.

Until now, we have had only anecdotal evidence of the effectiveness of this program in changing the lives of students today – including at risk youth. We can now move beyond the stories to hard evidence, thanks to the results of a new study.

For some highlights of the study and more information about specific details of YEK, I will defer to our executive director, Shelly Chenoweth. We'll also hear a teacher's perspective, and then let you hear directly from some students involved in this program.





# *Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas*

## **Program At-a-Glance**

- Teaches free enterprise fundamentals through hands-on experiences
- Encourages students to:
  - Start their own business
  - Enhance their business skills for future career opportunities
  - Continue into higher education
- Serving approximately 500 students in the 1998 - 1999 academic year
- YEK locations using NFTE curriculum, spanning full academic year:
  - West High School
  - Northwest High School
  - Heights High School
  - Campus High School - Haysville
  - North High School
  - South High School
  - Augusta High School
- YEK locations using NFTE curriculum designed for one semester:
  - Central YMCA - Wichita
  - Topeka High School
- Established in 1991 by the Charles G. Koch Foundation
- A public non-profit organization
- A licensed program of NFTE (National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship)
- School counselors and teachers direct students to the YEK course
- Open to all students, targeted toward at-risk youths
- Each student writes a business plan, participates in classroom competitions, and receives credit for successfully meeting graduation requirements
- Venture Capital Grants for business start-up or post-secondary education in excess of \$8000.00 awarded in the 1997-98 academic year
- Over \$15,000 in scholarships awarded in the 1997-98 academic year
- Scholarships provided for promising students
- More than 1700 students have graduated from YEK
- Graduates' involvement maintained through YEK's Ambassador Club, which promotes continued learning opportunities and community service
- Encourages community involvement with business professionals volunteering as mentors, guest speakers, and judges
- Partnerships with local businesses, including Cessna Aircraft, Pizza Hut, and Salomon Smith Barney to provide summer training programs
- Located at Devlin Hall, Wichita State University. Shares facility with the Center for Entrepreneurship

TESTIMONY  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
SENATE BILLS 27-37  
MARCH 3, 1999  
SENATOR TIM EMERT

Mr. Chairman, thank you for scheduling Senate Bills 27-37 for hearing. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the committee on these critical pieces of legislation.

These bills come to you from the Senate where they were known under two different names: "The Kansas Attempt to Save the Trees," and "The State Printer Workload Reduction Act."

Simply put—before you are 11 repealers of useless, unneeded, outdated statutes in the area of education.

Attached you will find a brief statement concerning each.

Senator Tim Emert

<u>Statute</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reason for Repeal</u>
<b>SB27</b> 72-64a01	[Expired by their own terms]	Expired
<b>SB28</b> 72-4409 72-4409a 72-4410	Create and relate to the State Council on Vocational Education	This Council has not been funded for several years, and, thus, has not functioned. It is not required.
<b>SB29</b> 72-1106c 72-1106d	School term for the 1977-78, 1990-91 school years	School years have long since past
<b>SB30</b> 72-120	Authorizes State Board to publish school laws	Laws are available on the Internet
<b>SB31</b> 72-933	Mandates special education for developmentally disabled students	Such services are required under KSA 72-961 <u>et seq.</u>
<b>SB 32</b> 72-77a01 to 72-77a04	Establish Kansas Commission on education restructuring and accountability	Expired 2/1/93
<b>SB 33</b> 72-1626b	Authority to issue bonds where issuance was voter-authorized before unification	Outdated. Unification of districts was completed in the 60s. Any bonds issued would be retired.
<b>SB 34</b> 72-9401 to 9404	Provide for state minimum competency tests	These tests have not been funded, nor administered, for many years
<b>SB 35</b> 72-6761a 72-6761b	Validate bond issues in particular school districts during the 1970s.	Bonds have been retired.
<b>SB 36</b> 72-5303	Mandates "water closets" for each school	Woefully outdated. (1891)
<b>SB 37</b> 72-1114 to 1116	Authorize district self-evaluation per State Board guidelines for Accreditation purposes.	State Board does not authorize accreditation on this basis.