

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathe Decker at 9:00 A.M. on January 20, 2005 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Carole Beggs- excused

Committee staff present: Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Candy Ruff
Col. Stephen Kempf (Ret.), Jct. City School Board
Brig. Gen. Volney Warner
Maj. Colleen Wright, Ft. Riley Operations Officer
LaMont Godsey, Pres., Jct. City School Board
Dr. Larry Dixon, Assoc. Supt., Jct. City Schools
Mark DeSetti, KNEA

HB 2059 - a bill concerning school districts; relating to enrollment.

Theresa Kiernan explained the bill to the Committee.

The Chair then recognized Rep. Candy Ruff who thanked the Committee for holding hearings so promptly on **HB 2059**. (Attachment 1).

Rep. Ruff then introduced Colonel Stephen Kempf who addressed the Committee on the importance of **HB 2059**. (Attachment 2).

LaMont Godsey was introduced by Rep. Craft. (Attachment 3).

Major Colleen Wright offered testimony in support of **HB 2059**. (Attachment 4)

General Volney Warner spoke briefly as a proponent of **HB 2059**.

Mark Desetti offered written testimony only in support of **HB 2059**. (Attachment 5).

The meeting was closed on **HB 2059**.

A motion was made by Rep. Horst and seconded by Rep. Kelsey to work **HB 2059**.

Theresa Kiernan pointed out to the Committee, a necessary amendment to **HB 2059**. This amendment would consist of the insertion on page 5, line 5, of the words "full time" preceding "active service".

Rep. Storm moved and Rep. Crow seconded the motion to make this change and the motion to amend passed on a voice vote.

Rep. DeCastro made the motion that was seconded by Rep. Horst that **HB 2059** be passed out of Committee, as amended. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45. The next meeting of the full Committee is scheduled for Fri., Jan. 21.

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

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JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE
 RULES AND REGULATIONS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND
 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Jan. 20, 2005

House Education Committee:

As legislators representing Fort Leavenworth, Rep. Marti Crow and I would like to thank Committee Chairman Kathe Decker and the House Education Committee for holding hearings so promptly on HB 2059. The time and attention paid to this legislation is much appreciated not only by our Fort Leavenworth and Leavenworth School Districts, but also by the Fort Riley schools as well.

Because of the demands being placed on our active duty and reserve component military personnel, the Department of Defense made changes not long ago in its deployment of troops. Several of those decisions affected Kansas in a positive way. With a gradual troop withdrawal from the European Theatre of Command, plans are underway to bring back to Fort Riley as many as two brigades. Estimates are running as high as 18,000 active duty personnel and their families will be calling Fort Riley home. Of those families as many as one fourth may have school age children.

Welcomed indeed to the Fort Riley schools and surrounding communities, that many new students will have an impact on enrollment and the way enrollment is counted.

In addition, the Fort Leavenworth community is eagerly anticipating an expansion at the Command and General Staff College. Opened to Army majors preparing for promotion to lieutenant colonel, the nine-month course begins traditionally in August. With an influx of officers now eligible and eager to train at this level of Army leadership and command, the long-established course is adding a section to its schedule. Plans call for a second nine-month course to begin in January 2006.

Military planners intend for the two classes to run in tandem with one starting every August and the other every January. The course now routinely includes about 1,000 officers and 100 international officers. Once fully implemented the second course may have enrollments as high as 500 officers.

A good measure of those officers has school age children and the influx into the schools at Fort Leavenworth and the high school at Leavenworth will indeed be felt. That is where HB 2059 comes in.

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This legislation allows those Kansas school districts affected by these changes in active duty and reserve component personnel to take a second enrollment count on Feb. 20 in addition to the traditional one taken on Sept. 20th. Those districts experiencing an increase of 25 students or 1 percent of enrollment may use the Feb. 20th number as their enrollment count for the 2005-2006 school year.

As we move a year forward, similar provisions are made for 2006-2007 school year. When the Feb. 20, 2007, enrollment is taken and an increase of 25 pupils or one percent has occurred since Feb. 20, 2006, the district may use Feb. 20, 2007 as the official count.

You will see in the language found in New Section 2, page 5, the qualification for using this second count date is limited to pupils who are dependents of full-time active duty members, and military reserve forces. Defining very specifically those circumstances that arise in moving troops to Fort Riley and increasing the mission of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, HB 2059 meets the anticipated impact on the Kansas school districts that will be welcoming these children into their schools.

Because Rep. Crow and I grew up attending schools on Army and Air Force bases, we know how important these facilities are to making the transition as easy as possible. When you grow up with a father serving in the Army as I did or in the Air Force as with Marti, you get used to moving. As often as every year or maybe even twice in a school year, you may be attending new schools, and living in a different community.

Along with the constancy of your family for us military dependents, the school you attend on the military post plays a vital role. It bridges those changes, smoothes out those moves and welcomes us military brats into yet another new school. This bill allows those school districts to better serve our military children.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
FORT LEAVENWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
U.S.D. No. 207
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027

STEPHEN J. KEMPF
COL, USA, Retired
President

SANFORD SHEAKS
LTC, USA
Vice President

CARL W. PRIOLEAU
LTC, USA
Member

Testimony of Colonel (Ret) Stephen J. Kempf
President, Board of Education
Fort Leavenworth Unified School District 207

- Good morning Madam Chairman, Members of the Education Committee – On behalf of the Fort Leavenworth Community and Board of Education, I would like to thank you for your kind attention to our request.
- The Fort Leavenworth School District, USD 207, is responsible for the education of approximately 1,900 military dependent children each year.
- 65% of those children are family members of military officers attending the Army's Command and General Staff College, a class of 1,000 majors from all military branches, and some 100 international officers from around the world.
- This college course convenes each year in August and terminates in June. It is a 10-month course focused on leadership, doctrine and tactics.
- Because of the nature and length of the class, a majority of the officers bring their families and secure housing either on Fort Leavenworth or in the surrounding communities.

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- World events as we know them, and the desire of the Army to have all eligible majors attend the class with their year group, a total of 1,800 majors, has dictated a change to this schedule.
- In January of 2006, a second course, which will run concurrently with the August class, will convene and run through November. A possible 250-440 officers will be selected to attend.
- This January class may expand in future years to accommodate all remaining eligible officers.
- Unknown to us today is the exact impact on our school district, but with an increase in the officer population and the additional personnel needed to support this mission; we expect to accommodate additional students.
- Planning for those students will have to take place far in advance of their arrival. I suspect, prior to August and the new school year, teachers will have to be in place and supplies ordered.
- A second count date, as proposed, will allow us to accommodate any growth and the expenditures generated in anticipation of that growth.
- It is our desire and intent to provide a quality education for our military children while they are in Kansas.
- In closing, the future looks bright for Fort Leavenworth, for Leavenworth County and the state of Kansas because of the scheduled military build-up.
- Once again, thank you for your courtesy.

Fort Riley Area School Districts:
A Position on Increased Student Enrollment Due to the Changed Mission of the Army

Presentation for the
Kansas House of Representatives
Education Committee

January 20, 2005

Fort Riley Area School Districts have a long and honorable relationship with military personnel and family members of active duty soldiers. This relationship has existed over many decades. Fort Riley Area school districts have collaboratively provided a world class education for children of active duty soldiers in both good and challenging times. We have provided the military family educational support and service through peace, the Cold War, Vietnam, and Gulf War. We now bring our experience in educating students with military connections to provide the same service to families who are serving Iraqi Freedom. Throughout our history, we have remained committed to providing our military connected students the best education possible. The quality of education in Kansas has consistently been ranked in the top 10 and many times in the top 5 in America.

We now have another opportunity to serve the families and children of Fort Riley. The 2006 school year promises to bring additional troops and their families to Fort Riley. Every school district in the Fort Riley area will experience some growth due to this increase in troop strength. We are all anxiously planning for these new families and feel certain that collectively we will be able to accommodate each new student. The schools and communities in the Fort Riley area have many unique opportunities for the military families to enjoy. Our communities share valuable Kansas and American history from the birthplace of President Eisenhower to Kansas State University. The rich outdoor life is highlighted with Milford Lake. There are many opportunities to explore the grand Kansas history through each town, museum, and of course, our schools.

All of the Fort Riley area schools listed on the back of this page jointly unite in our unwavering support of Fort Riley and look forward to new families joining our proud Kansans. We also remain steadfast in our resolve to educate each student with the quality all Kansans have come to expect.

Because Fort Riley will have a significant impact on the economy of Kansas, possibly exceeding the \$1 billion mark, it is important that all Kansans join together in support of the Fort and its new mission. We also recognize and support Fort Leavenworth and other military installations in Kansas that will experience additional growth.

As we provide our continued support for Fort Riley and its new mission, we also join together to support House Bill No. 2059 which provides for an additional count date for all school districts that will have an increased enrollment after the traditional September 20 count date. Consideration of adding the February 20 count date for two years is an excellent way for schools to continue to provide educational support and for the State of Kansas to officially signal the military that this state strongly supports our troops and will take ownership for their children.

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We humbly thank you Chairwoman Decker, and all the members of the Kansas House of Representatives Education Committee for your willingness and foresight to support our Kansas Troops and their families.

Fort Riley Area Schools:

Geary County Unified School District #475
Chapman Unified School District #473
Manhattan-Ogden Unified School District #383
Clay Center Unified School District #379
Riley County Unified School District #378
Wamego Unified School District #320
Abilene Unified School District #435
Salina Unified School District #305
Morris County Unified School District #417
Rural Vista Unified School District #481
Blue Valley Unified School District #384
Herrington Unified School District #487

Presenters:

LaMont Godsey, President
Board of Education, USD 475

Major Colleen Wright
Operations Officer, Fort Riley

Dr. Larry Dixon, Associate Superintendent
Geary County USD #475

Presentation for the
Kansas House of Representatives
Education Committee

January 20, 2005

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Major Colleen Wright, the Garrison Operations Officer. Thank you for allowing me to speak today on behalf of the Fort Riley military community.

The Army is currently undergoing a significant transformation in the structure and stationing of its combat units. It has created a new unit configuration called the Unit of Action, which is similar to the current Brigade Combat Team structure. Fort Riley will receive a Units of Action, causing a significant increase in our soldier population.

Our new Unit of Action will bring an additional 3,400 soldiers to the installation, which means that we can expect approximately 1,900 families with 4,700 family members. They will begin to arrive in small numbers in July of this year. The bulk of incoming soldiers and families will arrive during the fall. By this time next year, we will have at least 70% of the projected end strength (2380).

The impact that the timeline of the arrival of the UA will have on schools in the surrounding communities is significant. Since the available amount of on-post housing will not change, these communities can expect that they will primarily be absorbing this increase in their schools. Additionally, the bulk of new family members will arrive in the middle of the school year. Given that the current Kansas School Finance Formula calculates aid based on the number of students enrolled in September, funding for the local schools will not accurately reflect their true population demands or funding needs.

Colonel Simpson, the Fort Riley Garrison Commander, has met with Lieutenant Governor John Moore several times to discuss the impact of the new UA on our surrounding communities. We fully support this legislative proposal to have an additional count date in the February/March time frame, after the schools can expect to see their biggest influx of military children enrolling. This will allow our surrounding communities' schools to be adequately funded to meet the needs of all children in their school districts.

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Attachment # 4



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Mark Desetti
Written Testimony; HB 2059
House Education Committee
January 20, 2005

Madame Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on **HB 2059**.

KNEA believes that this is an important and much needed piece of legislation. We know all too well the difficulties our men and women in uniform are facing these days and we believe it entirely appropriate that the state give consideration to increases in enrollment for schools in military areas. Those serving our nation, should be secure in knowing that their children will have all the resources necessary in making the transition to a new school and a new community. They should not have to worry about the education of their children.

This is a simple, common sense piece of legislation that provides the resources necessary to help the dependents of military families.

We urge you to pass this legislation favorably.

House Education Committee
Date: 1-20-05
Attachment # 5