

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathe Decker at 9:00 A.M. on March 8, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Representative Tom Holland - Absent

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Sharon Schwartz
Senator Mark Taddiken
Mark Tallman, KASB
Supt. Don Wells, Hillcrest, USD 455
Supt. Mike Stegman, Washington, USD 222
Terry Forsyth, KNEA

SB 481 - Concerning school districts, consolidation and state aid.

The Chair introduced Representative Schwartz who spoke in support of **SB 481**. (Attachment 1).

Addressing the Committee as proponents of **SB 481** were Superintendents Wells and Stegman. (Attachment 2).

Senator Taddiken appeared in support of **SB 481**. (Attachment 3).

Mark Tallman spoke in support of **SB 481**. (Attachment 4).

The hearing was closed on **SB 481**.

A motion was made by Representative Decker and seconded by Representative Kelsey that **SB 481** be worked by the Committee. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Clarifying language was offered stating that the provision of the bill would apply to any school district who consolidated or reorganized on or after July 1, 2004.

Representative Faber made the motion to make this amendment to **SB 481**. Representative Craft seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

It was moved by Representative Faber and seconded by Representative Powers to amend **SB 481** to pay bond and interests on state aid at the new rate for the life of the bond. This would apply only to North Central and Washington school districts who are consolidated. The motion failed on a voice vote. A division was called. There were six members in favor of the bill and sixteen opposed.

A motion was made by Representative Powers to pass **SB 481** out of Committee as amended. Representative Swenson seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:00 A.M. on March 8, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

SB 329 - Concerning education; relating to curriculum standards.

Terry Forsyth offered testimony in support of **SB 329**. (Attachment 5).

Representative Powers made the motion that SB 329 be worked by the Committee. Representative Horst seconded the motion that passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Representative Yonally and seconded by Representative Powers to move SB 329 out of Committee favorably as amended. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Representative Crow made the motion which was seconded by Representative Horst to approve the Committee minutes of February 17 and 18. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2006 in room 423-S.

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

SHARON SCHWARTZ
REPRESENTATIVE, 106TH DISTRICT
WASHINGTON, MARSHALL, RILEY
2051 20TH ROAD
WASHINGTON, KANSAS 66968
(785) 325-2568
schwartz@house.state.ks.us

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 115-S
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1504
(785) 296-7683
1-800-432-3924

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRPERSON: AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL
RESOURCES BUDGET
MEMBER: APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENT

To: Members of House Education Committee

Date: March 8, 2006

Re: SB 481 - Concerning school districts relating to consolidations

Representative Decker and Members of the House Education Committee

I appear today to express my support for SB 481 which will amend the statute to facilitate school districts in the process of consolidation. U.S.D. 222 and U.S.D. 221 in Washington County have made great strides in an effort to consolidate the two districts.

To support the effort the proposed changes in SB 481 would greatly assist in providing the resources necessary for a successful consolidation. In addition, this bill will help defray the cost of the merger of these two school districts.

I am very proud of the leadership of the school boards and administration of these districts for their productive role in looking toward the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Schwartz".

Sharon Schwartz
Representative, 106th District
Marshall, Riley, and Washington Counties

House Education Committee
Date: 3-8-06
Attachment # 1

1 **Testimony in Support of SB 481**

2 March 8, 2006

3 Given to the House of Representatives Education Committee

4 Testimony Speaker: **Don L. Wells**, Superintendent of USD 221 & USD 455

5 Others representing support: **Mike Stegman**, Superintendent of USD 222, Washington
6 Schools and **Larry Lysell**, Superintendent of Republic County Schools, USD 427 (*Absent
7 due to conflicts with a Temporary Board meeting early this morning*)

8
9
10 Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our support for **SB 481**. We are very
11 appreciative of Representative Decker for placing us on the agenda.

12
13 Rarely does there come a time in the finance of the State of Kansas in which there seems
14 to be an opportunity for all to be in a winning position. This includes those affected at the
15 local level as well as the State of Kansas. SB 481, sponsored by Senator Mark Taddiken,
16 provides this opportunity. In the Midwest and especially in Kansas, this seems to be a
17 much needed proposal. SB 481 more quickly and effectively promotes and supports the
18 needed consolidation of school districts. It does so without penalizing the citizen
19 taxpayers of the affected districts. Consolidation should be a governmental activity that
20 creates winners in the process and not taxpayers that are penalized with added financial
21 burdens to effectuate the desired outcome.

22
23 There are **four boards of education** involved in the current consolidation process and
24 elections that were held on March 7, 2006 in Washington and Republic Counties. These
25 four boards of education represent eleven distinct communities within a two-county area.
26 It also encompasses slightly over 950 square miles, a population of approximately 7,300
27 and a student population of just over 1,000. The courageous vote by the four combined
28 boards represents a **28-0 vote** to enter into consolidation talks and to agree to hold an
29 election for their respective communities and school districts. While it would have been
30 easier to consider and utilize other means of merger, consolidation was selected because
31 it provided the representation desired for all the communities and taxpayers. It provided
32 immediate representation for all on Boards of Education starting with the date of the new
33 districts, July 1, 2006. Currently, the membership of the Temporary Boards from both
34 proposed new districts is based on census data with a 5-2 arrangement. The larger more
35 populous districts each have five members while the less populous districts have two
36 members. The representation factor was passionately desired because the issue deals with
37 bonded indebtedness, local option costs and the important education of the students of the
38 districts involved.

39
40 SB 481 addresses the concerns of the penalizing effects of merging districts because of
41 the increase in the assessed value per pupil due to the combining of the two districts into
42 one district with a larger assessed value with not many more students. The higher
43 assessed value per pupil drives down the state aid assigned currently to two of the
44 districts. In the examples and estimates provided, the new Washington County District
45 would anticipate losing state aid for the LOB in the amount of 20%. The new Republic
46 County District would lose 14%. In the Bond /Interest Fund, the Washington County

House Education Committee

Date: 3-8-06

Attachment # 2-1

1 District would lose approximately 21%. The Republic County district currently does not
2 receive any state aid for bond and interest. Because of the current formula requirements,
3 the larger districts will lose state aid and subsequently, the consolidated districts would
4 lose that same state aid. In effect, the consolidated districts would have an increased mill
5 levy cost when consolidation is intended to lower the cost based on efficiencies to be
6 gained. The anticipated total savings under SB 481 for the Washington County District
7 would be 8.23 mills for \$207,428 annually and the Republic County District would save
8 3.75 mills for \$135,000 annually. This result raises the question as to why one district
9 with adequate state aid in LOB or Bond and Interest funds would want to go through a
10 consolidation activity if it presents a greater cost to the parties involved. All boards are
11 concerned that this seemingly odd quirk and unintended consequence to the intended
12 savings will have a negative effect on the consolidation efforts in Washington and
13 Republic Counties as well as others in the state. The Boards are hopeful that the
14 Legislature will positively review the benefits of SB 481 during the committee hearings
15 and on the floor for debate.

16
17 Currently, all involved know that consolidation is the best plan for the desired long-term
18 results of reducing costs and delivering required services. It is a major step in the
19 preserving the quality of education for a reasonable cost to taxpayers in an area that
20 continues to have a depressed economy and a decreasing population. SB 481 leaves the
21 cost of the state at approximately the same level as it is now yet it gives some needed
22 relief to the taxpayers involved in the proposed consolidations.

23
24 The current state formula is based on student enrollment and factors relating to that
25 enrollment of a district. In areas of declining enrollment, the past additions to the amount
26 per student does not significantly add to the general operating budget in order to defray
27 the cost required to adequately operate a district. In areas in which student enrollment is
28 stable or growing, the formula works. In our area, it does not. The critical mass has been
29 reached in North Central Kansas and Senate Bill 481 proposes the needed help to our
30 school districts and to districts like ours that want and need to consolidate.

31
32 Consolidation is the best although it might well be the most complex and difficult to
33 achieve. When compared with disorganization or full-land transfer, consolidation yields
34 the best cooperative and beneficial results because of the intense work and compromise
35 required. All recognize the value of preserving the dignity of those involved and
36 consolidation provides that opportunity for the dignity to be kept intact. Districts that find
37 a way to merge cooperatively should not be penalized for their positive activities and
38 courage.

39
40 In the examples provided, both mergers create and increase in local costs to those that
41 already carry a fairly large mill levy to support what is currently in place. The proposed
42 consolidations will reduce long-range costs over an appropriate three-year span. Faculty,
43 staff and administrative costs will be reduced, at least one building within each new
44 district will be closed and better efficiencies will be reached in professional development
45 funds, driver education, transportation, food services, vocational and at-risk programs.

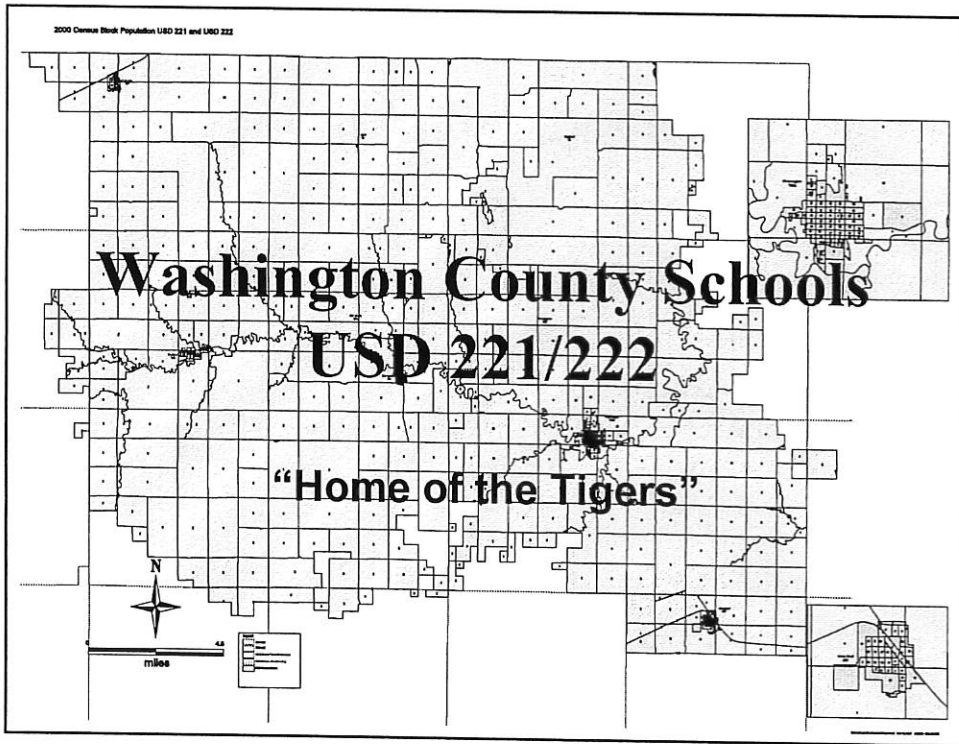
46

1 To reach these needed efficiencies, additional local costs should not be part of the
2 equation. SB 481 gives the State of Kansas the rare opportunity to pay approximately the
3 same amount of state aid and to reach the desired incentives for the needed consolidations
4 more quickly than has been displayed over the last 20+ years.

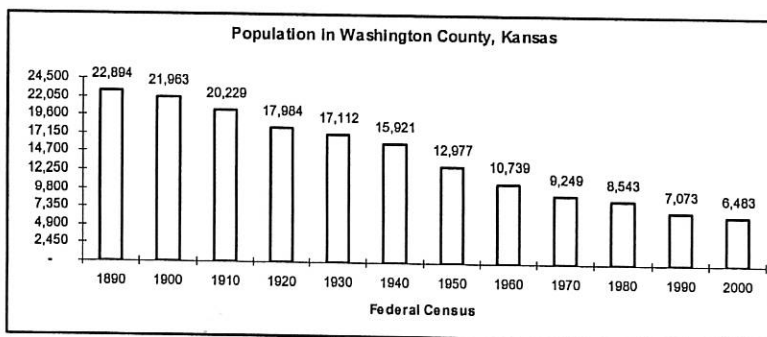
5
6 It is difficult enough to consolidate a way of life into another by the way of change. This
7 way of life has been 'comfortable' ever since the shock of the original consolidations of
8 the sixties. All came to accept it although the bitterness resurfaces from time to time. The
9 fear of change still exists for many and if the cost to change is added to the fear,
10 momentum for consolidation is hard to gain and maintain. SB 481 removes some of the
11 roadblocks for change and assists local communities and the state in achieving the needed
12 results.

13
14 In conclusion, SB 481 provides the help needed to communities that combine their
15 assessed values and student enrollments for merger purposes. Without the help of SB
16 481, district patrons will have a greater tax liability than intended under the concepts of
17 consolidation. SB 481 does not significantly increase the current state aid cost of support
18 and because the current cost of state aid could remain the same, local districts would
19 benefit by assessing fewer mills to reach the needed levels of local support. This factor
20 will be very important to present and future consolidation proposals. We support SB 481
21 because it is good for Kansas and its educational communities and presents a powerful
22 incentive for consolidation. **The Senate has passed this bill 39-0 based on its merits.**

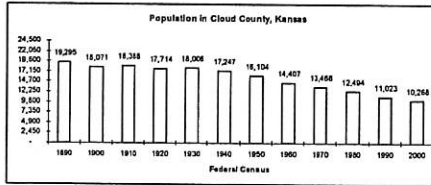
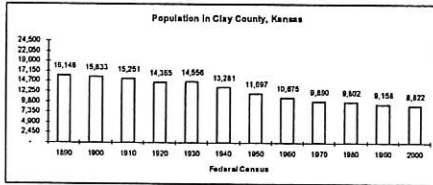
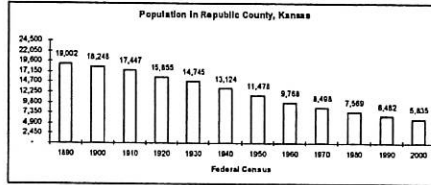
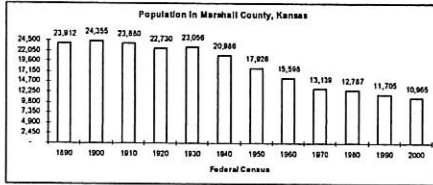
23
24 Thank you for allowing the time for support of SB 481. We will participate in taking
25 questions at the appropriate time and at the direction of the Committee Chair.



Demographic Facts

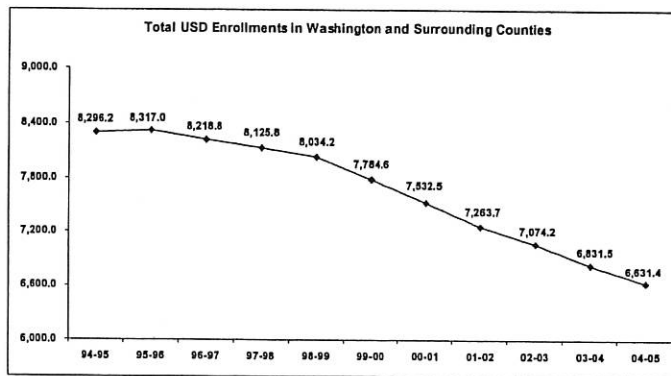


Surrounding Counties



TOTAL STUDENTS

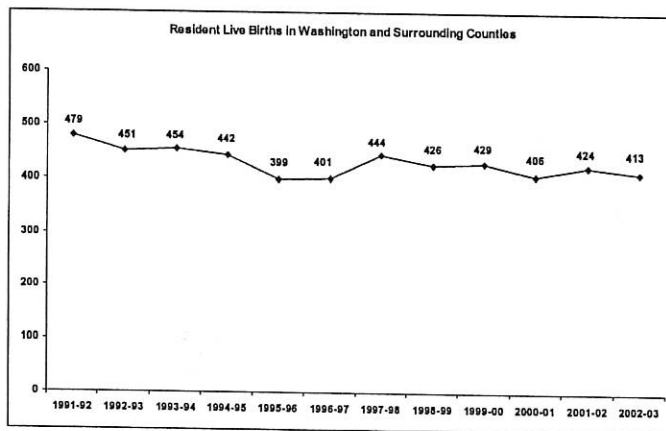
Washington, Marshall, Republic, Cloud, & Clay Counties



Enrollment Breakouts by District

USD	USD Name	FTE Enr9495	FTE Enr9596	FTE Enr9697	FTE Enr9798	FTE Enr9899	FTE Enr9900	FTE Enr0001	FTE Enr0102	FTE Enr0203	FTE Enr0304	FTE Enr0405
379	Clay Center	1,702.6	1,729.8	1,684.7	1,628.1	1,589.1	1,546.3	1,522.4	1,517.7	1,500.2	1,422.8	1,371.6
333	Concordia	1,353.4	1,361.9	1,325.5	1,290.0	1,308.1	1,246.7	1,235.7	1,223.8	1,161.7	1,109.2	1,059.3
364	Marysville	1,037.5	1,047.5	1,016.1	997.3	970.8	942.9	907.3	846.5	843.4	792.0	759.2
380	Vermillion	654.0	645.0	649.0	636.5	629.1	626.0	602.0	586.5	558.5	550.8	537.5
427	Belleville	664.0	634.5	636.5	625.5	605.5	597.5	556.0	532.4	510.0	471.5	458.0
223	Barnes	354.4	357.4	335.0	375.7	393.9	400.4	391.6	369.2	365.8	377.5	384.2
498	Valley Heights	472.0	456.3	477.1	487.0	513.5	486.5	474.8	440.4	422.8	395.0	375.5
222	Washington	418.5	413.5	410.5	374.7	375.0	363.9	354.5	355.5	332.5	346.5	353.5
224	Clifton-Clyde	377.5	390.4	405.4	401.5	388.6	376.0	340.9	324.5	332.0	315.9	307.0
488	Axtell	371.3	355.0	357.0	378.0	374.0	362.6	343.2	328.5	329.2	312.6	301.6
426	Pike Valley	293.5	316.5	305.0	308.0	300.0	288.5	283.5	270.5	270.6	260.0	260.5
334	Southern Cloud	267.5	284.0	297.5	292.5	272.5	251.3	235.5	212.0	196.5	233.7	234.0
455	Hillcrest	169.0	165.2	156.5	171.5	153.6	153.0	147.5	131.2	132.0	124.0	116.0
221	North Central	161.0	160.0	163.0	159.5	160.5	143.0	137.6	125.0	119.0	120.0	113.5
Total		8,296.2	8,317.0	8,218.8	8,125.8	8,034.2	7,784.6	7,532.5	7,263.7	7,074.2	6,831.5	6,631.4

Live Births Washington and surrounding counties



Live Births by County

Resident Live Births: September 1 through August 31

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Marshall	127	104	105	117	92	105	113	106	108	102	120	115
Cloud	108	124	105	111	91	98	100	105	117	101	107	103
Clay	120	104	110	94	88	80	96	100	91	94	89	87
Washington	69	68	77	69	74	77	62	68	73	56	67	57
Republic	55	51	57	51	54	41	73	47	40	53	41	51
	479	451	454	442	399	401	444	426	429	406	424	413

Student Enrollment USD 221/222

Estimated Enrollments 06-07

Grade	USD 221	USD 222	Total
K	5	22	27
1	9	22	31
2	9	28	37
3	12	27	39
4	6	39	45
5	10	19	29
6	6	25	31
7	12	32	44
8	9	18	27
9	8	22	30
10	2	34	36
11	6	31	37
12	15	32	47
Total	109	351	460

Consolidation Progression

- USD 221 community survey
- Two Member -- Board to Board Meeting (Spring 2005)
- Special Board Meetings
- Community Informational Meetings with KASB Representative – Donna Whiteman
- Joint Community Committee
- Joint Board Meetings
- Temporary Board of Education Meetings

Two-District Community Committee Meeting September 21, 2005

North Central, USD 221

- Terry Frager* #
- Pat Livingston #
- Ken Welch #
- Sharon Brown
- Judy Allen
- Ron Sinn
- Warren Zenger
- Roger Lambert
- Chantel Frager
- Hillary L'Ecuyer
- Cal Livingston
- Ed Miller
- Sonja Frager
- Kirk Gallion
- Neil Zenger
- Marvin Parrack

Washington-Greenleaf USD 222

- Dr. Dave Hodgson* #
- Traci Hattesoehl #
- Dr. Larry Stoppel #
- Kelly McGatlin
- Dawn Linenberger
- Scott Decker
- Dene' Johnson
- Bert Alexander
- Bailey Bokelman
- Kyle Gilliam
- Helen Pannbacker
- BJ Smart
- Mark Uhlik
- Tricia Gauby
- Dave Bisnette
- Dale Keesecker

*Spokesperson for Joint Full Board Meeting on 9.28.05 @ Washington
#Six-Member Formulation Committee that met on 9.26.05 @ Morrowville

**Results from Two-District
Community Committee Meeting**

- Full Consolidation would be the most amenable.
- Full-land transfer looking like a consolidation would be possibility
- Contracting or disorganization are not long range viable options
- Consolidation or land transfer would allow a financial incentive by preserving the combination of the two districts general fund budget for two years at the current level as prescribed by law.

**Additional benefits
of a combined district.**

- Enhanced educational opportunities
 - Academic
 - Extra curricular activities and organizations
- Stabilizing effect of having a larger student body
- Long term viability of the new district due to increased valuation and larger land mass

Joint Board of Education Meetings

Morrowville-October 26, 2005
Washington-November 2, 2005

- **Conclusions**
 - Full Consolidation by vote.
 - Allows both communities the opportunity to vote on the consolidation.
 - Allows for voting representation for both districts on the temporary BOE the first year.
 - Temporary Board of Education divided utilizing 2000 census data.
 - 5 members from USD 222
 - 2 members from USD 221
 - Permanent Board to be elected in April of 2007 being seated on *July 1, 2007*

Continued

Conclusions Continued

- All pre-consolidation expenses to be shared equally
- Target date for a new and effective district is July 1, 2006
- The bonded indebtedness is to be shared in the new district.
- Maintain K-6 building -- location to be determined by the USD 221 Board of Education.
- Staffing at K-6 to remain as is.
- 7-12 Faculty of 221 to be considered before going outside the new district incumbent and total staff for new and needed positions.
- Incoming staff of USD 221/222 to be placed as per their current placement. All benefits accrued to carry over where appropriate.

Continued

Conclusions Continued

- Transition contract to mirror existing USD 222 Negotiated Agreement with enhancements to salary and other items as deemed necessary by the transition board.
- All retained staff will retain tenure if they had attained tenure in the former districts of USD 222 and USD 221.
- The State of Kansas Health Care Program will be retained as stated in the current USD 222 Negotiated Agreement.

Continued

Conclusions Continued

- New District Number – to be determined by the State Board of Education
- District Name – Washington County
- Colors – Red & Black
- Mascot – Tigers

Financial Estimates

	USD 221	USD 222	Combined
Gen. Fund Assessed Valuation	11,462,236	11,575,144	23,037,380
All Funds Assessed Valuation	12,046,211	13,157,861	25,204,072
General Fund	1,176,209	2,614,649	3,790,858
G.F. Mills	20	20	20
LOB	235,000	645,000	700,000 (estimated need)
LOB Mills	16.090	21.014	18.6 (estimate)
C.O.	299,490	426,234	725,724
C.O. Mills	none	none	none
B & I	none	265,775	
B & I Mills	none	11.512	8.5-9.0 estimate
Contingency Reserve	47,773	92,214	139,987

- \$ Currently Washington receives State Aid for both LOB and B&I. The State Aid will change in the new district with the amount determined by the number of students in the new district effecting the formulated wealth.
- \$ Senator Taddiken has written a Senate Bill to be introduced to allow the new district to keep the State Aid on LOB & B&I for the first two years of the new district.
- \$ Other financial variables will be the school finance formula in effect during the next two years.

Washington County Schools Temporary Board of Education

Rod Stewart – President
 Norman Elliott – Vice President
 Greg Bekemeyer
 Tim Matlack
 Brad Owen
 Dave Savage
 Dennis Welch

Note – Temporary BOE serves until June 30, 2007

Temporary BOE Decisions

- Board Clerk – Teresa Penning
- Superintendent – Michael D. Stegman
- Date of Consolidation Election – March 7, 2006
- Effective date of new district – July 1, 2006
- BOE Method of Election
 - The new school district is divided into three (3) member districts; two (2) board members are elected from each member district; one (1) board member is elected at large.
- BOE Voting Plan
 - Voting Plan C: Allows voter to vote for only candidates in their member district in both the general and primary elections. K.S.A. 72-8003.

Consolidation Vote – March 7, 2006

- In order for the consolidation to move forward, it will take a *majority vote of the combined new district* in favor of the consolidation.
- Please get out and vote!!!!

March 7, 2006 Polling Places

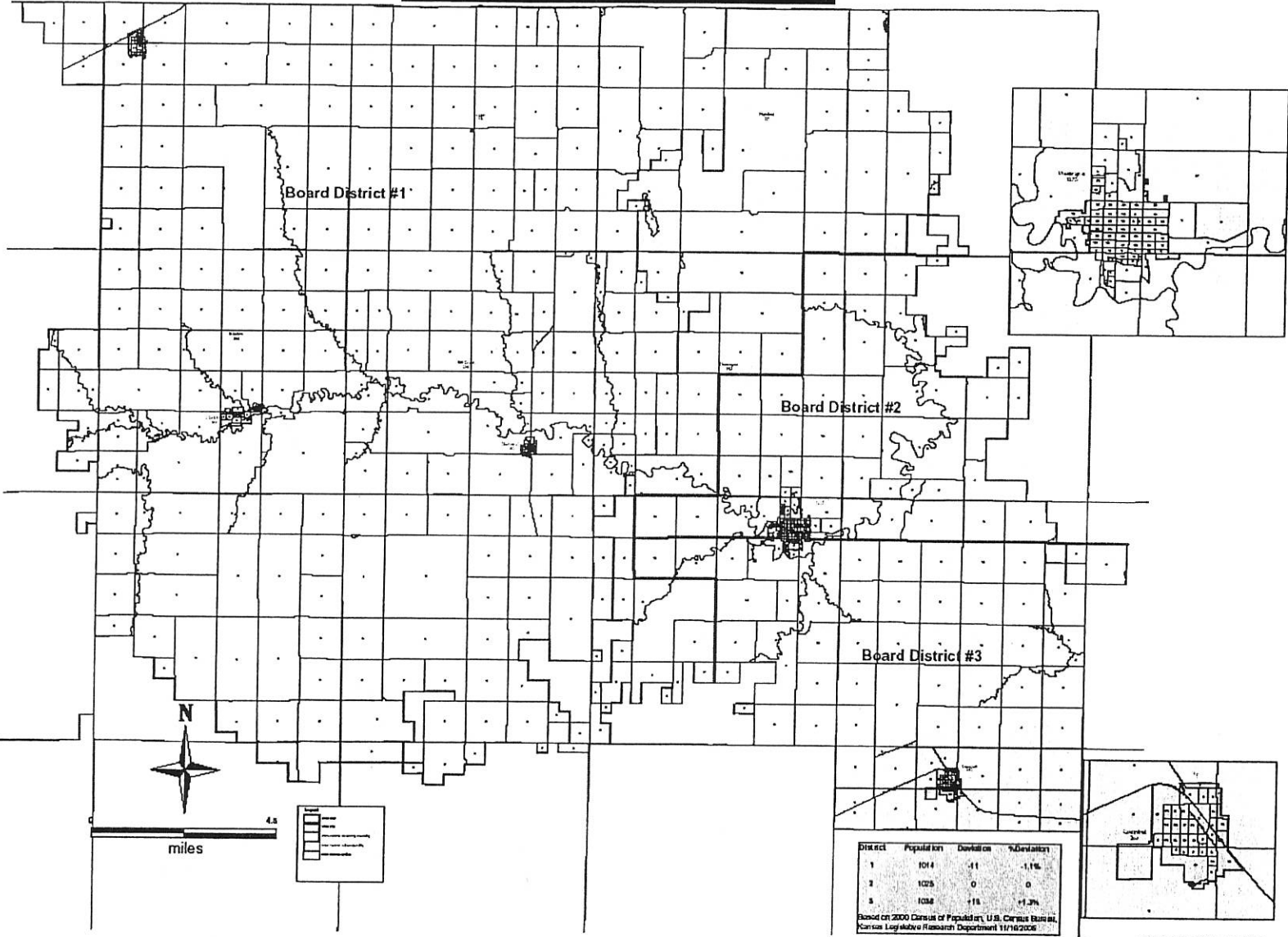
- Haddam
- Morrowville
- Greenleaf
- Washington City Hall
- Washington Court House

Note – Polling places same as last general election.

New BOE Districts

2-13

2000 Census Block Population USD 221 and USD 222



Senate Bill 481
 March 8, 2006
 House Education Committee

Concerning School Districts of:

North Central USD 221, Washington Public School USD 222
 Republic County USD 427, Hillcrest USD 455

Estimated Proposed Cost Analysis

	N.C	Washingt.	Combined	Rep. Co.	H.C.	Combined
	221	222	Total	427	455	Total
Local Option	235,000	645,000	880,000	850,000	239,318	1,094,318
Current \$	0%	53%		25%	0%	
Current %	16.1	21.014		21.4	14.94	
Current Mills			700,000			900,000
Prop. \$			53%			25%
Prop. %			12.87			18.75
Prop. Mills			700,000			900,000
\$ w/o Prop.			32.80%			11%
% w/o Prop.			18.6			22.25
Mills w/o Prop.						
Bond/Int.						
Current \$	0	265,775	265,775	0	64,500	
Current %	0	38	38%	0	0	
Current Mills	0	11.512	11,512	0	6.73	
Prop. \$			265,775		64,500	64,500
Prop. %			38%			0
Prop. Mills			6.5			1.8
\$ w/o Prop.			265,775			64,500
% w/o Prop.			17%			0
Mills w/o Prop.			9			1.8
Current Tot. Mills	36.087	52.526		41.04	41.67	
Tot. Mills/w prop.			39.37			40.55
Tot. Mills w/o Prop.			47.6			44.3 mills
Taxpayer Saving			8.23 mills			3.75 mills
\$ Taxpayer Savings			207,428			135,000

2-14

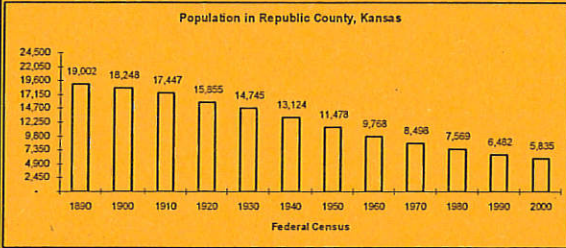
2-15

Republic County Schools

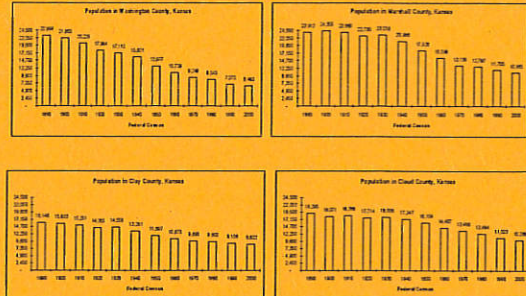
USD 427/455

“Home of the Buffaloes”

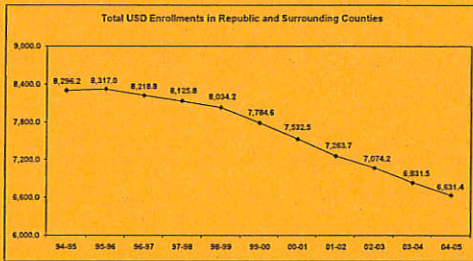
Demographic View



Surrounding Counties



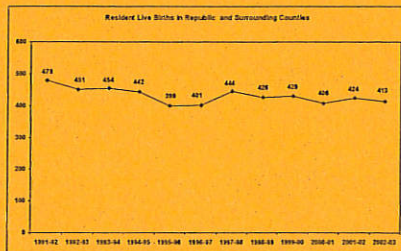
TOTAL STUDENTS Republic, Marshall, Washington, Cloud, & Clay Counties



Enrollment Breakouts by District

USD	USD Name	FTE Enr9497	FTE Enr9596	FTE Enr9697	FTE Enr9798	FTE Enr9899	FTE Enr9996	FTE Enr0001	FTE Enr0102	FTE Enr0203	FTE Enr0304	FTE Enr0405
379	Clay Center	1,702.5	1,729.8	1,684.7	1,628.1	1,589.1	1,546.3	1,522.4	1,317.7	1,502.2	1,425.8	1,371
333	Concordia	1,333.4	1,361.9	1,323.5	1,290.0	1,308.1	1,246.7	1,235.7	1,223.8	1,141.7	1,109.2	1,039
364	Mayesville	1,037.3	1,047.5	1,016.1	997.3	970.8	942.9	907.3	846.3	843.4	792.0	739
390	Vermillion	654.0	643.0	649.0	636.3	629.1	626.0	602.0	586.3	559.3	550.8	537
227	Marionville	596.0	574.2	579.5	554.3	557.5	521.5	506.2	517.4	510.0	522.5	485
223	Barnes	354.4	337.4	333.0	375.7	393.9	400.4	391.6	369.2	363.8	377.5	384
498	Valley	472.0	456.3	477.1	487.0	513.5	486.5	474.8	440.4	422.8	395.0	373
498	Higgins	418.5	413.5	416.5	374.7	376.9	343.9	364.5	355.5	332.5	346.5	353
224	Clyde	377.3	390.4	403.4	401.5	388.6	376.0	340.9	324.3	332.0	315.9	307
498	Astell	371.3	355.0	357.0	378.0	374.0	362.6	343.2	328.5	329.2	312.6	301
426	Pike Valley	293.5	316.5	305.0	308.0	300.0	288.5	283.5	270.3	270.6	260.0	260
334	Southern	247.3	284.0	297.5	292.5	272.5	251.3	233.5	212.0	196.5	233.7	234
211	North Central	161.0	168.0	163.0	159.5	160.5	143.0	137.6	125.0	119.0	120.0	113
	Total	8,296.2	8,317.0	8,218.8	8,125.8	8,034.2	7,794.6	7,532.5	7,263.7	7,074.2	6,831.5	6,831

Live Births Republic and surrounding counties



Live Births by County

Resident Live Births: September 1 through August 31

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Marshall	127	104	105	117	92	105	113	106	108	102	120	115
Cloud	108	124	105	111	91	98	100	105	117	101	107	103
Clay	120	104	110	94	83	80	96	100	91	94	89	87
Washington	69	68	77	69	74	77	62	68	73	56	67	57
Republic	55	51	57	51	54	41	73	47	40	53	41	51
	479	431	454	442	399	401	444	426	429	406	424	413

Consolidation Progression

- Two Member-- Board to Board Meeting (Spring 2005)
- Special Board Meetings
- Community Informational Meetings with KASB Representative – Donna Whiteman
- Joint Community Committee
- Joint Board Meetings
- Temporary Board of Education Meetings

Additional benefits of a combined district.

- Enhanced educational opportunities
 - Academic
 - Extra curricular activities and organizations
- Stabilizing effect of having a larger student body
- Long term viability of the new district due to increased valuation and larger land mass

Joint Board of Education Meetings

- Conclusions
 - Full Consolidation by vote.
 - Allows both communities the opportunity to vote on the consolidation.
 - Allows for voting representation for both districts on the temporary BOE the first year.
 - Temporary Board of Education divided utilizing 2000 census data.
 - 5 members from USD 427
 - 2 members from USD 455
 - Permanent Board to be elected in April of 2007 being seated on *July 1, 2007*

Continued

Conclusions Continued

- All pre consolidation expenses to be shared equally
- Target date for a new and effective district is July 1, 2006
- The bonded indebtedness is to be shared in the new district.
- Maintain K 6 building at Cuba
- Staffing at K 6 to remain as is.
- 7 1/2 Faculty of 427&455 to be considered before going outside the new district incumbent and total staff for new and needed positions.

Continued

Conclusions Continued

- New District Number – to be determined by the State Board of Education
- District Name – Republic County
- Colors – Red, White & Blue
- Mascot – Buffaloes

Financial Estimates

	USD 427	USD455	Combined
Gen. Fund Assessed Valuation	23,258,677	8,869,382	32,128,059
All Funds Assessed Valuation	26,348,903	9,621,642	35,970,545
General Fund	3,433,271	1,202,603 *	3,790,858
G.F. Mills	20	20	20
LOB	855,000	239,318	900,000 (estimated need)
LOB Mills	21.4	14.935	19-20 (estimate)
C.O.	224,519	214,134	438,653
C.O. Mills	none	none	none
B & I	none	64,750	
B&I Mills	none	6.73	1.8 estimate
Contingency Reserve	50,000	35,000	85,000

* Currently Republic County receives State Aid for both LOB. The State Aid will change in the new district with the amount determined by the number of students in the new district effecting the formulated wealth.
 † Senator Taddiken has written a Senate Bill to be introduced to allow the new district to keep the State Aid on LOB & B&I for the first two years of the new district.
 ‡ Other financial variables will be the school finance formula in effect during the next two years.

Republic County Schools
Temporary Board of Education

Ron Evert – President
Doran Junek – Vice President
Retha Blecha
John Eickman
Mike Kolman
Wendy Popelka
Scott Whitefoot

Temporary BOE Decisions

- Board Clerk – Linda Gieber
- Superintendent – Larry Lysell
- Date of Consolidation Election – March 7, 2006
- Effective date of new district – July 1, 2006
- BOE Method of Election
 - The school district is divided into three (3) member districts; two (2) board members are elected from each member district; one (1) board member is elected at large.
- BOE Voting Plan
 - Voting Plan C: Allows voter to vote for only candidates in their member district in both the general and primary elections. K.S.A. 72-8003.

Consolidation Vote –
March 7, 2006

- In order for the consolidation to move forward, it will take a majority vote of the new district in favor of the consolidation.
- Please get out and vote!!!!

March 7, 2006
Polling Places

- Agenda City Hall
- Belleville Wesleyan Church
- Cuba Senior Citizen Center
- Munden Community Hall
- Narka Denton Memorial Hall
- Republic Community Center

~~2-18~~
2-18



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

MARK W. TADDIKEN
 SENATOR, 21ST DISTRICT
 CLAY, CLOUD, JEWELL,
 MARSHALL, NEMAHA, REPUBLIC, RILEY,
 AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES
 2614 HACKBERRY RD.
 CLIFTON, KS 66937
 (785) 926-3325

STATEHOUSE—ROOM 222-E
 TOPEKA, KS 66612
 (785) 296-7371 FAX 296-6718
 taddiken@senate.state.ks.us

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 CHAIR: AGRICULTURE
 MEMBER: NATURAL RESOURCES
 UTILITIES
 WAYS & MEANS
 JOINT COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL
 CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE
 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL
 PLANNING

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 481

March 8, 2006

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thank you Madam Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to stand before you today in support of SB 481.

In the last year in my senate district, seven school districts have been involved in consolidation discussions. From those initial discussions two school districts have completed a consolidation. Four more districts are still in the process and had public votes yesterday seeking permission to combine into two consolidated districts.

These local school boards have decided it is in the best educational interests of their students to consolidate their respective districts. I highly commend them for working through the difficult decisions in this process and making the educational opportunities of their students the number one priority.

When local school boards make the decision to consolidate, I believe the State of Kansas should do everything we can to remove obstacles to that process. Under current law, school districts may receive less state aid under consolidation than they do operating as separate districts.

SB 481 would allow consolidating school districts to maintain their current level of state aid for their general fund, bond and interest, and LOB for a period of three years. After the initial three year period they would follow standard funding guidelines. SB 481 provides the opportunity to remove the current disincentive and allow a smoother transition for consolidating districts.

Today, we have two superintendents with us who represent three of the four districts that had public votes yesterday. They are USD 222 Superintendent Mike Stegman and USD 455 Superintendent Don Wells.

They will give you the financial details of how their districts are affected by our current funding statutes.

These superintendents and their respective school boards have made many difficult decisions. I respectfully request this Committee lift part of the financial load from their shoulders and look favorably upon SB 481.

House Education Committee

Date: 3-8-06Attachment # 3

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS



1420 SW Arrowhead Road • Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024
785-273-3600

Testimony on **SB 481**
before the
House Committee on Education

by

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 8, 2006

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on **SB 481**, which is designed to mitigate the adverse effect that school district consolidation could have on state aid rates, calculated under the local option budget, capital outlay and bond and interest state aid programs. It also provides that consolidated districts may keep their combined budget authority for three years, rather than the current two years.

Under current law, state aid rates tied to Assessed Valuation Per Pupil (AVPP) could decline considerably in a consolidated district if the result of the consolidation was the addition of one district's large amounts of valuation and few pupils to another district which was receiving aid under the programs. The prospect of lower state aid could be a disincentive for voters in one or both of the districts to approve a consolidation. **SB 481** would allow the higher of the two state aid rates from the previous districts to be in effect in the consolidated district for three years.

KASB members have adopted two basic positions on school consolidation issues. First, we oppose state **mandates** in this area, believing that these decisions should be made at the local level. Second, we support efforts by the state to encourage voluntary initiatives for consolidation, cooperation or other efforts to more efficiently share resources where appropriate. We believe **SB 481** could meet both criteria if its change in state aid law proves persuasive to the voters. **SB 481** might be more persuasive to the voters if it provided that the higher district's state bond and interest aid rate would apply for the remaining life of the bond issue in question, instead of just for three years.

As you may know, yesterday voters in two counties approved consolidation plans that would merge four districts into two. Two other districts had already approved a merger. While these changes have all occurred at the local level without the additional incentives contained in **SB 481**, we believe the bill would provide additional incentives for communities that continue to struggle with changing demographics.

Thank you for your consideration.

House Education Committee
Date: 3-8-06
Attachment # 4



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

**Terry Forsyth, Testimony
House Education Committee
March 8, 2006**

Senate Bill 329

Madame Chair, members of the committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to share our thoughts on **Senate Bill 329**. I am Terry Forsyth and I represent the Kansas National Education Association.

This bill proposes two changes to statute. Both changes we support. First, the bill changes the review period for standards from three to seven years which we support. Second, the bill provides clarification language supporting the necessity for high academic standards for the core academic area.

Lengthening the time required in the law to review standards from three to seven years is a good idea. The change to a seven year review process has been proposed by the State Board of Education and others involved in the standards review process. The current system is just too short of an interval of time between review, adoption, implementation and the time to begin the review process again.

We applaud the Senate Committee for amending the bill by rewriting the sections which state that the State Board of Education is to establish curriculum standards which reflect high academic standards.

We support the bill and would ask you to pass the bill out of committee favorably.

House Education Committee
Date: 3-8-06
Attachment # 5