

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathe Decker at 9:00 a.m. on March 9, 2004 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Patricia Barbieri-Lightner- absent

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jim Edwards, KASB  
Dale Dennis, Ks Dept. Of Ed.

The Chair called the Committee's attention to the minutes of February 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 23 that had previously been distributed for approval.

Representative Beggs moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Representative Mason and passed on a voice vote.

**SB 373 - School districts; consolidation; meetings.**

Jim Edwards spoke to the Committee in support of **SB 373**. (Attachment 1).

Questions and answers followed.

It was moved by Representative Mason and seconded by Representative Horst that **SB 373** be moved favorably out of Committee. The motion carried on a voice vote.

**SB 304 - Consolidation of school districts; computation of school aid.**

Appearing as a proponent of **SB 304** was Jim Edwards who spoke to the Committee of the advantages the Association of School Boards saw in the bill. (Attachment 2).

Dale Dennis answered various questions of the Committee members.

Representative Reardon moved and Representative Storm seconded the motion that **SB 304** be moved favorably out of Committee.

A motion was made by Representative Flaharty and seconded by Representative Yonally to amend **SB 304** by deleting on page 2 in new Sec. 2, lines 41 through 43 and on page 3, lines 1 through 11. The motion passed on a voice vote.

It was moved by Representative Reardon and seconded by Representative Craft that **SB 304** be passed out of Committee as amended. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2004.

**KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION**



**OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS**

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Testimony on **SB 373**  
before the  
**House Education Committee**

by

**Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist**  
Kansas Association of School Boards

**March 9, 2004**

Chair Decker and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear in front of you today to support **SB 373**, a measure that will assist districts going through the trials and tribulations of consolidating school districts.

Essentially, what this bill would do is to state emphatically in the Kansas Statutes that a school board of a district considering consolidation could meet within the boundaries of any of the districts considering such consolidation. While there are some that will argue that this probably is already permissible under statutes provided by last year's legislative action giving local school boards the power to act on issues not expressly prohibited by law, is the understanding of our legal department that the courts have specifically ruled on the issue of meeting and/or taking action outside of a district's boundaries.

If the Legislature is truly trying to incent consolidation of districts where feasible, it seems that removing any possible legal problems should be of great interest to not only the legislature but also to the patrons of the districts involved.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

**House Education Committee**

Date: 3/9/04

Attachment # 1



Testimony on **SB 304**  
before the  
**House Education Committee**

by

**Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist**  
Kansas Association of School Boards

**March 9, 2004**

Chair Decker and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear in front of you today to support **SB 304**, a measure that comes to you as a recommendation from the 2003 Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC).

As was explained during the LEPC hearings, sometimes it takes up to 18 months to complete a full consolidation process. Understanding this time frame along with knowing that many districts are looking to consolidate and might need an additional incentive or push, this measure should be of great interest to the Legislature.

The incentive or push given to districts would be in the form of extending the deadline that an actual consolidation would have to take place, from July 1, 2004, to July 1, 2005, and providing the districts with two years of extended budget authority. Current statutes say districts must consolidate by July 1, 2004 to receive three years of extended budget authority. Any consolidations after July 1, 2004, would receive one year extended budget authority.

Consolidation has and will continue to take place. It could continue at a quicker pace should measures like this receive your early approval.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

**House Education Committee**

Date: 3/9/04

Attachment # 2