

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on March 8, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Carolyn McGinn
Chris Steineger

Committee staff present: Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Barbara Craft
Robert Shannon, Superintendent,
Manhattan-Ogden USD 383
Colonel (Ret) Stephen J. Kempf, Ft. Leavenworth USD 207
Board of Education
Major Colleen Wright, Garrison Operations Officer, Ft. Riley
Lamont Godsey, Ft. Riley USD 475 School Board
Heidi Zimmerman, Legislative Division of Post Audit

HB 2159 – School finance; enrollment; date of determination

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department, explained that **HB 2159** allows school districts to conduct a second count of students on February 20, 2008, and February 20, 2009. This second count would be permitted for students who are dependents of full-time active members of the military service or dependents of the military reserve who have been ordered to active duty for at least 30 consecutive days. The second count would be allowed when the number of students enrolled on February 20, 2008, has increased from the number counted on September 30, 2007, by at least 25 students or one percent or more of the district's enrollment. The district's student enrollment on February 20, 2008, then becomes the official enrollment count for the 2007 and 2008 school years. The fiscal note estimated an impact of \$4,021,200 in state aid for FY 2008 because the Department of Education estimated approximately 640 additional students would be counted using this procedure. This fiscal estimate includes both general state aid and state aid related to local option budgets.

Representative Barbara Craft testified in support of **HB 2159**. She reminded the Committee that a bill passed by the Legislature two years ago allowed certain school districts to take a second count on February 20 due to large numbers of military students coming in after the official September 20 count date. This law will sunset at the end of 2007, but military growth continues; therefore, the bill extends the second count authority for another two years. Representative Craft noted that she would not object to the bill being amended to extend the authority for another four years. She pointed out that being able to include most of the incoming military students in the enrollment figure reported to the state each year gives the impacted school districts the assurance of additional aid and the ability to plan in advance of the students' arrival. (Attachment 1)

Robert Shannon, Superintendent, Manhattan-Ogden USD 383, testified in support of **HB 2159**. Noting that his school district is located along the eastern boundary of Ft. Riley, he informed the Committee that his district experienced a year-to-year increase of 300 students last September. He noted that the February 20 count provided the district the confidence to make the best possible plans for both military and non-military students before the school year opened. He went on to say that there were currently 725 military students in his district, and projections from military personnel indicated that this number would continue to increase for at least another two years and probably through 2011. He then discussed the action his school district has taken to date to accommodate the welcomed new growth. The Board of Education believes it is important to extend the second count authority in order to continue to meet the educational needs of new military students who will be coming to their region. (Attachment 2)

Colonel (Ret) Stephen J. Kempf, President of the Board of Education for Ft. Leavenworth USD 207, testified in support of **HB 2159**. He informed the Committee that the Ft. Leavenworth school district is responsible for approximately 1,800 military dependent children each year, and 65 percent of those children are family members of military officers taking a course at the Army's Command and General Staff College. Because

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:35 p.m. on March 8, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

of the nature and length of the class, a majority of the officers bring their families and secure housing on Ft. Leavenworth or in the surrounding communities. Current world events have had a direct impact on the number of military officers attending the Command and General Staff College, and it is anticipated that this course will continue indefinitely. The district added 113 students through the second count last year, and 154 students were added this year. Continuation of the second count date will allow the district to accommodate the anticipated continued growth in the student population. (Attachment 3)

Major Colleen Wright, Garrison Operations Officer at Ft. Riley, testified in support of **HB 2159**. She noted that the soldier population at Ft. Riley in 2005 was at 9,933 with an associated student K-12 population of 4,805. Today, it is at 13,584 with a K-12 population of 6,572. It is estimated that, by FY 2011, the population will be at 18,437 with a K-12 population of 8,821. She commented that the Army is very aware that area schools experience enormous financial strain when significant numbers of students arrive after the official count date, and it enjoys a close working relationship with the two school districts which serve the majority of Ft. Riley's K-12 population. She expressed her strong support for any action to take care of soldiers and their families and urged the Committee to extend the second count provision. (Attachment 4)

Lamont Godsey, a member of the Ft. Riley USD 475 School Board, testified in support of **HB2159**. He observed that the extension of the count date was a strong indicator that Kansas is a state which is friendly to the military. In his opinion, if the Army is to remain strong, Kansas must be just as strong. He urged the Committee to express their support for military families and dependents through the passage of the bill. (Attachment 5)

Senator Schodorf called the Committee's attention to written testimony in support of **HB 2159** submitted by Don Adkisson, Director of Finance for USD 260 Derby. (Attachment 6)

There being no others wishing to testify, the hearing on **HB 2159** was closed.

At the request of Senator Schodorf, Heidi Zimmerman, Legislative Division of Post Audit, reviewed the Legislative Post Audit report entitled, "*K-12 Education: Alternative Models for Organizing Middle Schools and High Schools.*" A copy of the report may be obtained at the office the Legislative Division of Post Audit located at 800 SW Jackson, Suite 1200, Topeka, Kansas. The performance audit answers the following question: What are the advantages and disadvantages of various alternative models for middle schools and high schools used in Kansas school districts or in other states? Ms. Zimmerman explained that Division of Post Audit found 41 middle and high schools nationwide using alternative models that experts had identified as being successful. She outlined the following major approaches to middle and high school reform which were identified through the research: (1) alternative scheduling, (2) theme-based programs, (3) small learning communities, (4) alternative instructional formats, and (5) comprehensive school reform. As part of the research on the five models, Post Audit found that, while most models have examples of successful schools, there is little rigorous research available that assesses the effectiveness of each model. The report concludes that the handful of models which have been rigorously evaluated and shown to be effective in improving student performance are the models policymakers should look at when considering school reform.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2007.

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST**

DATE: March 8, 2007

| NAME | REPRESENTING |
|----------------------|--|
| SCOTT FRANK | LPA |
| Heidi Zimmerman | LPA |
| ROBERT N. MARTINACHE | Ft. HEAVENWORTH USD #207 |
| Deborah Baeuchte | Ft heavenworth USD #207 |
| STEPHEN J. KEMPT | FT. LEAVENWORTH, USD #207 |
| LaMont E. Godsey | Ft Riley - J.C. BOE USD-475 |
| Jim Reece | USD 360 |
| Deborah Hamm | USD 358 |
| Gretchen Weber | USD 360 |
| Sydney Corbin | Rep 66 th |
| Robert Summers | USD 383 |
| Beth Tatarco | USD 383 |
| Colleen Wugut | Garrison, Fort Riley |
| Becky Blick | USD 437 |
| Marianne R. Eiler | USD 465 |
| Dundy L. Estes | USD 465 |
| Brenda Kaul | FARMER INS. (Blue Valley School Dist Petrus) |
| Colleen Whetten | BV SCHOOL |
| Clairie Amos | turner |

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-8-07

| NAME | REPRESENTING |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Cynthia Tracy | Wellington, USD 353 |
| Will Deer | Federico Consulting |
| Mark Desetti | KNEA |
| Bill Brady | SFFF |
| Mark Tallman | KASB |
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STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MEMBER: EDUCATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM
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March 08, 2007

To: Sen. Jean Schodorf, Chairman, and Members of the Senate Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB 2159, the "second count" bill.

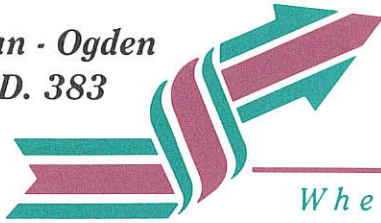
Many of you will remember that the legislature passed a bill two years ago that allowed certain school districts to take a second count of student enrollment on February 20th due to large numbers of military students coming in after the official September 20th count date. This action was taken in response to the BRAC announcement which meant all four military installations in Kansas would experience significant growth for the next 5-6 years. Since the law will sunset at the end of 2007 and military growth is still occurring, HB 2159 would extend the "second count" authority for another two years.

Being able to include most of the incoming military students in the enrollment figure reported to the state each year gives the impacted school districts the assurance of additional state aid and the ability to plan with confidence in advance of the students' arrival. The following numbers reflect how many additional students were counted by the four most heavily affected school districts in the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years (prior to the 02/20/2007 count date):

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Junction City | approx. 700-800 additional military students during the two years |
| Manhattan | nearly 300 " " " " " " " " |
| Fort Leavenworth | over 250 " " " " " " " " |
| Derby | about 100 " " " " " " " " |

Thank you for taking time to consider this important issue. I stand in strong support of HB 2159.

*Senate Education Committee
3-8-07
Attachment 1*



March 8, 2007

Testimony on House Bill 2159

Senator Schodorf
Members of the Senate Education Committee

My name is Bob Shannon. I am Superintendent of Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 in Manhattan. Our school district is located along the eastern boundary of Fort Riley. The community of Ogden, the location of one of our elementary schools, is immediately outside the garrison's east gate.

I am requesting that you approve an extension of a provision in the school finance act that allows for a February 20 count of children of active duty military personnel. This extension would be for an additional two years, a timeframe that we understand will continue to see BRAC-affected changes in our school district as well as other school districts in the region.

This past September, we experienced a year-to-year increase of 300 students in Manhattan-Ogden USD 383. This increased number, while very welcome, was tempered in budget authority by the averaging that was done to offset prior years of enrollment decline. The February 20 provision provided our district the confidence to make the best possible plans for our students, both military and non-military, before the school year opening.

The number of military students enrolled between September and February last year was 140. As of yesterday, we have received 168 new students whose parents are active duty military since September 20. We currently educate over 725 military students in our district. Projections from military personnel indicate that this number will continue to increase for at least another two years, and probably through 2011. The garrison office works closely with area schools to provide good information about when troops will arrive and depart, but the present nature of world affairs can change their needs and plans with relatively short notice.

Our school district has responded with actions to accommodate the new children and welcomed growth. In the fall of 2005, we reversed the decision to close an elementary school building that was to have been taken out of service in May of

2006. Furthermore, we have taken steps to re-open another elementary school building that closed five years ago. This building will re-open in August of 2007. As a community, we are excited about these changes in enrollment, but also know that we have an uncertainty of timing with BRAC changes as well as decisions about troop deployments with the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Although many military family relocations occur during the summer months, there is also a significant number who must relocate when the orders come to serve the country.

The school districts in our region have been working as a team for over two years to prepare to support the children of the U.S. Army as they come to us from all over the country and world. They enrich our classrooms and schools, but also require resources for us to serve them well beginning the first day they walk through the school doors. This past fall we increased our teaching force by 21. A recent announcement about another brigade buildup occurring this spring and summer suggests that additional school staff should be employed. Also, the anticipated return of deployed troops in the winter and spring of 2008 further emphasizes the need to plan with confidence.

Because the growth of families stationed at Ft. Riley requires our area schools to hire teaching staff, provide resources, transportation, and supplies; our board of education believes it is important that HB 2159 be extended through the school year 2008-09 to meet the educational needs of new military students who come to our region. Thank you for your support for all school children in Kansas as well as consideration of the proposed extension of this provision in the school finance act.

Robert Shannon, Superintendent
Manhattan-Ogden USD 383



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

- Good afternoon 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 1,800 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 normally 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.

"A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE"

*Senate Education Committee
3-8-07
Attachment 3*

- Current world events have had a direct impact on the number of military officers attending the Command and General Staff College. The goal continues to be to have every major attend the school. A second course was added in 2006, which begins in February and graduates in December. It is anticipated this course will continue indefinitely. In future years, the college could have more than 1,800 officers in attendance.
- Unknown to us today is the long term impact on our school district, but with the projected increase in the officer student population and the corresponding increase in support personnel, we expect an increase in the number of school aged students. This increase will occur predominately in August and January each year.
- Last year, the district added 113 students through the second count. This year we added 154 students.
- Planning for those students must take place far in advance of their arrival. Prior to August and the new school year, teachers need to be in place and supplies ordered.
- Continuation of the second count date will allow us to accommodate the expected near term 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.
- Thank you for your continued support.

Testimony on HB 2159, Major Colleen Wright, Garrison Operations Officer, Fort Riley, Kansas. (785) 239-2481, deborah.wright@riley.army.mil

Thank you for allowing me to testify today on behalf those servicemembers who are lucky enough to call Kansas home.

Two years ago, I spoke to you on the subject of the population growth of Fort Riley. At that time, we knew that the decisions of the BRAC Commission would cause our student, K-12, population to grow throughout subsequent school years.

Our Soldier population at Ft. Riley in July 2005 was 9933, with an associated student, K-12 population of 4805. Today it is 13584 (K-12, 6572). By our endstate, which is projected to be FY 11, our total will be 18437 (K-12, 8821). [K-12 figures are factored with the planning factor that 48% of Soldiers have dependant child, with 1.6 children per, and of those, 63% are K-12.]

I can not tell you precisely how or when we will grow to that figure. Times in the military today are too uncertain. We have experienced many significant changes at Fort Riley. We are now, as you know, the proud home of the 1st Infantry Division. In addition to our original two Brigades, we have the 4th IBCT, which is currently deploying to Iraq. We also have a Sustainment Brigade and a Combat Aviation Brigade. In the last year, Fort Riley became the Training Center for the Army, Navy and Air Force to train Transition teams that are imbedded with the Iraqi and Afghanistan Militaries. These changes continue to occur while we simultaneously train, deploy, and redeploy Soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan.

But all of that means nothing to our children. Each day, they go to school with an expectation that remains steady: to be educated in adequately sized and funded schools by adequately staffed and trained teachers and para professionals. Today we are fortunate that our children are educated by excellent Kansas School Districts, 16 of which are signatories to the Depart of Defense SETS MOU. We enjoy an especially close working relationship with the two districts that serve the majority of our K-12 population, USD 475 and USD 383.

When significant numbers of students arrive after the official count date, our schools experience enormous financial strain. We know that the second count date gives affected schools significant relief from that strain. We saw tangible results from the 2nd count date for the past two years, but the conditions that necessitated the law have not ~~passed~~.

changed

We all know that right now is an especially difficult time to be serving our nation in the Armed Forces. Our military and their family members confront some tremendous challenges. Although we in the military accept that our chosen profession comes with its own set of difficulties and frustrations, we rely on our government representatives to recognize that and act to provide us some measure of protection from conditions outside of our control. We strongly support any actions that take care of our soldiers and families. You rightly passed this legislation into law once before, and I strongly encourage you to do so again.

Thank you.

*Senate Education Committee
3-8-07
Attachment 4*

To: The Honorable Jean Schodorf, Chairman
Senate Education Committee

From: Lamont Godsey, USD 475
School Board Member

Date: March 8, 2007

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF THE FEBRUARY 20TH COUNT DATE STUDENTS OF
ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES (HB2159)

To the Honorable Jean Schodorf, Chairman and members of the Senate Education Committee, allow me to thank you for this opportunity to address this body. I come today to speak in favor of HB 2159, which extends the second count date for students of active duty military families. As you are aware Fort Riley has changed it's mission and is now part of the Big Red One. What makes this so unique for schools is we expect additional students between now and 2011. As our student population grows, so must our schools. USD 475 has already passed a \$33 million dollar bond issue to increase classroom space. We have upgraded our technology in efforts to facilitate learning to much higher levels. Our entire community is working to improve the quality of life for all citizens. The second count date provides us with operational funds to adequately provide educational services for active military students who arrive after September 20th. These services include after school programs, advance courses, extra-curricular activities, use of technology and a host of other programs.

We have always appreciated the support from the Kansas Legislature and the collaboration we enjoy with Fort Riley. The extension of HB2159 is a strong indicator to the Military that Kansas is a state that is friendly to the military. It demonstrates the exceptional cooperation between local communities and our congress. As the Mission of Fort Riley changes,

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Attachment 5*

our schools must change to adapt to the new demographics of student population. We look to proven, researched, based programs and best practices to provide the best possible education for all students. As families arrive from all over the world, we want them to know that Kansas will welcome them with open arms. We consider it a privilege to serve the students of our brave men and women who place their lives on the line each and every day so we might enjoy our freedom.

Extending HB 2159 will send a strong message to our military friends that there is at least one state in this great union of ours that support our troops and military. It is our opinion that if the Army is to remain strong, then Kansas must be just as strong. I urge you to support our military dependents by extending HB 2159.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to address this committee. I will entertain any questions at this time.

Testimony on HB 2159 in Senate Education
March 8, 2007

Don Adkisson
Director of Finance
USD 260 Derby

I am providing this written testimony to you in support of passage of HB 2159. USD 260 Derby is fortunate to have McConnell Air Force Base within the district's boundaries. One of the district's elementary schools is located next to the base housing units. However, the base population is subject to fluctuation due to staff transfers, both in and out, and activations. McConnell personnel are expected to increase over the next few years. Many of these changes will occur after the September 20 count date. The legislature had the foresight to add a second count date on February 20 for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years. USD 260 benefited last year with an additional Full Time Equivalency (FTE) of 53.5 students or \$227,749. The audited FTE for 2006-07 has not been determined, but the military student head count has increased by 55 students since September 20. This would increase the state funding by around \$225,000. HB 2159 extends the second count provision for two additional years and we ask for your vote in favor of passage. A positive vote for this bill sends a strong message to our friends in the military that we value them as a part of our community. Thank you.

*Senate Education Committee
3-8-07
Attachment 6*