

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathe Decker at 10:00 a.m. on January 21, 2004 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Daniel Williams- excused
Representative Marti Crow- excused
Representative Patrica Barbieri-Lightner- excused

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor of Statues
Ann Deitcher, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education

The Chair introduced Dale Dennis who spoke to the Committee regarding the approved amendments to education legislation. (Attachment 1). A question and answer session followed.

A motion was made by Representative Hutchins and seconded by Representative Horst to introduce the Charter School as a Committee bill. The motion passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Representative Horst and seconded by Representative Craft to introduce the Transfers of Territory by Petition as a Committee bill and placed on the consent calendar. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Members of the Wichita Junior ROTC were recognized and speaking for the group were: Danielle Buchanan of Jardine Middle School, Hannah Young of Pleasant Valley Middle School and Josh Douglas of Wichita Northwest High School. They told the Committee that in the last 9 years their membership has grown from 250 members to 2, 600.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2004.

APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO EDUCATION LEGISLATION

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Current Law

Application due to State Board – February 1
Decision by State Board – April 1

Amendment

K.S.A. 72-1906(g)—Same
Decision by State Board – April 15*

*This will allow the State Board the opportunity to receive the application in one month and make a final decision the following month.

TRANSFERS OF TERRITORY BY PETITION

Current Law

When two boards of education cannot agree on a transfer of territory, one district can petition the State Board of Education to order the territory transferred. A hearing officer conducts a hearing on behalf of the State Board and then submits a recommendation to the Board.

Amendment

K.S.A. 72-7108--Prior to petitioning the State Board, the local boards should be required to mediate the issue using a mediator assigned by the State Board. The cost should be paid by the district seeking the transfer.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Current Law

The official count date for students in alternative programs/schools is September 20.

Amendment

K.S.A. 72-6407--Count full-time equivalent students in alternative programs/schools during the week of September 20.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT COUNT

Current Law

The official count date for students in virtual schools is September 20.

Amendment

K.S.A. 72-6407 and 72-1046 et seq.--The official enrollment count would remain September 20 but would exclude out-of-state virtual school students.