

Approved: May 1, 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 9, 1999 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bob Bethell - Excused

Representative Bill Mason - Excused

Committee staff present:

Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes

Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes

Connie Burns, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Bill Light

Kathy Dale, USD #210, Superintendent Hugoton

Stephen Bohrer, USD #462, Superintendent Burden

Emery Hart, USD #280 West Graham - Morland

Fred Kaufman, USD #489 Hays

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools

Others attending: See attached list

Discussions on **SB 171** were continued.

The topic on school district finance, definition of enrollment was opened. Dale Dennis handed out a special report on enrollment changes from 97-98 to 98-99. ([Attachment 1](#))

Representative Bill Light spoke on the subject of declining enrollment. He stated that after attending a meeting of 50 schools in south west Kansas, that over half of them were experiencing declining enrollment.

Kathy Dale, Hugoton, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the measure. She stated that in business she experience in education limited budget forecasting options, an although Stevens County has had a slight population increase, both schools in the county are in declining enrollment, and the Board of Education took a proactive approach to planning through development of a Business Plan. ([Attachment 2](#))

Stephen Bohrer, Burden, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the measure. He stated that being able to reach back two, or three or even four years, may be only a Band-Aid solution, it can be quickly enacted and easily audited. He encouraged the Kansas Legislature to enact the proposed change to the school finance formula. ([Attachment 3](#))

Emery Hart, Morland, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the measure. He stated due to declining enrollments they have consolidated bus routes, cut custodial salaries, and even talked about taking retirement and work part-time. They need to make big cuts without hurting the children's education. ([Attachment 4](#))

Fred Kaufman, Hays, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the measure. He stated that he respectfully request that a provision be added to Senate Bill 171 allowing them to use the best of three years enrollment, rather than the best of two. ([Attachment 5](#))

Dr. Bill Neuenswander, Baker University, submitted written testimony in opposition of the measure. ([Attachment 6](#))

Senator Tim Emert appeared before the committee to offer an amendment to **SB 171** that corrects the funding for the 4-year old at-risk program for the declining enrollment this year. ([Attachment 7](#)) Representative Hermes made a motion to amend Senator Emert's proposal into **SB 171**. Representative Morrison seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussions were closed on school district finance, definition of enrollment.

Discussions on school district finance, transportation weighting were opened.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the measure. She stated that the basic problem is that the reimbursement for transportation aid was established in the 1960's, and society and culture has

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 313-S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on March 9, 1999.

changed in 40 years, but the school districts are still only reimbursed for those students who live more than 2.5 miles from the school. (Attachment 8)

Discussions on school district finance, transportation weighting were closed.

Discussions on school district finance, local option budgets, retailers' sales tax, income tax were opened.

Representative Horst appeared before the committee as a sponsor of this measure. She stated that this measure would allow districts more flexibility and with voter approval, to use alternate sources of funding for LOBs rather than overburdening property tax. The sales tax would have to be fixed in intervals of .25 percent with no more than 1.0 percent being levied. The income tax would be in multiples of 5.0 percent on the taxpayer's tax liability after all credits have been deducted. (Attachment 9)

Discussions on school district finance, local option budgets, retailers' sales tax, income tax were closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 1999.



Special Report on Enrollment Change from 97-98 to 98-99

USD	Unified School District Name	FTE Enr9899	FTE Enr9798	Change in Enrollment from last year to this	% Change in Enrollment from last year to this	"Rank" in % Change ( "1" = highest % growth; 304 = largest % decline)
101	Erie-St.Paul	1,184.5	1,206.5	-22.0	-1.8%	189
102	Cimarron-Ensign	637.5	635.0	2.5	0.4%	102
103	Cheylin	192.0	188.0	4.0	2.1%	58
104	White Rock	199.5	162.0	37.5	23.1%	1
200	Greeley County	318.5	343.0	-24.5	-7.1%	287
202	Turner	3,665.3	3,773.4	-108.1	-2.9%	217
203	Piper	1,282.0	1,269.5	12.5	1.0%	82
204	Bonner Springs	2,131.1	2,095.6	35.5	1.7%	66
205	Bluestem	776.5	807.7	-31.2	-3.9%	243
206	Remington-Whitewater	549.0	543.4	5.6	1.0%	81
207	Ft. Leavenworth	1,685.0	1,740.0	-55.0	-3.2%	231
208	WaKeeney	574.5	599.5	-25.0	-4.2%	244
209	Moscow	193.1	206.6	-13.5	-6.5%	280
210	Hugoton	963.5	1,000.0	-36.5	-3.7%	240
211	Norton	748.5	776.1	-27.6	-3.6%	238
212	Northern Valley	196.5	200.0	-3.5	-1.8%	188
213	West Solomon Valley	95.0	103.5	-8.5	-8.2%	292
214	Ulysses	1,775.0	1,767.0	8.0	0.5%	99
215	Lakin	729.5	738.5	-9.0	-1.2%	167
216	Deerfield	367.8	389.4	-21.6	-5.5%	268
217	Rolla	207.3	194.0	13.3	6.9%	11
218	Elkhart	550.5	549.0	1.5	0.3%	108
219	Minneola	277.5	279.0	-1.5	-0.5%	138
220	Ashland	246.0	244.5	1.5	0.6%	93
221	North Central	160.5	159.5	1.0	0.6%	91
222	Washington	378.0	374.7	3.3	0.9%	84
223	Barnes	391.1	375.7	15.4	4.1%	29
224	Clifton-Clyde	389.0	401.5	-12.5	-3.1%	228
225	Fowler	168.5	179.0	-10.5	-5.9%	277
226	Meade	441.0	427.5	13.5	3.2%	38
227	Jetmore	330.0	339.0	-9.0	-2.7%	214
228	Hanston	138.5	146.5	-8.0	-5.5%	266
229	Blue Valley	15,430.6	14,591.3	839.3	5.8%	16
230	Spring Hill	1,356.0	1,305.0	51.0	3.9%	31
231	Gardner-Edgrtn-Antch	2,388.6	2,261.4	127.2	5.6%	17
232	DeSoto	2,510.1	2,283.5	226.6	9.9%	5
233	Olathe	18,662.5	17,980.4	682.1	3.8%	32
234	Ft. Scott	2,117.7	2,121.7	-4.0	-0.2%	122
235	Uniontown	498.5	521.0	-22.5	-4.3%	249
237	Smith Center	585.5	620.5	-35.0	-5.6%	272
238	West Smith County	195.5	198.5	-3.0	-1.5%	177
239	North Ottawa County	687.6	728.0	-40.4	-5.5%	269
240	Twin Valley	628.5	632.0	-3.5	-0.6%	141
241	Wallace County	306.0	313.5	-7.5	-2.4%	205
242	Weskan	125.0	113.0	12.0	10.6%	4
243	Lebo-Waverly	582.5	594.9	-12.4	-2.1%	198



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244	Burlington	918.0	946.3	-28.3	-3.0%	223
245	Leroy-Gridley	365.5	351.5	14.0	4.0%	30
246	Northeast	580.0	592.0	-12.0	-2.0%	196
247	Cherokee	843.2	839.3	3.9	0.5%	97
248	Girard	1,130.5	1,125.0	5.5	0.5%	95
249	Frontenac	644.0	659.2	-15.2	-2.3%	203
250	Pittsburg	2,596.0	2,660.4	-64.4	-2.4%	206
251	North Lyon County	715.5	753.0	-37.5	-5.0%	259
252	South Lyon County	658.5	666.0	-7.5	-1.1%	163
253	Emporia	4,593.2	4,476.2	117.0	2.6%	48
254	Barber County North	757.5	772.5	-15.0	-1.9%	193
255	South Barber County	325.5	345.5	-20.0	-5.8%	275
256	Marmaton Valley	415.0	436.0	-21.0	-4.8%	256
257	Iola	1,674.0	1,717.4	-43.4	-2.5%	211
258	Humboldt	534.6	534.5	0.1	0.0%	113
259	Wichita	45,138.0	44,242.0	896.0	2.0%	61
260	Derby	6,690.3	6,521.3	169.0	2.6%	49
261	Haysville	4,231.1	4,039.3	191.8	4.7%	24
262	Valley Center	2,298.5	2,252.0	46.5	2.1%	60
263	Mulvane	1,939.0	1,910.5	28.5	1.5%	73
264	Clearwater	1,144.0	1,126.1	17.9	1.6%	68
265	Goddard	3,282.0	3,076.0	206.0	6.7%	13
266	Maize	4,895.0	4,679.3	215.7	4.6%	26
267	Renwick	1,807.0	1,747.5	59.5	3.4%	35
268	Cheney	709.6	706.5	3.1	0.4%	100
269	Palco	178.5	178.5	0.0	0.0%	114
270	Plainville	452.0	451.1	0.9	0.2%	110
271	Stockton	436.6	453.5	-16.9	-3.7%	242
272	Waconda	560.5	585.5	-25.0	-4.3%	247
273	Beloit	811.6	801.6	10.0	1.2%	77
274	Oakley	505.4	531.0	-25.6	-4.8%	257
275	TriPlains	92.5	104.0	-11.5	-11.1%	299
278	Mankato	275.0	300.0	-25.0	-8.3%	294
279	Jewell	186.0	186.0	0.0	0.0%	115
280	West Graham-Morland	91.0	113.0	-22.0	-19.5%	304
281	Hill City	423.0	434.0	-11.0	-2.5%	212
282	West Elk	524.0	537.1	-13.1	-2.4%	207
283	Elk Valley	222.5	263.0	-40.5	-15.4%	303
284	Chase County	493.2	528.0	-34.8	-6.6%	282
285	Cedar Vale	206.7	219.0	-12.3	-5.6%	271
286	Chautauqua County	512.0	538.0	-26.0	-4.8%	258
287	West Franklin	921.1	899.5	21.6	2.4%	53
288	Central Heights	702.0	698.2	3.8	0.5%	94
289	Wellsville	768.0	746.6	21.4	2.9%	44
290	Ottawa	2,290.7	2,319.3	-28.6	-1.2%	168
291	Grinnell	160.0	165.0	-5.0	-3.0%	224
292	Wheatland	184.5	175.0	9.5	5.4%	18
293	Quinter	390.0	372.5	17.5	4.7%	25
294	Oberlin	558.0	572.0	-14.0	-2.4%	208
295	Prairie Heights	91.5	92.0	-0.5	-0.5%	139
297	St. Francis	441.0	439.5	1.5	0.3%	105

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298	Lincoln	411.0	412.5	-1.5	-0.4%	131
299	Sylvan Grove	206.0	208.5	-2.5	-1.2%	165
300	Comanche County	357.0	385.5	-28.5	-7.4%	288
301	Nes-Tre-La-Go	76.0	88.6	-12.6	-14.2%	302
302	Smoky Hill	160.5	170.5	-10.0	-5.9%	276
303	Ness City	288.5	301.2	-12.7	-4.2%	246
304	Bazine	112.0	114.5	-2.5	-2.2%	202
305	Salina	7,298.8	7,307.0	-8.2	-0.1%	118
306	Southeast of Saline	677.0	655.9	21.1	3.2%	37
307	Ell-Saline	461.8	451.4	10.4	2.3%	55
308	Hutchinson	4,904.5	4,991.0	-86.5	-1.7%	186
309	Nickerson	1,355.8	1,367.6	-11.8	-0.9%	151
310	Fairfield	449.5	448.0	1.5	0.3%	106
311	Fretty Prairie	328.7	329.7	-1.0	-0.3%	128
312	Haven	1,125.1	1,122.5	2.6	0.2%	109
313	Buhler	2,217.7	2,214.6	3.1	0.1%	111
314	Brewster	160.5	163.0	-2.5	-1.5%	179
315	Colby	1,123.5	1,161.8	-38.3	-3.3%	234
316	Golden Plains	176.0	186.0	-10.0	-5.4%	264
317	Herndon	100.0	108.0	-8.0	-7.4%	289
318	Atwood	433.0	440.6	-7.6	-1.7%	185
320	Wamego	1,412.0	1,420.9	-8.9	-0.6%	144
321	Kaw Valley !!!!!!!	1,069.5	1,050.5	19.0	1.8%	64
322	Onaga-Hvllle-Whtn	422.2	447.5	-25.3	-5.7%	273
323	Rock Creek	775.2	772.7	2.5	0.3%	107
324	Eastern Heights	194.5	195.0	-0.5	-0.3%	125
325	Phillipsburg	698.5	725.0	-26.5	-3.7%	241
326	Logan	208.5	210.0	-1.5	-0.7%	146
327	Ellsworth	753.5	831.5	-78.0	-9.4%	296
328	Lorraine	556.5	528.5	28.0	5.3%	20
329	Mill Creek Valley	558.5	558.2	0.3	0.1%	112
330	Wabaunsee East	636.0	638.0	-2.0	-0.3%	129
331	Kingman	1,220.8	1,201.8	19.0	1.6%	69
332	Cunningham	332.5	341.0	-8.5	-2.5%	210
333	Concordia	1,302.7	1,290.0	12.7	1.0%	83
334	Southern Cloud	274.0	292.5	-18.5	-6.3%	279
335	Jackson Heights	428.6	420.9	7.7	1.8%	63
336	Holton	1,087.0	1,061.3	25.7	2.4%	52
337	Royal Valley	857.0	864.5	-7.5	-0.9%	152
338	Valley Falls	462.0	469.5	-7.5	-1.6%	181
339	Jefferson County North	482.2	482.5	-0.3	-0.1%	117
340	Jefferson West	945.5	937.5	8.0	0.9%	86
341	Oskaloosa	726.4	768.7	-42.3	-5.5%	267
342	McLouth	573.5	598.5	-25.0	-4.2%	245
343	Perry	1,046.1	1,078.0	-31.9	-3.0%	221
344	Pleasanton	426.0	418.5	7.5	1.8%	65
345	Seaman	3,181.7	3,230.1	-48.4	-1.5%	175
346	Jayhawk	600.5	591.5	9.0	1.5%	71
347	Kinsley-Offerle	355.9	375.9	-20.0	-5.3%	261
348	Baldwin City	1,244.0	1,253.5	-9.5	-0.8%	147
349	Stafford	333.8	330.0	3.8	1.2%	79

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350	St. John	443.0	468.0	-25.0	-5.3%	263
351	Macksville	295.0	309.5	-14.5	-4.7%	254
352	Goodland	1,156.8	1,176.0	-19.2	-1.6%	184
353	Wellington	1,971.7	1,996.0	-24.3	-1.2%	166
354	Claflin	324.3	353.5	-29.2	-8.3%	293
355	Ellinwood	604.6	599.9	4.7	0.8%	89
356	Conway Springs	553.3	536.9	16.4	3.1%	41
357	Belle Plaine	838.5	799.0	39.5	4.9%	21
358	Oxford	457.0	499.0	-42.0	-8.4%	295
359	Argonia	270.0	239.5	30.5	12.7%	3
360	Caldwell	344.5	336.5	8.0	2.4%	54
361	Anthony-Harper	1,087.2	1,092.0	-4.8	-0.4%	133
362	Prairie View	922.9	955.4	-32.5	-3.4%	236
363	Holcomb	872.0	834.0	38.0	4.6%	28
364	Marysville	968.3	997.3	-29.0	-2.9%	218
365	Garnett	1,121.5	1,155.4	-33.9	-2.9%	219
366	Yates Center	621.5	659.0	-37.5	-5.7%	274
367	Osawatomie	1,265.0	1,228.0	37.0	3.0%	42
368	Paola	2,058.7	2,049.4	9.3	0.5%	98
369	Burrton	243.5	260.8	-17.3	-6.6%	284
371	Montezuma	214.0	198.0	16.0	8.1%	8
372	Silver Lake	696.8	686.6	10.2	1.5%	74
373	Newton	3,474.2	3,429.4	44.8	1.3%	75
374	Sublette	485.3	490.5	-5.2	-1.1%	162
375	Circle	1,408.0	1,452.2	-44.2	-3.0%	225
376	Sterling	531.5	556.5	-25.0	-4.5%	253
377	Atchison County	806.0	770.5	35.5	4.6%	27
378	Riley County	628.4	648.7	-20.3	-3.1%	230
379	Clay Center	1,588.0	1,628.1	-40.1	-2.5%	209
380	Vermillion	628.3	636.5	-8.2	-1.3%	171
381	Spearville	361.0	350.5	10.5	3.0%	43
382	Pratt	1,375.0	1,389.0	-14.0	-1.0%	156
383	Manhattan-Ogden	5,830.7	5,913.8	-83.1	-1.4%	173
384	Blue Valley-Randolph	303.5	304.9	-1.4	-0.5%	134
385	Andover	2,800.4	2,704.5	95.9	3.5%	34
386	Madison-Virgil	282.5	279.0	3.5	1.3%	76
387	Altoona-Midway	359.5	350.0	9.5	2.7%	47
388	Ellis	371.0	372.0	-1.0	-0.3%	126
389	Eureka	799.0	800.0	-1.0	-0.1%	119
390	Hamilton	122.0	138.5	-16.5	-11.9%	301
392	Osborne County	496.5	497.6	-1.1	-0.2%	124
393	Solomon	428.5	418.0	10.5	2.5%	51
394	Rose Hill	1,757.0	1,744.0	13.0	0.7%	90
395	LaCrosse	357.5	354.5	3.0	0.8%	87
396	Douglass	901.9	898.7	3.2	0.4%	104
397	Centre	306.9	305.0	1.9	0.6%	92
398	Peabody-Burns	466.5	456.0	10.5	2.3%	56
399	Paradise	154.0	147.0	7.0	4.8%	23
400	Lindsborg	990.6	998.6	-8.0	-0.8%	150
401	Chase	182.0	194.0	-12.0	-6.2%	278
402	Augusta	2,220.7	2,210.2	10.5	0.5%	96

<b>"Rank" in % Change (</b> <b>"1" = highest %</b> <b>growth; 304 = largest</b> <b>% decline)</b>
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403	Otis-Bison	335.5	347.8	-12.3	-3.5%	237
404	Riverton	828.5	803.5	25.0	3.1%	39
405	Lyons	933.9	953.1	-19.2	-2.0%	195
406	Wathena	401.0	429.5	-28.5	-6.6%	285
407	Russell County	1,162.0	1,201.5	-39.5	-3.3%	233
408	Marion	719.7	716.9	2.8	0.4%	103
409	Atchison	1,627.4	1,648.1	-20.7	-1.3%	169
410	Hillsboro-Durham	737.4	759.9	-22.5	-3.0%	222
411	Goessel	318.0	325.0	-7.0	-2.2%	201
412	Hoxie	446.5	467.0	-20.5	-4.4%	251
413	Chanute	1,954.5	1,991.0	-36.5	-1.8%	190
415	Hiawatha	1,096.2	1,146.9	-50.7	-4.4%	252
416	Louisburg	1,307.0	1,271.0	36.0	2.8%	45
417	Council Grove	1,037.1	1,069.9	-32.8	-3.1%	226
418	McPherson	2,716.9	2,755.7	-38.8	-1.4%	174
419	Canton-Galva	426.9	431.8	-4.9	-1.1%	164
420	Osage City	745.0	739.0	6.0	0.8%	88
421	Lyndon	507.0	511.0	-4.0	-0.8%	149
422	Greensburg	296.0	316.9	-20.9	-6.6%	283
423	Moundridge	452.2	459.2	-7.0	-1.5%	178
424	Mullinville	109.0	109.6	-0.6	-0.5%	140
425	Highland	278.5	295.0	-16.5	-5.6%	270
426	Pike Valley	300.0	308.0	-8.0	-2.6%	213
427	Belleville	606.0	625.5	-19.5	-3.1%	229
428	Great Bend	3,176.5	3,176.9	-0.4	0.0%	116
429	Troy	399.0	422.0	-23.0	-5.5%	265
430	South Brown County	725.3	740.2	-14.9	-2.0%	194
431	Hoisington	746.0	771.8	-25.8	-3.3%	235
432	Victoria	302.0	315.5	-13.5	-4.3%	248
433	Midway	232.0	216.5	15.5	7.2%	9
434	Santa Fe Trail	1,317.0	1,353.5	-36.5	-2.7%	215
435	Abilene	1,514.0	1,413.6	100.4	7.1%	10
436	Caney Valley	961.0	932.4	28.6	3.1%	40
437	Auburn-Washburn	4,967.0	4,975.8	-8.8	-0.2%	120
438	Skyline	346.0	351.5	-5.5	-1.6%	180
439	Sedgwick	463.5	454.0	9.5	2.1%	59
440	Halstead	751.7	779.5	-27.8	-3.6%	239
441	Sabetha	1,038.5	1,042.0	-3.5	-0.3%	130
442	Nemaha Valley	519.3	520.3	-1.0	-0.2%	123
443	Dodge City	4,939.0	4,847.5	91.5	1.9%	62
444	Little River	275.3	280.5	-5.2	-1.9%	191
445	Coffeyville	2,244.9	2,356.6	-111.7	-4.7%	255
446	Independence	2,228.8	2,283.2	-54.4	-2.4%	204
447	Cherryvale	677.5	683.5	-6.0	-0.9%	153
448	Inman	487.0	489.4	-2.4	-0.5%	137
449	Easton	704.5	706.5	-2.0	-0.3%	127
450	Shawnee Heights	3,385.3	3,420.3	-35.0	-1.0%	157
451	Baileyville-St. Benedict	270.0	266.0	4.0	1.5%	72
452	Stanton County	538.6	523.8	14.8	2.8%	46
453	Leavenworth	4,065.9	4,179.3	-113.4	-2.7%	216
454	Burlingame	366.4	358.4	8.0	2.2%	57

USD	Unified School District Name	FTE Enr9899	FTE Enr9798	Change in Enrollment from last year to this	% Change in Enrollment from last year to this	"Rank" in % Change ( "1" = highest % growth; 304 = largest % decline)
455	Hillcrest	152.6	171.5	-18.9	-11.0%	298
456	Marais Des Cygne	289.5	292.5	-3.0	-1.0%	158
457	Garden City	7,115.9	7,000.6	115.3	1.6%	67
458	Basehor-Linwood	1,694.5	1,639.5	55.0	3.4%	36
459	Bucklin	354.0	357.5	-3.5	-1.0%	155
460	Hesston	840.0	849.0	-9.0	-1.1%	161
461	Neodesha	764.0	807.0	-43.0	-5.3%	262
462	Central	405.2	412.9	-7.7	-1.9%	192
463	Udall	321.0	345.5	-24.5	-7.1%	286
464	Tonganoxie	1,474.0	1,493.0	-19.0	-1.3%	170
465	Winfield	2,675.5	2,703.9	-28.4	-1.1%	159
466	Scott County	1,123.0	1,147.7	-24.7	-2.2%	200
467	Leoti	476.0	514.5	-38.5	-7.5%	290
468	Healy	103.5	115.5	-12.0	-10.4%	297
469	Lansing	1,916.5	1,928.5	-12.0	-0.6%	143
470	Arkansas City	2,889.0	2,936.0	-47.0	-1.6%	183
471	Dexter	200.5	185.5	15.0	8.1%	7
473	Chapman	1,229.1	1,250.8	-21.7	-1.7%	187
474	Haviland	179.5	177.5	2.0	1.1%	80
475	Junction City	6,098.5	6,126.9	-28.4	-0.5%	135
476	Copeland	121.5	130.0	-8.5	-6.5%	281
477	Ingalls	293.0	308.5	-15.5	-5.0%	260
479	Crest	311.0	312.5	-1.5	-0.5%	136
480	Liberal	4,065.0	4,096.3	-31.3	-0.8%	148
481	Rural Vista	451.5	423.0	28.5	6.7%	12
482	Dighton	344.4	343.0	1.4	0.4%	101
483	Kismet-Plains	693.5	696.3	-2.8	-0.4%	132
484	Fredonia	885.0	925.1	-40.1	-4.3%	250
486	Elwood	318.0	273.5	44.5	16.3%	2
487	Herington	570.8	583.2	-12.4	-2.1%	199
488	Axtell	374.0	378.0	-4.0	-1.1%	160
489	Hays	3,435.1	3,507.0	-71.9	-2.1%	197
490	El Dorado	2,188.6	2,202.0	-13.4	-0.6%	142
491	Eudora	1,101.1	1,040.0	61.1	5.9%	15
492	Flinthills	339.0	310.5	28.5	9.2%	6
493	Columbus	1,379.5	1,421.5	-42.0	-3.0%	220
494	Syracuse	509.0	478.5	30.5	6.4%	14
495	Ft. Larned	1,068.9	1,085.3	-16.4	-1.5%	176
496	Pawnee Heights	159.0	172.0	-13.0	-7.6%	291
497	Lawrence	10,045.8	9,797.7	248.1	2.5%	50
498	Valley Heights	513.0	487.0	26.0	5.3%	19
499	Galena	793.0	781.1	11.9	1.5%	70
500	Kansas City	20,095.6	20,234.1	-138.5	-0.7%	145
501	Topeka	13,586.0	13,469.7	116.3	0.9%	85
502	Lewis	190.5	193.0	-2.5	-1.3%	172
503	Parsons	1,718.5	1,773.7	-55.2	-3.1%	227
504	Oswego	497.5	474.5	23.0	4.8%	22
505	Chetopa	270.5	271.0	-0.5	-0.2%	121
506	Labette County	1,785.0	1,814.0	-29.0	-1.6%	182
507	Satanta	438.0	423.0	15.0	3.5%	33
508	Baxter Springs	886.0	915.8	-29.8	-3.3%	232

"Rank" in % Change (  
 "1" = highest %  
 growth; 304 = largest  
 % decline)

USD	Unified School District Name	FTE Enr9899	FTE Enr9798	Change in Enrollment from last year to this	% Change in Enrollment from last year to this
509	South Haven	263.5	260.5	3.0	1.2%
511	Attica	162.4	184.0	-21.6	-11.7%
512	Shawnee Mission	30,337.5	30,606.8	-269.3	-0.9%
<b>Total</b>		<b>450,190.8</b>	<b>448,609.0</b>	<b>1,581.8</b>	

78  
 300  
 154





# HUGOTON USD #210

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## BOARD MEMBERS

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House Education Committee  
Hearing Testimony, Kathy Dale  
March 8, 1999

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

In business I experience incentive programs, forecasting, business planning, partnerships, hedging, puts, cooperative alliances, production insurance, and average yield base. Most of these actions and activities are bent on maintaining a positive business structure focused on making a profit and growing. Nearly always my business experience is strongly linked with my partnership with a bank or lending institution in a proactive relationship.

In education, I experience limited budget forecasting options, especially for the size of business that education has become. BSAPP increases that are well meaning, but below accelerating maintenance/operation expenses and spiraling costs in special education --- Reactive budget practices that do not focus on management alliances, incentive programs, or budgeting partnerships.

I ask the Committee to support a positive alliance with school districts by considering the following solutions:

- Extending the budget time frame from current/prior year planning to that of at least three years (current and two prior years). This action would level the budgeting process and protect districts against erratic enrollment periods. Effective business plans could be initiated that consider fluctuating enrollments as well as dramatically declining enrollments.
- Adding \$100 to BSAPP to promote BOE local control of uncontrollable costs in maintenance/operations and unfunded mandates.
- Initiating incentives for school districts to form business alliances as positive management tools in a climate of declining enrollment, high expenses, deteriorating facilities, and increasing costs in special needs programs.



## Business Planning for Declining Enrollment

Although Stevens County has had a slight population increase, both schools in the county are in declining enrollment. Young families with children are choosing to move from the area and seek employment elsewhere. The cause stems from (1.) a poor agricultural economy, (2.) reorganization of the gas and oil industry to meet declining production schedules and needs, (3.) increased parental choice in education opportunities for students through private schools.

As early as 1995-96, USD 210 Hugoton realized they would join a growing number of declining enrollment districts in the State. The Board of Education took a proactive approach to planning through development of a Business Plan.

The Business Plan has maintained quality programs for students. The total reduction of staff is 22 1/2 staff positions.

### **5 Year Business Plan**

The plan is in its 4th year of implementation. Because the plan is proactively implemented over time, all staff changes and job elimination have been accomplished through attrition, retirement, and reassignment.

- I. Efficiency Planning in Maintenance and Operations
  - A. Staff effectiveness analysis.
  - B. Analysis of essential duties.
  - C. Energy analysis.
  - D. Facility analysis.
  - E. Resulting Action:
    - (1) Restructured bus routes.
    - (2) Reorganized cook staff between two cafeterias.
    - (2) Reduced secretarial hours and consolidated duties.
    - (3) Reorganized custodial program and combined duties.

**\*\*Essential duties can be accomplished with quality and still not be perfect. The Business Plan accepted high quality work without demanding the resources and personnel to maintain perfection.**

- II. Program Driven Decision Making
  - A. Enrollment Projection per grade level (3-5 year).
  - B. Program Driven Budgeting and Site Based Budgeting.
  - C. Staff assignment according to essential program needs.
  - D. Resulting Action:
    - (2) Reduced upper level management (coordinator positions)
    - (2) Reduced teaching staff in declining enrollment areas.
    - (5) Reduced classroom aides.
    - (1) Restructured ESL program, decreasing aides.
    - (11/2) Decreased technical staff and implemented "trainer of trainers" program.
    - (1) Consolidated health services.
    - Federal programs stand alone on budget allocations. (Little, if any, direct district financial support.)
    - (2) Middle School and High School student services programs combined in In-school Suspension and Library/Media.
    - Direct district financial support for in-service education reduced. Federal grant support and "trainers of trainers" program sustain in-service.

**Statement of:**

**Stephen D. Bohrer, PhD**

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Central USD 462  
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Burden, Kansas 67019  
316-438-2218  
email: bohrers@sktc.net**

**Education Committee  
Kansas House of Representatives**

**Hearing on:  
"Effects of Declining Enrollment on Kansas Schools"**

**March 9, 1999, 9:00 a.m.  
Old Supreme Court Room, State Capital  
Topeka, Kansas**

HOUSE EDUCATION  
Attachment 3  
3-9-99

1 It is a pleasure and honor to be granted the opportunity to visit with  
2 you today about the improvements taking place in our small school district  
3 in Cowley County and the catastrophic impact declining enrollment could  
4 have on the district under current school finance regulations.

### 5 ***Background of Central District***

6 Our district is rural with many of the students living on farms and  
7 cattle ranches where agriculture provides their families' primary income.  
8 While some drive an hour to Wichita to work at the aircraft plants, just as  
9 many ride a horse, in order to make a living.

10 Central Elementary School<sup>1</sup> has 235 students. Central Jr./Sr. High  
11 School<sup>2</sup> has 205 students and graduates about 33 seniors each year. About  
12 two-thirds go on to post-secondary education. Unfortunately, too many of  
13 the graduates from the four communities (Atlanta, Burden, Cambridge,  
14 and Grenola) in the 308 square mile district (like rural students all over  
15 the nation) graduate and leave for college or jobs outside the district,  
16 never to return (Nachtigal, 1992b).

17 Such an exodus would contribute to a decline in the quality of rural life.  
18 This is why our district has formed several partnerships to enhance  
19 economic development in the area. We are involved with area chambers of  
20 commerce and work closely with economic development groups. In  
21 addition, the high school teaches an entrepreneurship course with a rural  
22 culture component in order to teach students the skills and give them the  
23 confidence that they could one day be occupationally successful in a small  
24 town or rural area. These actions show recognition that rural school's  
25 survival depends on students whose presence is only possible when their  
26 parents have jobs (Bohrer, 1996).

27 With 37 teachers and 440 students, I am superintendent of a small  
28 district similar to half of the districts in Kansas<sup>3</sup>. Using the federal  
29 government's definition of rural, Kansas has the largest percentage of  
30 students attending rural schools of any state (Stern, 1992).

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<sup>1</sup> presently in Atlanta, but moving to a new building in Burden this summer

<sup>2</sup> in Burden

<sup>3</sup> the median for all KS districts is 600 students

1 To better prepare students for the future our district is involved in  
2 tremendous efforts to increase student performance through research of  
3 "what works" and data driven interventions. We have chosen to prepare  
4 for the future through study and resolve, applying the tenacity of our  
5 ancestral pioneers to solve problems in a methodical proven process  
6 called Outcomes To Excellence (OTE) to help all district employees  
7 understand and ascribe to the district's mission statement, "All students  
8 will learn well."

9 The teachers are empowered through a Leadership Team (LT) to  
10 direct a continual improvement process resulting in compliance with the  
11 Kansas Legislature's mandated Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA).  
12 The LT is an internal oversight and control group that directs the school  
13 improvement process in our district utilizing what has been learned  
14 through OTE and applying it to achieve QPA. Teachers from each building  
15 apply to me as superintendent to be on the LT. From the applicants, I  
16 select the most appropriate individuals and from this group of eight  
17 teachers the entire staff selects a chairperson. Also on the LT are the two  
18 building principals and me. The LT operates under locally developed  
19 bylaws to assure continuity and order in its work. Also involved in school  
20 improvement are the elected members of our Board of Education and site-  
21 council volunteers at each building representing staff, business persons,  
22 and parents.

23 The LT also serves as the district's Professional Development Council  
24 (PDC) which functions as a clearing house of ideas for in-service training  
25 to provide in district or send individuals to attend in order to achieve  
26 "results based staff development." The PDC selects training opportunities  
27 that can best help meet individual employee's professional goals as well as  
28 established building and district goals. Each professional staff member has  
29 an Individual Development Plan (IDP) which serves as a guide for their  
30 professional growth.

31 Staff members at both schools have established building goals after  
32 reviewing data from state developed program tests (KS Assessments) and  
33 the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). The teachers are currently  
34 developing Criterion Reference Tests (CRT) to measure individual student  
35 achievement of locally developed outcomes. Together, these three means



1 (KS Assessments, ITBS, and CRT) provide accurate measures of student  
2 achievement trends and can be compared with other schools in order to  
3 assure accountability.

4 The staff has completed about 70% of a multi-year project of  
5 curriculum objective writing and K-12 course alignment. Participation in  
6 the school improvement efforts offered by the Greenbush service center  
7 assists our performance improvement process and QPA work.

### 8 ***Declining Enrollment***

9 This brings me to the reason I was invited to speak today. I trust my  
10 lengthy introduction explains who we are and demonstrates our resolve to  
11 increase student achievement with the financial and human resources  
12 available.

13 The school improvement initiatives described above, as well as the  
14 instituted school services like food service, transportation, special  
15 education services, student sports and activities, as well as required and  
16 elective classes all rely on a sufficient and stable revenue stream. Annual  
17 budgets, potential raises in salaries, and improvement in services and  
18 programs are annually subject to the vicissitudes of the legislature. This  
19 condition is exacerbated by an ever present potential loss of students from  
20 one year to the next and that phenomenon's associated loss of revenue  
21 and until recently the obligation to set the next year's budget months  
22 before knowing the year's actual revenue.

23 For two years now districts have been able to use the greater full time  
24 equivalent (FTE) student count of the present year or the previous one.  
25 This allows a district to survive a down spike in students without loss of  
26 revenue while providing nearly two years for a district to react to a loss  
27 and decide if it were a freak occurrence or a downward trend  
28 necessitating reduction in staff and programs in order to remain solvent.

29 Table 1 shows two hypothetical districts that over the past ten years  
30 each average 430 students. District B benefits each year by being able to  
31 select the prior year over the current one. District A would be better off  
32 some years with the current year and some years by selecting the prior  
33 FTE for budget purposes. District B would benefit by being allowed to  
34 reach back two, three, or even four years for as the table shows, the

- 1 district has lost students each of the previous ten years. District A would
- 2 be making a different choice each year to access the largest budget
- 3 possible.

Year	District A	District B	USD 462
1989-90	412	461	362
1990-91	425	457	364
1991-92	415	447	368
1992-93	435	443	413
1993-94	436	441	366
1994-95	421	431	389
1995-96	438	415	409
1996-97	445	410	409
1997-98	433	407	413
1998-99	452	388	407
average	430	430	393

Table 1: Two Hypothetical Districts with the Same Average FTE

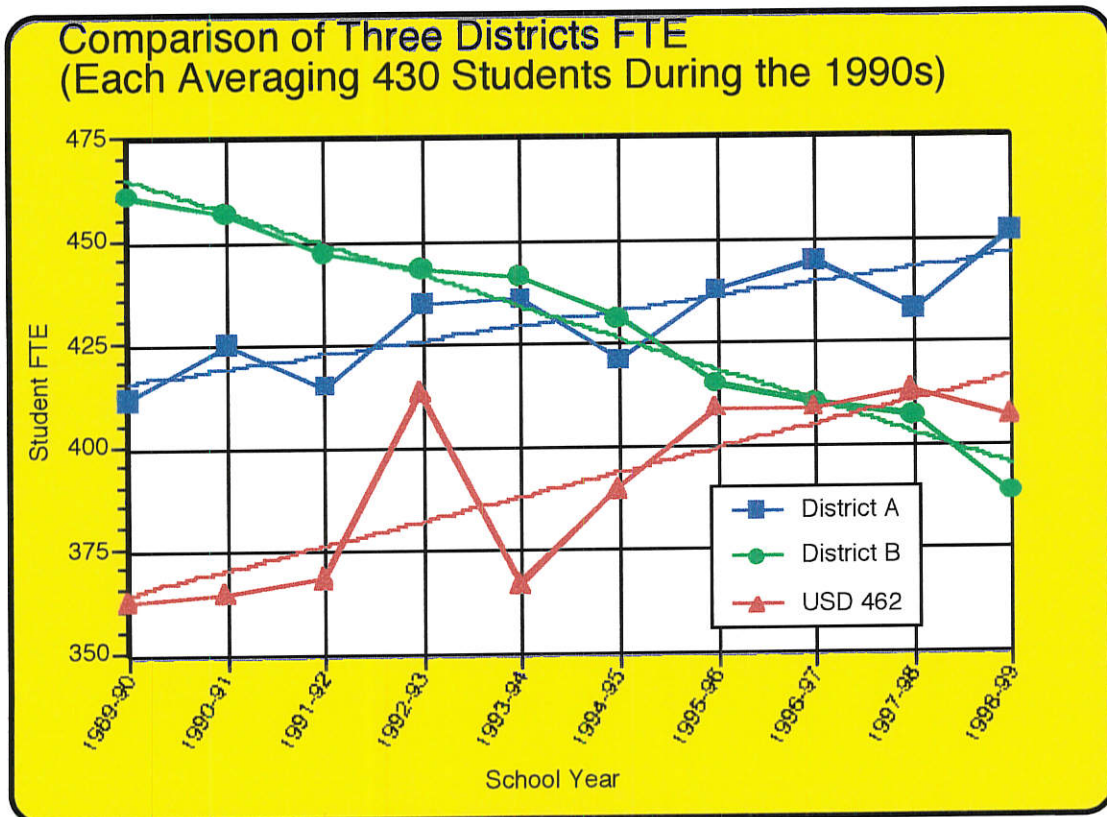


Chart 1: Three District's FTE Over Time

1 Key to this possible scenario is whether District B can survive long  
 2 term without massive changes in its operations, even if reaching back  
 3 another year is made available for budget purposes. For this hypothetical  
 4 example, Chart 1 pictorially documents a long term exodus has been  
 5 underway in District B for ten years resulting in an 18% reduction in  
 6 students while District A has increased by 9% during the same decade.  
 7 The practical effective change in the two districts' fortunes are enormous.  
 8 At today's BSBPP, District B in 1989 would have had a maximum budget  
 9 about \$90,000 larger than District A. In the most recent year of this  
 10 example, District A could outspend District B by \$222,000.

11 Both districts would probably operate two sections of each elementary  
 12 grade with a PTR of less than twenty, yet District A now has a tremendous  
 13 advantage in meeting its program needs that will only grow greater the  
 14 years to follow should nothing stop the evident trends.

15 Central USD 462 shows what is probably more typical in that there are  
 16 wide unexplainable swings from one year to the next along with periods of  
 17 relative stability.

### 18 ***Reactions to a Declining Enrollment***

19 If a district experiences a declining enrollment<sup>4</sup> there are only a few  
 20 reactions available. With salary accounting for 70% or more of a typical  
 21 budget it is obvious that staff reductions will probably always be part of the  
 22 changes to be made. Classified personnel: custodians, bus drivers, cooks,  
 23 and secretaries are already staffed at a minimum rate, leaving teaching  
 24 personnel the most vulnerable.

25 Additional reactions a district experiencing a decline would probably  
 26 include: reducing the availability of elective courses at the secondary level,  
 27 restricting authorized travel, lessening inservice opportunities,  
 28 postponing textbook purchases; reducing classroom supply budgets;  
 29 postponement of vehicle rotation(accepting the increased repair bills);  
 30 cutting back summer maintenance; elimination of summer school,  
 31 increasing charges for meals, book fees, participation in clubs, course

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<sup>4</sup> 189 of the 304 KS districts experienced a decline in enrollment in the 1998-99 school year



1 fees, etc.; and postponement of needed capital outlay expenditures for  
2 computers and other technology equipment, office machines, and copiers.

3 I predict such actions would not only lower the morale of staff, but also  
4 of students. I suspect some employees<sup>5</sup> would leave and even some  
5 families would bolt to other, more stable districts in order to retain the  
6 quality education they believe their children deserve. These results would  
7 exacerbate the already negative situation.

### 8 ***Part Time Teachers***

9 Our district currently has several full time teachers with some small  
10 class sizes (3 to 8). As the legislature continues to under fund our  
11 district's ability to pay even minimal pay increases and provide program  
12 improvements without the use of an increasing local optional budget (LOB)  
13 it is becoming harder to retain the full time staff. In order to react to a  
14 declining budget a couple of these positions could be cut to 5/7ths or less,  
15 but would the present individuals elect to remain at the partial salary that  
16 would result? Would a qualified part time person be available and willing  
17 to move to our small town for a proportional salary? How long would it  
18 take to find someone and how would the students be served while  
19 searching for such a person? The declining enrollment enhancement  
20 being discussed might negate the need or at least finance the additional  
21 time needed to conduct the necessary search.

### 22 ***Local Option Budget***

23 For some districts the impact of a declining enrollment can be avoided  
24 by adopting or increasing an LOB. But what if this has been proposed, but  
25 denied by the voters or is already at the maximum of 25% of the general  
26 fund?

27 In my opinion, there are even some constitutional problems with the  
28 LOB because it was allowed "to float" up in dollars produced even for those  
29 districts using the full 25% as the BSBPP slowly increases. This action, as  
30 well as the inability of some districts to establish an LOB, allows back the  
31 spending disparities that Judge Bullock objected too in 1991 prompting

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<sup>5</sup> the best employees I suspect would leave first

1 the legislature to enact the present finance law. As the spending disparity  
2 grows the likelihood of another court fight looms.

3 The continual use of an LOB just to keep up with the loss brought on by  
4 a declining enrollment seems to me to be only a stop gap measure rife  
5 with future problems.

### 6 ***Rural Population Shift***

7 In one of numerous studies that drew the same conclusion, Williams  
8 (1993) showed that 77 of our state's 105 counties will end this century<sup>6</sup>  
9 with fewer inhabitants than they had in 1900. Among other things, the  
10 study revealed that those counties which will increase population are  
11 mainly urban counties or ones adjacent to them, while the decline is most  
12 severe in the least populated counties in western Kansas and those  
13 bordering Nebraska.

14 These population trends translate into proportionally more urban  
15 students and fewer rural ones. While the distance between towns will not  
16 change, the distance between families with school aged children may  
17 increase significantly. The ratio of rural students to urban will decline  
18 precipitously. With an aging population and another baby-boom not likely  
19 there will be more people in their upper years and relatively fewer  
20 children being born and readied for school (Dychtwald & Flower, 1989).

21 This situation means that additional districts will experience declining  
22 enrollment and that further decline in many districts is inevitable.

### 23 ***Hard Choice***

24 The declining enrollment feature under consideration has an estimated  
25 cost to the state of \$16,000,000. This amount could also translate into an  
26 additional \$28 to the BSBPP. Asked which I would rather have 1) an  
27 additional year to use for calculation purposes, or 2) \$28 added to the  
28 base is difficult to answer. We need both!

29 While the \$28 would equally benefit all districts and I would prefer to  
30 have the money spent to make the additional year available so the money  
31 goes to those districts most desperately needing the revenue for survival.

---

<sup>6</sup> just nine months away

1    ***Educational Effectiveness***

2       Research shows that small schools are generally more effective than  
3 large schools (Barker & Gump, 1964; Berlin & Cienkus, 1989; Fowler & Walberg,  
4 1991; Hare, 1990; Horn, 1991; Howley, 1994; Lutz, 1990; Muse, Smith, & Barker,  
5 1987; Nachtigal, 1992a; Webb, 1989). This body of work emphatically  
6 establishes this even when problematic areas of race, socio-economic  
7 status, or family structure are factored in.

8       There is no doubt small districts are financially less efficient. A new  
9 roof, a new flag for the school flag pole, or a new bus costs the same  
10 regardless of the district's size. In fact a larger district may benefit from  
11 discounts for multiple purchases and salesman's incentives that small  
12 districts are not offered. Thus small districts are not only less efficient  
13 they are sometimes penalized for being small.

14       To let the smallest of our state's schools loose their ability to function  
15 because of declining enrollment would be a tragedy in light of their  
16 proven ability to effectively educate their students. Regardless of their  
17 financial efficiency.

18    ***Conclusion***

19       From a policy perspective, former Kansas State University professor  
20 Jerry Horn (1991) suggested that, like the nation subsidizes urban  
21 transportation; urban renewal; education for the handicapped,  
22 disadvantaged, and gifted; medical services for the aged; and a multitude  
23 of other worthwhile programs, our society should simply accept that it  
24 will cost more to educate students in sparsely populated areas and quit  
25 worrying so much about efficiency.

26       Being able to reach back two, or three or even four years, may be only a  
27 Band-Aid solution, it can be quickly enacted and easily audited. I  
28 encourage the Kansas Legislature to enact the proposed change to the  
29 school finance formula.

30       I also ask that the Kansas Legislature, or the Kansas State Department  
31 of Education, direct the issue of declining enrollment be studied further  
32 in an attempt to originate a long term less-reactionary solution.

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**U.S.D. 280  
West Graham-Morland**

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785-627-5481  
785-627-3501 FAX  
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[www.ruraltel.net/csb/csb.htm](http://www.ruraltel.net/csb/csb.htm)

Mr. Brian Boeve, K-12 Principal  
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TO: House of Education Committee

From: Emery Hart Superintendent of School West Graham-Morland

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you about a serious crisis we have in our public school systems in the State of Kansas. This crisis is not the fault of anyone. Our country has changed its philosophy about family size, therefore; our schools are faced with the problem of declining enrollment.

Regardless whether there are ten students or thirty in a classroom, a classroom must be provided to accommodate the students and teachers. The cost of living and educating our students is sky rocketing. At the present time in the State of Kansas, we have 189 out of 304 school districts that are experiencing declining enrollment. This is what brings me in front of you today. I would like to explain to you what we are doing at U.S.D. #280 Morland to try to help solve our situation. This problem can't be solved without the help from the you--The State Legislature. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Emery Hart, Supt.



**We are in the business of getting better at teaching ar**

Unified School District #280 does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission or access to Any questions regarding the Board's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 may be directed to the Title IX Coordinator, who can be Topeka, Kansas 66612-1182, or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education. If any questions, contact Emery H

HOUSE EDUCATION  
Attachment 4  
3-9-99

# U.S.D. 280 West Graham-Morland

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October 12, 1998, Board Meeting

Board, I have been working on ways to cut costs for the future school year and years to come. I have researched our financial situation and it is going to be very difficult to keep our heads above water. The areas I believe we need to trim are as follows:

**First Area:** **Bus Routes** - I believe we can save several thousand dollars by paying mileage to patrons where it is feasible. In some cases, we will need to pick up the students because of the inconvenience to the parents. I have drove and studied the bus routes and I believe we can reduce the number of routes to three. Another option at the present time, is to run two buses and a van on the third route.

### **Example:**

We would have a south route centered around the St. Peter area. Most of these families live within a mile or two of St. Peter. At the present time, this is one plan I feel would work. I do want the bus driver's impute after you have had a chance to study these plans.

**St. Peter Route:** 17 students per day - Bus  
75 miles x \$.50 per mile = \$32.50 per day x 170 days =  
\$6,375.00





**Penokee Route:** 24 students per day - Bus  
35 miles x 2 = 70 x \$.50 per mile = \$35.00 per day x 170  
= \$5,950.00

**Studley Route:** 10 students per day - Van or Bus  
35 miles x 2 = 70 x \$.50 per mile = \$35.00 per day x 170  
= \$5,950.00

Total cost of the 3 bus routes would be \$18,275.00

The Bus Radio Monitor position could be eliminated and this position incorporated into the bus supervisor's position. This would result in an estimated savings of about \$4000.00. Total Salaries now is around \$44,446.00, savings would be around \$24,000.00, plus the cost of bus upkeep, gas, insurance and maintenance costs. Estimated savings of about \$5,000.00.

**Second Area: Custodial Salaries** - In checking with other schools, they impose a cap of 50 hours per week, per janitor. As of right now, as in the past, we have let the head custodian put in 60 to 70 hours per week. I feel paying that much overtime is costing us dearly. As it sets right now, we pay overtime on custodial, activity bus trips and on bus supervisor hours worked by the head custodian. I feel during the summer we need to hold total custodial hours per custodian to no more than 45 hours per week. At the present time the head custodian is making \$8.31 per hour for 40 hours worked with time and one half for all hours over 40 or \$12.47 per overtime hour. If the custodian works 70 hours per week it is costing us \$249.40 per week for hours over 50 or \$997.60 extra per month. This does not include wages for activity trips and substitute teaching. If we evaluate this position, I think we could save another \$12,000.00.

**Third Area: Certified Staff** - I have already told you that I would take my retirement and work part-time. If this would workout, my part-time salary would be \$15,000.00, plus a full family health insurance plan at \$8,400.00 per year. You could then increase Mr. Boeve's salary to \$45,000.00



per year. This plan would cost \$68,400.00 compared to \$100,000.00. So this is a saving of \$31,600.00 This does not include the board's side of the taxes which would be another savings.

Also, when Mrs. Bottom retires we can save another estimated \$6,000.00.

**Fourth Area:** **School Activities** - I am looking at cutting back on school activities with consideration being given to a four day school week. This could save about \$50,000.00. This saving would be comparable to what Cheylin has estimated their past savings to be.

**Fifth Area:** **E-Rate** - If E-Rate comes through and it sounds like it will around the last of October, this could save us another 8-10 thousand dollars per year. I am not fully convinced this will happen but we are still hoping.

**Final Area:** **Lobbying** - We superintendents of small schools are bonding together to lobby in favor of having the legislature let us count the previous or highest of the last three years enrollment. This would help stabilize our budgets so the loss would not be so great in any one year. Example: the legislative in 1998 let us count the highest enrollment of the last two years. We are forming our own group to confront them about the serious crises we are having in our school systems. We are asking them to extend this to three years or even longer to help us with declining enrollment problems. If this would happen this could very easily help solve some of our problems.

With all these areas of saving measures put together we can still continue to give our students a viable education. These suggestions are subject to change and food for thought. The way things are now, we need to make big cuts without hurting our children's education. I estimate the total savings to be around \$136,600.00

# House Education Committee Testimony of Fred Kaufman

March 8-9, 1999  
House Bill 2249

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking a few minutes to listen to me. I am Fred Kaufman, Superintendent of Schools in Unified School District 489 Hays, and I am here to represent the children of the Hays school district.

My concern today is sharp. From our calculations if Senate Bill 171 becomes law as written, we will have \$44,000 more next year than we had this year. We appreciate the increase in the base and the increase in correlation weighting; unfortunately, they are offset by our enrollment decline.

The head count enrollment in the Hays school district is reflected below:

95-96	3,590
96-97	3,655
97-98	3,649
98-99	3,549

In 1997-98 the private school system occupied a new building and began an expansion program. The school district has had the full local option budget for 6 years and therefore the loss of a student equates to a loss of about \$5,217 for us. The opening of a 6th grade with 25 students by the private schools reduced our budget \$130,000.

We have 81 elementary classrooms. Losing 60 elementary students has no impact on class size, yet it will cost us \$313,000.

If Senate Bill 171 determines our finances next year, we will have an additional \$44,000; it costs \$161,000 to give our employees a 1% raise.

The long standing core values of our school system have been quality staff, small class sizes, and high quality instructional time. With \$44,000 next year we will begin to lose all three.

I respectfully request that a provision be added to Senate Bill 171 allowing us to use the best of three years enrollment, rather than the best of two.

.....  
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**BAKER**  
 UNIVERSITY

March 9, 1999

Dr. Ralph Tanner and Members of the House Education Committee  
 State Capitol  
 300 SW 10th Avenue  
 Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Dr. Tanner and members of the House Education Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information regarding Senate Bill 171, which in part supports a three year window for school districts to adjust to their budgets to deal with declining enrollments. I have serious problems supporting a three year window, or a five year window, or . . .

Few will argue the point that a one year window is very necessary to help school districts, who are caught off guard with unanticipated enrollment drops, cope with budget cuts after a large percent of the budget has been committed. Perhaps the Legislature will find it necessary to provide a second year that will protect a portion of the loss (1/2 for example). But, I question whether it is in the best interest of the Legislature to significantly lengthen the time frame for Kansas school districts before holding them accountable for enrollment losses. We can anticipate that some of our smaller school districts will lose enrollment for quite some time to come. Will the request two years from now be for a five year window?

In 1992, the year our present finance formula was adopted, I chaired the United School Administrator Finance Task Force. I was there when we negotiated the present linear transition to assist smaller Kansas school districts. We made the decision to implement the linear transition in that we believed that an additional cost factor was necessary to operate the less efficient smaller school districts. The decision was based simply on historical data, which at that time demonstrated that there was significant expenditure difference between smaller schools and larger schools. We had no empirical data to support such a supposition; however, for a variety of reasons we felt that we needed to support and encourage the adoption of the linear transition. This transition provided for approximately twice the expenditure level for school districts under 300 students as it did for the school districts over 2,000 students.

Established 1858  
 .....

HOUSE EDUCATION  
 Attachment 6  
 3-9-99

A discussion was held in 1992 regarding what might happen if districts continued to decline in enrollment. My thoughts were, and continue to be, that a significant effort had been made to support the existence of smaller districts and that future efforts must necessitate accountability efforts to reduce expenditures. One does not need a crystal ball to predict that some of the smaller rural Kansas school districts will continue to lose enrollment. If one looks at the demographics, some of the school districts appear to be small out of necessity and others out of choice. Whatever the case, there are a number of cooperative ventures, short of full consolidation, that can be made if territorial boundaries could be relaxed. Perhaps it is time to consider eliminating territorial boundaries and promote more cooperative efforts with adjacent school districts.

It is my belief that the State needs to do everything possible to raise the funding allocation for all students, which is easily accomplished by raising the base budget per pupil. Financing quality education for all young people is the best investment that you can make. To put a good share of your available money into extending the three year window may only postpone the tough inevitable decisions that are yet to come.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information regarding Senate Bill 171.

Sincerely



Dr. Bill Neucnswander  
Department of Education Chair  
Baker University

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SB NO. 171  
(As Amended by Senate Committee)

On page 1, in line 19, before "K.S.A.", by inserting "On July 1, 1999,"; also in line 19, after "72-6407", by inserting "shall be and ";

On page 4, in line 4, before "K.S.A.", by inserting "On July 1, 1999,"; also in line 4, after "72-6410", by inserting "shall be and ";

On page 5, in line 14, before "K.S.A.", by inserting "On July 1, 1999,"; also in line 14, after "72-6412", by inserting "shall be and";

On page 6, in line 17, before "K.S.A.", by inserting "On July 1, 1999,"; also in line 17, after "72-6414", by inserting "shall be and"; in line 22, before "K.S.A.", by inserting "On July 1, 1999, "; also in line 22, after "72-6431", by inserting "shall be and"

On page 7, in line 10, before "K.S.A.", by inserting "On July 1, 1999,"; also in line 10, after "72-6442", by inserting "shall be and"; in line 23, before "K.S.A.", by inserting "On July 1, 1999,"; also in line 23, after "79-201x", by inserting "shall be and"; following line 28, by inserting a new section as follows:

"New Sec. 8. For the purposes of the school district finance and quality performance act, and notwithstanding any provision of the act to the contrary, the term enrollment in the 1998-99 school year, as applied to districts in which enrollment in such school year decreased from enrollment in the 1997-98 school year, means enrollment of the district in the 1997-98 school year plus enrollment in the 1998-99 school year of preschool-aged at-risk pupils, if any such pupils are enrolled.";

By renumbering sections 8 and 9 as sections 9 and 10, respectively;

Also on page 7, in line 29, before "K.S.A." by inserting "On July 1, 1999,"; in line 30, after "79-201x", by inserting "shall be and"; in line 32, by striking "statute book" and inserting "Kansas register"





Winston C. Brooks  
Superintendent

**House Education Committee  
Representative Tanner, chairman**

**Remarks on Transportation Aid  
H.B. 2165**

*Diane Gjerstad  
Wichita Public Schools  
March 9, 1999*

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee:

The education committee will review many bills this session, few of those will have the direct impact on families of H.B. 2165. Each and every school day, tens of thousands of families must struggle with the basic issue of how to get their student from home to school and back safely.

The basic problem is that the reimbursement for transportation aid was established in the 1960 -- a different time for families and society. Today, as in the sixties, school districts are reimbursed only for those students who live more than 2.5 miles from the school. Pause for a moment to reflect on life 30 to 40 years ago. Compare that with today.

At the end of last month USD 259 buses had driven 3,998,861 miles. Last year total mileage was 7.7M. Each day 428 buses safely transport 18,907 students from home to school and back.

USD 259, and many districts, use other funds to transport students on "hazardous routes". The number of students living less than 2.5 miles has more than doubled in just five school years.

Local districts are not reimbursed for students living within 2.5 miles of the school, crossing hazardous trafficways, and summer school.

In Wichita the transfer from the general fund to make up the difference has increased by \$1M in just four years. (*transfers from general fund: 95-96 \$6,188,127 to 98-99 \$7,207,958*)

The state pays 80% of the cost to transport special education students. Districts pay the remaining 20%. Roughly \$1.12M is left for the local district to pay. That is the equivalent of 32 teachers.

As USD 259 embarks on benchmark assessments for grades 2,5 and 8, the Board of Education is strongly recommending that students with deficits in the core academic subjects attend summer school. Cost for transporting elementary and middle school students estimated at \$81,490.

This is public policy that is critical to so many Kansas families each school morning. I would urge your favorable consideration of this bill -- a bill for families. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the committee's consideration of H.B. 2165.

DEENA HORST  
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
VICE CHAIRMAN: KANSAS 2000  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## TESTIMONY FOR HB 2382

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for allowing me to visit with you today about my reasons for introducing this House Bill 2382.

When I ran the first time, the Local Option Budget had just been turned down for the second time. Many constituents asked me why we couldn't use sales tax to fund the LOB. They indicated that they supported the need for additional monies for the schools, however they believed it was unfair to continue to place that funding burden on their homes. Salina had used the sales tax as a means to raise funds for a jail and to fund needed improvements for K-State – Salina so their reasoning that a sales tax should be used to help out the school district seemed natural to them. When I explained that state law forbids school districts from levying taxes other than property taxes, even with the voters approval, they thought it made little sense that the state would allow the community to support a jail and a post-secondary school with sales tax, but not their local schools. Several of my constituents asked that I work to change the law to give more flexibility to school districts so they can select tax sources most palatable to voters to fund LOBs.

Each time I have run for office those same constituents have encouraged me to continue to introduce legislation that would allow the flexibility they desire. When I had the bill drafted I thought it only right to give districts the option of using not only sales tax, but also income tax or a mixture of sales, and/or income, and/or property taxes to fund an LOB.

HB 2382 would allow districts more flexibility and with voter approval, to use alternate sources of funding for LOBs rather than overburdening property tax. The sales tax would have to be fixed in intervals of .25 percent with no more than 1.0 percent being levied. The income tax would be in multiples of 5.0 percent on the taxpayer's tax liability after all credits have been deducted.

Thank you again for your attention to this issue.