

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:34 p.m. on January 21, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present:

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Judy Steinlicht, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Colonel Hester, JROTC Wichita Public Schools
Sierra Travis, JROTC, Hamilton Middle School, Wichita
Dr. Sylvia Robinson, Director of Education Policy, Office of the Governor

Others attending: No list

Colonel Hester and a large group of JROTC students visited the Committee. Colonel Hester told the Committee that the program started in the Wichita Public Schools nine years ago with involvement of 3 schools and 250 cadets. Now 17 schools are involved with 2600 cadets which he feels is significant growth. Colonel Hester introduced Sierra Travis, a student from Hamilton Middle School in Wichita. Sierra spoke to the Committee about the leadership program and academic performance. Sierra advised the Committee that the program has provided a strong foundation and skills for success in their future. Wichita JROTC Leadership Corps program attached. (Attachment 1)

Senator Schodorf complemented Colonel Hester and the success of the JROTC program.

Overview of Governor's Task Force Recommendations

Dr. Sylvia Robinson, Director of Education Policy, Office of the Governor gave an overview of the Governor's Task Force Recommendations. Dr. Robinson introduced Adam, who assisted her on the team. The Education Policy Team was made up of a very diverse group of 27 that were not currently working in education, and the team had a resource team to gather data for them. Two people chosen for the resource team had communication backgrounds because they wanted to be able to condense the information collected in a way that could be understood by a lay person.

Dr. Robinson told the Committee that the team was given a charge to examine the current system of education related to early learning, K-12 and Postsecondary education (P-16); focus initial discussions on student performance, cost and efficiencies, and leadership development; engage constituent groups such as parents, educators, students and business leaders in discussion related to the P-16 education system in Kansas; and identify and recommend priorities to keep the state of Kansas a national leader in the education of its students.

The policy team held meetings, divided into groups, studied data provided by the resource team, identified and prioritized recommendations and sought public input across the state.

The Governor's vision included high performance for all students; all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed; high school graduates prepared for post-secondary education and a career; qualified and caring teachers to teach every student; and strong family, business and community commitment to education excellence.

Once the data was studied and priorities set, the team held forums in eight locations, touched ten communities and involved over 2000 people. They had 40-50 people in the focus groups by invitation and 100 to 450 at the open town hall meetings. At the town hall meetings an open microphone was available and the people were given input sheets to grade each recommendation as a must do, should do or

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:34 p.m. on January 21, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

nice to do. The top five town hall priorities were incentives and training for teachers; close the achievement gap; recruit and retain teachers; state fund the school finance formula; and expand access to early childhood programs.

The focus groups helped identify what was missing and things they felt were top priorities. Things identified as missing were, health insurance for teachers; all day kindergarten; plan to engage parents; community/environment within schools; and state limits on class size. Three top priorities identified were, develop a comprehensive plan to recruit and retain teachers to Kansas by offering increased compensation and professional development; state fund the existing school finance formula and add an annual cost of living adjustment; and expand access to high quality early learning programs, particularly for high risk students. (Attachment 2)

The team held a final meeting in October to consider all the information gathered and prepare final recommendations to the Governor. These recommendations were broken down in four areas, sufficient resources; quality instruction; performance standards; and stakeholder involvement. (Attachment 3)

Dr. Robinson listened to comments from the Committee and answered questions.

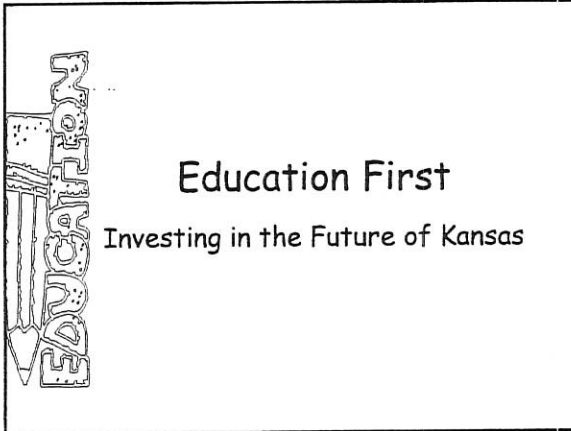
Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

WICHITA JROTC LEADERSHIP CORPS

- Initiated in Wichita in 1994. Currently, eight high schools with JROTC and nine middle schools have Leadership programs. Opening enrollment this year-2600 cadets; 60% male and 40% female.
- Mission. "To motivate young people to be better citizens and graduate from high school." Accomplished through detailed curriculum including the following areas: Leadership traits, principles, and techniques; improved oral and written communication skills; U S history and government; civics; character development; teamwork; service learning; and life skills including first aid and health, physical training, and map reading and land navigation.
- Credit. JROTC is a four-year program earning elective credit for graduation (Note: Air Force JROTC may earn one required non-regents science credit.); Leadership is a three-year program.
- Academics. Both programs fully support graduation and higher education opportunities. Scholarship opportunities for ROTC and service academies are enhanced through JROTC.
- Instructors. JROTC instructors are fully accredited, retired officers and noncommissioned officers. All officers and majority of noncommissioned officers have college degrees. Leadership instructors are fully accredited and have military experience. All instructors are teachers, trainers and mentors who are committed to helping cadets.
- Uniforms/Rank/Awards. Uniforms worn once a week. Rank is earned based on overall performance in the programs and school. Awards earned for leadership ability, academics, attendance, physical training, team drill, sports, and other school related activities.
- Extracurricular Activities. Cadets are encouraged to participate in a multitude of activities to include service learning/community service; adventure training; drill and physical fitness competitions; academic tournaments; social events such as military balls, awards ceremonies and lock-ins; district Leadership School; and JROTC summer camp.
- Leadership Program. District developed and funded initiative to provide JROTC related activities to middle school students. Overall outstanding success with the program copied by many other districts across the United States.
- Success. District programs have accomplished all objectives as witnessed by success of cadets and supported by parents, educators and community leaders.

JROTC

Senate Education
1-21-04
Attachment 1



**Education Policy Team
Preliminary Report**

Bill Nelson	Mission	Tom Hammond	Wichita
Rick Bowden	Topeka	Tom Hawk	Manhattan
Rev. Jimmie Banks	Kansas City	Kathy Cook	Shawnee
Robert McFrazier	Topeka	Dick Reinhardt	Erie
Morris Reeves	Dodge City	Korey Powell-Hensley	Salina
Bryce Neville	Liberal	Marcia Nicely	Bonner Springs
Robert Haderlein	Girard	Audrey Langworthy	Prairie Village
Rochelle Chronister	Neodesha	Carol Nazar	Wichita
Tim Emert	Independence	Ligia Paguette	Junction City
Deborah Purce	Topeka	Richard Ruiz	Kansas City
Eddie Estes	Dodge City	Derrell Schooler	Valley Center
Craig Grant	Lawrence	Pam Wiens	Kansas City
Richard Short	Goodland	Margery Haas	Hoxie

- Resource Team Members**
- Leadell Ediger, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral
 - Joyce Cussimano, Executive Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet
 - Andy Tompkins, Commissioner of Education (K-12)
 - Alexa Pochowski, Assistant Commissioner of Education
 - Reggie Robinson, President & CEO Kansas Board of Regents
 - Joy Torchia, Communication Manager, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
 - Vera Bothner, Communication Consultant, Kansas Health Foundation

Senate Education
1-21-04
Attachment 2

Education Policy Team

Task Force Charge:

- ✍ Examine current system of education related to early learning, K-12, and postsecondary education (P-16).
- ✍ Focus initial discussions on student performance, cost and efficiencies, and leadership development.
- ✍ Engage constituent groups such as parents, educators, students and business leaders in discussion related to the P-16 education system in Kansas.
- ✍ Identify and recommend priorities to keep the State of Kansas a national leader in the education of its students.



Education Policy Team Process


- Met twice a month February – June, 2003
- Divided team into three sub-groups: student academic performance; leadership development; cost & efficiencies
- Reviewed data provided by resource team
- Identified recommendations based on data
- Prioritized recommendations
- Seeking public input across the State



Governor's Vision

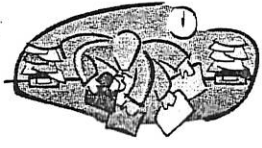
- High academic performance for all students
- All children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed
- All high school graduates prepared for a post-secondary education and career
- Qualified and caring teachers teach every student
- Strong family, business and community commitment to education excellence

The Data




A stylized illustration of a person sitting at a desk, viewed from behind. The person's arms are raised, holding two calculators. On the desk in front of them are several sheets of paper, some with grid patterns, suggesting data or spreadsheets.

The Priorities



A stylized illustration of a human brain. Inside the brain, there are several gears of different sizes and shapes, along with some documents or papers, symbolizing thought, planning, and priorities.



High Academic Performance
for All Students

- Identify and implement strategies to close the achievement gap
- State fund the existing school finance formula and add an annual cost of living increase to formula



All Children Enter Kindergarten Prepared to Succeed

- Expand access to high quality early learning programs particularly for high risk students
- Centralize and coordinate early childhood funding streams through a single entity with authority from the Governor's Office



All High School Graduates Prepared for a Post-Secondary Education and Career

- Secondary and post-secondary education should identify and implement programs aimed at increasing student success and improving graduation rates
- State should increase its portion of funding for post-secondary education and not depend on student tuition increases to replace state funds
- Fund commitments outlined in Senate Bill 345 legislation including increased state funding to offset local taxes for community colleges and faculty salary increases.



Qualified and Caring Teachers Teach Every Student

- Provide incentives and special training to sustain teachers in high risk settings
- Develop a comprehensive plan to recruit teachers to Kansas
- Create incentives for early childhood teachers who complete a state teaching license in early childhood education



**Strong family, business and
community commitment to
education excellence**

- Engage all levels of community to support education by:
 - convening an advisory panel of business leaders
 - Creating a statewide student leadership development initiative
 - Convening an annual education summit
- Link efforts looking to restructure state's workforce development strategy with post-secondary education

Education Forums Summary

Schedule of Forums

• Sept. 11	Goodland
• Sept. 12	Garden City
• Sept. 17	KC Metro
• Sept. 18	Topeka
• Sept. 22	Greenbush
• Sept. 23	Wichita
• Sept. 25	Hays

Focus Groups v. Town Halls

• Approx. 40-50 individuals by invitation	• At least 100, and up to 450 people
• Focused on three areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What's missing?- Top priorities- Stakeholder duties	• Open microphone
	• Input sheets
	• Larger range of topics

Focus Group Participants

- Names from multiple sources
- Ethnic, economic and geographic diversity
- Variety of age groups
- Diverse roles

Role	Percentage
Educator	47%
Parent	20%
Student	12%
Community	10%
Business	5%

Focus Groups-What's missing? Consensus Items

- Health insurance for teachers
- All day Kindergarten
- Plan to engage parents
- Community/Environment within schools
- State limits on class size

Focus Groups-Top Priorities

- Three priorities were made very clear:

3. Expand access to high quality early learning programs, particularly for high risk students
2. State fund the existing school finance formula and add an annual cost of living adjustment
1. Develop a comprehensive plan to recruit and retain teachers to Kansas by offering increased compensation and professional development

Stakeholder Duties, cont.

- Educators: Keep up the good work, stay positive, encourage school community
- Parents: Education begins at birth, get involved in schools, support kids
- Students: Understand importance of education, be a part of the school community
- Bottom line: This is everyone's fight.

Attendance at Town Halls

Goodland	100
Garden City	200
Wyandotte County	125
Johnson County	300
Topeka	150
Greenbush	325
Wichita	450
Hays	80

Town Hall-Priorities

- Each person was asked to grade the recommendations from A to C
 - A: Must do; critical
 - B: Should do; important
 - C: Nice to do
- A total score was assigned to each recommendation and the average was recorded

High academic performance for every student

- Identify and implement strategies to close the achievement gap
 - Score: 1835
 - Average: 2.48
- State fund the existing school finance formula and add a cost-of-living adjustment
 - Score: 1940
 - Average: 2.63

All children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed

- Expand access to early learning programs, particularly for high risk students
 - Score: 1998
 - Average: 2.68
- Centralize and coordinate early childhood funding streams through a single entity with authority from the Governor's office
 - Score: 1346
 - Average: 1.88

High school students prepared for post-secondary education and career

- Identify and implement programs to increase student success and improve graduation rate
 - Score: 1705
 - Average: 2.36
- State should increase its post-secondary funding and not rely on tuition increases
 - Score: 1557
 - Average: 2.19
- State Fund SB 345
 - Score: 1413
 - Average: 2.01

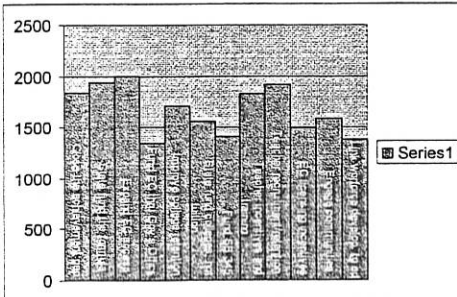
Qualified and caring teachers teach every student

- Provide incentives and special training for teachers in high risk settings
 - Score: 1823
 - Average: 2.48
- Recruit and retain teachers through increased compensation and professional development
 - Score: 1915
 - Average: 2.62
- Create incentives for early childhood teachers completing a state license
 - Score: 1494
 - Average: 2.07

Strong family, business, and community commitment to education

- Engage all levels of community to support education
 - Score: 1588
 - Average: 2.19
- Link workforce development to post-secondary education
 - Score: 1382
 - Average: 1.94

Looking at the Priorities



Top 5 Town Hall Priorities

- Incentives and training for teachers
- Close the achievement gap
- Recruit and retain teachers
- State fund the school finance formula
- Expand access to early childhood programs

**Education Policy Team
Final Recommendations**

www.ksgovernor.org/workgroups_ed.html

Education Policy Team Final Recommendations

Early Learning → K-12 → Postsecondary

Sufficient Resources

Create educational finance models that equitably reflect the needs of the system and incorporate diverse funding streams (i.e. federal, state, local and philanthropic).

The state fully fund a quality education by:

- Fully fund the existing formula and add an annual cost of living adjustment to the formula
- Increase funding for postsecondary education and not depend on tuition increases to supplant state funds and include increased funding to off-set local taxes for community colleges
- Fund and coordinate early childhood learning programs
- Provide insurance benefits through statewide insurance plan

Quality Instruction

Develop a comprehensive plan to prepare, recruit and retain quality teachers in Kansas by offering increased compensation and professional development at all levels of the system.

- Provide incentives for early childhood teachers who are pursuing or have completed a state teaching license in early childhood education
- Provide incentives and special training to recruit and retain high quality teachers in at-risk and high-demand areas
- Institute teacher mentor and professional development programs, especially for new teachers

Performance Standards

Develop and implement statewide performance standards that ensure seamless transitions at all levels of the system (e.g. preschool to elementary; elementary to middle; middle to high school; high school to postsecondary).

- Expand access to high-quality early learning programs particularly for high-risk children
- Provide full day kindergarten
- Implement strategies to close the achievement gap
- Implement secondary and postsecondary programs aimed at ensuring student success and improving graduation rates
- Develop statewide performance standards that align the system of education from preschool through post-secondary education
- Implement educational and community programs aimed at ensuring student success and improving graduation rates

Stakeholder Involvement

Engage Kansas citizens, students, families, business and community leaders in promoting education excellence.

- Organize and facilitate conversations in every community on education excellence
- Convene an annual Education, Economic Development and Employment Summit
- Expand parent education and family support programs that support the development of young children and their families
- Convene a Governor's advisory panel of statewide business leaders to consult on issues related to education excellence
- Promote and encourage student leadership initiatives to develop future leaders in Kansas