

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Linda Taylor, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mark Tallman, KASB

Others attending: See Attached List

Hearings were opened on bills and resolutions concerning the governance of education, K-12.

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy of the KSAB presented testimony on restructuring of state supervision of education. He presented to the committee members a copy of the KASB's policy position on State Supervision of Education and also a copy of a resolution adopted by members of the KASB concerning restructuring the State Board of Education. (Attachment 1)

After presenting testimony, Mr. Tallman stood for questions.

Hearings on bills and resolutions concerning the governance of education, K-12 were closed.

Representative Tanner announced that the Subcommittee on Charter Schools would be visiting Basehor-Linwood School on Monday. He also announced that the KAN-ED Subcommittee would meet at 9:00 a.m. on Monday in room 519-S and on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. in room 522-S.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2000.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

GUEST LIST

DATE: February 3, 2000

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mark Tallman	KASB
Janis Mc Miller	LWV-K
Herchel Poor	Self
Mark DESETTI	KNEA
Amy Metzinger	Intern
Tom Bruno	Allen & Assoc.
Tim Youally	USD #512



TO: House Committee on Education
FROM: Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy
DATE: February 3, 2000

RE: Testimony on Restructuring of State Supervision of Education

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to appear today to discuss the structure of state supervision and oversight of education. Our association has made this a priority issue for the 2000 Legislative session. Our Delegate Assembly, composed a voting representative of each member school board or other educational institution, has adopted very specific positions in this regard:

First, our members have adopted the following policy position:

State Supervision of Education:

KASB believes the following constitutional provisions are critical:

- (1) The State Board of Education shall be elected.
- (2) The State Commissioner of Education should be appointed by the State Board of Education.
- (3) The supervision of all schools—preschool, elementary, secondary, and area vocational-technical schools—should be vested in the State Board of Education. The board shall have such authority as the legislature provides.

Second, at our Delegate Assembly this past December, members overwhelmingly voted to adopt the following resolution:

Restructuring the State Board of Education

WHEREAS the State Board of Education is charged with the vital constitutional responsibility for the supervision of public education in Kansas; and

WHEREAS there are serious concerns about the effectiveness of the State Board within the current structure and authority; and

WHEREAS the Kansas Association of School Boards supports efforts to improve the effectiveness of the State Board; retain the State Board as an elected body accountable to the people of Kansas; remove the Board's self-executing powers and provide more effective coordination with other parts of state government; and

WHEREAS some changes required to achieve these ends require an amendment to the Kansas Constitution and its approval by the voters of Kansas;

House Education
2-3-00
Attachment 1

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that KASB supports constitutional and statutory changes to achieve the following:

FIRST, the number of board members should be changed to an odd number to prevent the recurrence of tie votes by the State Board.

SECOND, to maintain the non-partisan character of public education governance in Kansas, State Board members should be elected on non-partisan ballots.

THIRD, to increase public awareness of State Board elections and education issues, State Board members should be elected at the same time local school board members are elected, at a time different from the fall elections of even-numbered years.

We believe these positions, taken as a whole, would improve education in the following ways:

- The people would continue to elect a board to deal only with educational matters. This board would continue to be a balance against other branches and agencies in state government, and provide a specific voice for perhaps the most important function of state government.
- Removing the “self-executing” powers of the board will clarify its authority in relation to other institutions of government, which provides a check and balance on the board.
- Continued selection of the Commissioner by the State Board will ensure that the board continues to play an important and meaningful role, and provide continuity with the Department of Education beyond the term of a Governor.
- Changing the number of State Board members will assist the board in its procedural operations.
- Electing board members in non-partisan elections will help maintain the non-partisan view of education in our state; a view that has helped Kansas achieve one of the strongest school systems in the nation. It will also allow more meaningful public participation in the election process and help emphasize issues over party.
- Changing the date of election for State Board members to the date of local board elections will increase the visibility and focus on educational issues at both the state and local level.

Thank you for your consideration of these positions. I will be happy to answer any questions.