

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on February 10, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Dwayne Umbarger- excused

Committee staff present:
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Senator James Barnett
Representative J. Robert Brookens
Bill Halvorsen, Board of Education, USD #284
Greg Markowitz, Superintendent & Chief Financial Officer, USD #284
John Torline, Associate Director, Central Kansas Community Foundation
Sandi Fruit, Executive Director, Central Kansas Community Foundation
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others attending:
See attached list.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes of January 22, 2009, January 27, 2009, February 2, 2009, February 3, 2009, and February 4, 2009 as written. The motion was seconded by Senator Marshall. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Hearing on **SB 149 - School districts; supplemental general state aid for certain districts**

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, appeared before the committee and provided a brief explanation of **SB 149**. This bill would amend distribution that establishes the formula for supplemental general state aid and would apply to certain school districts that have a large geographic area of at least 670 square miles and an assessed valuation of less than \$120,000 per pupil in the preceding school year. Those school districts would be guaranteed an amount of supplemental general state aid in an amount equal to 12% of state financial aid of the district or, an amount they would have gotten under the old formula.

Senator James Barnett, (Attachment 1), presented brief testimony in support of **SB 149**. He stated the bill, as presented, dealt with some inequity particularly with districts identified as high wealth that truly were not wealthy. Upon questioning, he stated the bill, as written, would apply to the following districts: Hoxie, USD #412; Wallace, USD #241; Cheylin, USD #103; WaKeeney, USD #208; Graham County, USD #281; Scott County, USD #466; and Chase County, USD #284.

Senator Teichman asked for the recommendation of the Legislative Educational Planning Committee. Sharon Wenger reported that the LEPC took no action but recommended it be brought back to the Session and be looked at with Senator Barnett.

Bill Halvorsen, Board of Education member, USD #284, Chase County, (Attachment 2) also presented testimony in support of **SB 149**. He pointed out that Chase County is considered a "wealthy district" under the "wealth formula" used by the state in determining state aid; the formula being a function of land area, or assessed valuation, divided by the actual number of students. His testimony included the fact that the school district is large in land area, and thus assessed valuation, but is well below average in number of students. He stated the formula rewards school districts that are small in land area but large in student density.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 10, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

Greg Markowitz, Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer, USD #284, ([Attachment 3](#)), also presented testimony in support of **SB 149**. He provided a list of budget factors being enacted by the school district to combat the effect of the local option budget wealth formula on the school district.

Representative J. Robert Brookens, ([Attachment 4](#)), representative from Marion, KS, presented testimony also in support of **SB 149**. He pointed out **SB 627** from the 2008 session was referred to the Joint Committee on Educational Planning for summer discussion. After deliberations, that committee recommended the issue of low enrollment and seemingly high assessed property valuation be reviewed by the standing education committees during the 2009 session and that legislative staff work with Senator Barnett to more fully develop a recommendation. **SB 149** is the result of that committee's work with the Department of Education which would assist all schools similarly situated with Chase County.

The hearing on **SB 149** was closed.

Hearing on **SB 175 - School districts; transfer of moneys to community foundations**

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, appeared before the committee and provided a brief explanation of **SB 175**. In summary, the bill would authorize school districts to transfer moneys, defined as any moneys derived from gifts or donations to the school district which are not immediately required for the purposes for which the moneys were received, to a community foundation. These moneys are to be deposited into a restricted fund by the foundation and remain subject to any restrictions imposed by the original donee of such moneys.

John Torline, Associate Director, Central Kansas Community Foundation, and City Administrator of North Newton, ([Attachment 5](#)) testified in support of **SB 175**. He stated this bill would allow districts to place funds donated to the local schools as gifts, donations and bequests with community foundations for investment and management. Any donated funds moved to the foundation from a school district would remain subject to any restrictions that were originally imposed by the donors and may only be used for the benefit of the school district.

Sandi Fruit, Executive Director, Central Kansas Community Foundation; Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards ([Attachment 6](#)); Dr. John R. Morton, Superintendent, Newton Public Schools, USD #373, ([Attachment 7](#)) (written only), and Becky Goss, KACF Chairperson, ([Attachment 8](#)) (written only) also provided testimony in support of **SB 175**.

The hearing on **SB 175** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2009.

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

STATE OF KANSAS

JIM BARNETT
SENATOR, 17TH DISTRICT
CHASE, COFFEY, GREENWOOD
LYON, MARION, MORRIS, AND OSAGE
COUNTIES



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIR: PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
CHAIR: KANSAS HEALTH POLICY OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE
MEMBER: AGRICULTURE
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND
INSURANCE
ORGANIZATION, CALENDAR AND RULES

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2009
1:30PM – CAPITOL BUILDING – ROOM 545 N

SB 149 – An Act concerning school districts; relating to school finance; relating to supplemental general state aid; amending K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 72-6434 and repealing the existing section.

Thank you, Madame Chair Schodorf, for the opportunity to speak in support of SB 149. Chase County, along with several other school districts are faced with an inequity in the current school funding law which ranks them as a high-wealth district when, in fact, they are not wealthy.

I appreciate both the time and consideration given by this committee and the Legislative Educational Planning Committee to review this topic. Further work has been done to craft a better bill to address the challenges that face school board members as they try to provide an adequate and equitable education to their students.

I offer my sincere thanks and encourage your support SB 149.

Senator Jim Barnett

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*Senate Education
2-10-09
Attachment 1*

February 10, 2009

Chairman and Members
Senate Education Committee
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas

Re: Summary of Testimony,
Senate Bill 149,
Local Option Budget for Districts with large land area but small
enrollment

Dear Chairman and Members:

My name is Bill Halvorsen. I am a member of the Chase County Unified School District No. 284 Board of Education. I appear as a proponent of House Bill 2101 concerning School Finance.

This Bill amends the current formula for calculating a school district's entitlement to supplemental state aid for the Local Option Budget (LOB) in districts with a large land area but small enrollment.

In 1966, the school districts of Chase County consolidated into a single district. We are one of a handful of county wide districts and are the fourth largest geographical district in the state with 780 square miles.¹ Our last audited enrollment, from Kindergarten through 12th Grade, was 438 students.² The district's assessed valuation is \$40 Million.³ Our population is about 3,300 people.⁴ The county has two banks, several small businesses and some farm land. Most of our land area is bluestem covered Flint Hills used for grazing. Our agricultural land is assessed on "use value," an income based approach rather than fair market value, as provided by the Kansas Constitution.⁵ Although our district covers a large land area, little of it is improved, leaving it less valuable than comparable land in other districts.

Our district, like most in the state, depends upon the LOB to finance operations. Originally, it provided funds for educational "extras" because the base aid funded essential needs. However, as time passed, we needed the LOB to fund basic operations, including salaries, as the base aid became inadequate. Our taxpayers have been generous and have allowed us an LOB funded entirely from local taxes, without state assistance.

¹ Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) Research Department

² Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)

³ Chase County Appraiser and Kansas Department of Revenue, Property Valuation Division

⁴ 2000 census

⁵ Article 11, Section 1(a)(2)

Senate Education
2-10-09
Attachment 2

The stark and unmistakable reality is that without our locally funded LOB, we would no longer be able to conduct operations.

We know that the Legislature was forced to make very difficult school finance decisions, especially after Montoy v. State. We also know that the state budget is stressed. We understand that a policy promoting consolidation would make the cost of education more affordable for all. In short, we understand the fiscal challenges that you face, much as we must deal with our own.

Like most non-urban districts, we are in declining enrollment and will continue to be so in the foreseeable future. Of course, when enrollment declines, the district suffers a “double whammy” because not only does it get “wealthier” and thereby farther from LOB assistance, it also loses base aid. Because we have already consolidated to a county, we have no place to go, except to you, and from you we humbly and respectfully request help.

Review of the “Wealth Formula”

Under the formula to distribute LOB assistance,⁶ 82% of the districts receive aid, but 18% (the “wealthy districts,” like Chase County), receive nothing. Here is how it works:

$$\frac{\text{Assessed Valuation}}{\text{Actual Number of Students}}$$

The formula is a function of land area (assessed valuation) and student populations. Under the current formula, a district like Chase County, which has only 1/7th of the average assessed value per unit of land but only 1/10th of the average student density per unit of land, will be considered too “wealthy” to qualify for LOB assistance. Why? Because in Chase County the numerator (assessed valuation – 1/7th of the state average) is larger than the denominator (number of students – 1/10th), the result is a clear (and unintended) injustice. Clearly, this formula rewards school districts that are small in land area but large in student density.

Kansas’ total 2007 assessed valuation was \$30,086,900,000.00⁷ and it had 468,510 students in its public schools.⁸ Thus, by applying the formula for all districts, \$64,218.27 is the average assessed valuation per pupil. The Chase County district, however, is \$91,324.00 in assessed valuation per student (\$40,000,000.00⁹ divided by

⁶ K.S.A. 72-6434(a)(1)-(5)

⁷ Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Property Valuation, Statistical Report of Property Assessment and Taxation, issued March, 2008, Page 10

⁸ Kansas Public Schools Directory (kansas.educationbug.org/public.schools)

⁹ Supra, footnote 3

438 students¹⁰), making us 142% of the state average. Although this clearly makes our district appear to be wealthy, it is totally deceiving. Here's how:

Chase County's Wealth

The Chase County district encompasses 780 square miles¹¹ which includes almost all of Chase County in addition to parts of Marion, Morris and Lyon Counties. The average school district encompasses only 278 square miles (calculated by dividing the State's square miles (82,264)¹² by the number of districts (296)¹³). Obviously, the more land area in a district, the more assessed valuation potential. Therefore, in order to compare apples to apples, the analysis requires a comparison by land area (square miles) instead of by district since the Chase County district has 2.8 times more land area than the average Kansas district.¹⁴

Overall, the state's average assessed valuation is \$365,655.00 per square mile.¹⁵ However, the Chase County average assessed valuation per square mile is only \$51,282.00,¹⁶ leaving the Chase County district with only 1/7th of the average district wealth statewide.¹⁷ In order to reach the statewide average, the Chase County district's assessed valuation would have to increase by a factor of 7, to \$280 million from its current \$40 million.¹⁸ Obviously, it is a misnomer to say that the Chase County district is wealthy. In fact, with only 1/7th of the average statewide wealth, it is more accurate to call it a poor district. How then, did the state treat this district as wealthy? Here's how:

The District's Problem – Student Density

There are 468,510 students in Kansas, with a land area of 82,264 square miles, resulting in an average population of 5.7 students per square mile statewide.¹⁹ However, the Chase County district has only .56 (slightly more than 1/2) students per square mile.²⁰ Two square miles are required to find one student in Chase County, whereas statewide, two square miles yields 11 students, leaving this district with a student density of less than 10% of the statewide average.²¹

This number goes directly to the heart of the problem with the formula. Student numbers are the denominator for the wealth fraction. Even though we have only 1/7th of

¹⁰ Supra, footnote 2

¹¹ Supra, footnote 1

¹² Kansas Facts from the Kansas Secretary of State's website (kssos.org)

¹³ Kansas Department of Education data

¹⁴ 780 (square miles in Chase County district) divided by 278 (square miles in average district)

¹⁵ Divide total assessed valuation (\$30,086,900,000 – see footnote 7 above) by total square miles (82,264 – see footnote 12 above)

¹⁶ Divide Chase County total assessed valuation (\$40,000,000) by square miles (780)

¹⁷ Divide Chase County assessed per square mile (\$51,282) by the state assessed amount per square mile (\$365,655)

¹⁸ Multiply \$40,000,000 by a factor of 7, since Chase County has 1/7th of average district wealth

¹⁹ 468,510 students divided by 82,264 square miles

²⁰ 438 students divided by 780 square miles

²¹ 5.7 students statewide divided by .56 students in Chase County

the average district's assessed valuation, but because we have only 1/10th of the average number of students for our size, we are deemed to have 142% of the statewide average wealth under the existing formula. Although called the "wealth" formula, there are actually two, very different components: 1) property values, and 2) student density. Putting the two together results in an apples to oranges comparison. A careful analysis of this formula shows that there are two ways that a district will be considered "wealthy": the first is by having true wealth (a high assessed valuation per square mile compared to the statewide average), or, at the other end of the spectrum, by having a low student population density per square mile, even if the district is far from wealthy. Because of its low student density, the Chase County district, though clearly not wealthy, doesn't stand a chance. We had to take in so much land area in order to find students that we are hopelessly doomed under the current formula.

In most school districts, there will be areas of intensive improvements to each unit of land. Every few acres will have some improvement made to them, which yields both value (assessed valuation) and students. These areas will also have large numbers of students per unit of land. Under the formula, therefore, the smaller the land area, the more the state aid.

Chase County is just the opposite. Most of our land is unimproved grazing. There are few homes and businesses. Likewise, we have few students per unit of land. We had to take in large areas in order to find students. The result is no state aid.

The Solution – Equity in LOB Distribution

Because our taxpayers get no relief for their contribution to the district's LOB, the reasonable concern is that, at some point, the cost will become unbearable, and closing the doors will become the only option. In most districts, when the wolf comes to the door, there is always the option of consolidating with a neighboring district. However, we have already consolidated to a county. We hope that the state does not expect any district to be larger than a county in order that it can maintain its local governance, culture and economic viability.

There is another equally weighty concern if this district did feel compelled to look to neighboring districts for further consolidation: no other district would want us. Although we offer small assessed valuation, with our student density per square mile, we would "drag down" the gaining district such that it would lose LOB assistance and therefore, would not be willing to take us in.

We submit that Senate Bill 149 addresses this obvious inequity by amending K.S.A. 72-6434, specifically by adding an "escape hatch" by taking the unique circumstances presented by districts with low student densities.

Conclusion

When Chase County people meet, this subject comes up often. Many use it as an example of how state government unjustly treats its rural citizens. Some say that this result was intended by the more populated areas. We on the Chase County School Board believe that this injustice was unintended and that its authors did not know of the unique and unexpected consequences to a few districts that would flow directly from the formula. We submit that this Bill will help in relieving our taxpayers of an unfair burden and correct an injustice that was never intended.

In the end, this is about our state, our communities and, especially, our children. Chase County children are just as entitled to a suitable education as students from districts that benefit from the current formula. We hope that you agree that our premises and our requests are reasonable. We respectfully seek your help.

Very truly yours,

Bill Halvorsen,
Member,
Chase County Board of Education

February 10, 2009

Chairperson and Members
Senate Education Committee
Capital Building, Room 545 North
Topeka, Kansas

Re: Summary of Testimony,
Senate Bill 149
Supplemental General, State Aid Considerations, USD 284

Dear Chairperson and Members:

My name is **Greg Markowitz**. I am the Superintendent of Schools and Chief Financial Officer for USD 284, Chase County Schools. In conjunction with the testimony of **Bill Halvorsen**, a member of the Chase County Unified School District No. 284 Board of Education, I appear as a proponent of **Senate Bill 149** which addresses what USD 284 considers to be errors and inequities in the current School Finance Formula, specifically the Local Option Budget Wealth Formula. We thank you for this opportunity.

Mr. Halvorsen's testimony reviews and addresses the current wealth formula, Chase County wealth factors, student density factors, potential solutions and conclusions. I would like to provide the committee with an overview of how this wealth formula is having a significant, unfair and negative impact on the students, parents, patrons and taxpayers of USD 284. To that end, I would respectively submit the following USD 284 budget data and supporting evidence for committee review and consideration.

FY09 Budget The FY09 Budget was audited several weeks by KSDE and minor FY09 Budget adjustments are expected. I would bring to the committee's attention the following budget factors related to the USD 284 FY09 Budget before the audit was completed and valid after completion of that audit.

- USD 284 is at or near the state average for LOB. The district is doing its share to fund education.
- 24.390 mills of local effort are required to fund only the USD 284 Supplemental General Fund.
- The LOB is no longer a budget "option" in our school district. USD 284 can no longer provide an appropriate educational opportunity to the children of Chase County without the LOB.
- USD 284 taxpayers are required to pay 100% of their LOB because 284 is classified as "wealthy".
- Chase County as evidenced by Mr. Halvorsen's testimony is not wealthy.
- USD 284 is already taxing for needed capital expenditures with its locally-funded Capital Outlay Fund at a 4-mill taxation rate. It is not enough to meet needed facilities repairs and improvements.
- USD 284 is getting no state assistance with our LOB, Capital Outlay or Bond and Interest Funds.
- The current classification of USD 284 as "wealthy" is unfair to the taxpayers of the district and places the education of Chase County students in continued jeopardy.
- To balance the FY09 Budget, the USD 284 BOE made the following budget reductions.
 - a. Did not replace a 1.0 FTE elementary teacher.
 - b. Did not replace a 0.4 FTE secondary science teacher.
 - c. Discontinued 2 extended duty teacher contracts (which resulted in fewer elective choices).
 - d. Did not fund the Parents-As-Teachers Program.
 - e. Was unable to fund a planned and needed Vocational Agriculture Program.
 - f. Discontinued the Noon Kindergarten Bus Route.
 - g. Reduce by 40% the after-school activities routes to the seven (7) communities in our district that no longer have a school due to the consolidation into a county-wide school district.
 - h. Did not fund the Drivers Education Program
- USD 284 is doing a planned, prudent and cost-effective job of managing its budget.

FY10 Budget The USD 284 Board of Education has been working on the **FY10 Budget** since September 2008. USD 284 understands and respects the fact that difficult economic times require difficult budget decisions. We are willing to continue to do our part locally to solve the state budget shortfall. The USD 284 Board uses the **FY10 Budget Score Card** to identify, quantify and prioritize potential budget areas that will be considered for reduction or elimination in FY10. How many and which of those options are eventually approved by the Board will be determined solely by legislative FY10 Budget decisions and the correlated local budget decisions made by our BOE. The Budget Score Card is a budget “menu” for the Board to choose from when making our budget decisions. Those budget decisions become very difficult, hurt children and we feel are very unfair because of our classification as a “wealthy” district and as such ineligible for state assistance for our Supplemental General Fund. You will note that I did not call it the Local “Option” Budget because that is a misnomer. USD 284 and a great many school districts in Kansas simply could not survive without the Supplemental General Fund. That is what makes the current inequity in the School Finance Formula so critical in being able to provide a quality educational opportunity to the children of Chase County. Listed below are the educational costs and programs that are currently being considered for action to balance the FY10 Budget in USD 284.

- A reduction in the staffing level for our Counseling Services Program
- A reduction in the staffing level for our Library Services Program
- A reduction in the staffing level for our Medical Services Program
- Elimination of the Technology Program review and audit program.
- A one-year delay in our Textbook Purchase rotation.
- A reduction in our district Music Program Faculty.
- A reduction and consolidation of our HS Social Studies and Physical Education Faculty.
- A reduction in our district Administrative staffing.
- A reduction to our Elementary Faculty.
- A reduction in our HS Business / Computer Faculty.
- Over \$54,000 in Activities Program reductions (programs, number of contests, format, etc.)
- A one-year delay in our Uniform Purchase rotation.
- Elimination entirely of Activities Transportation to the 7 communities in our district w/o schools.
- Elimination of Planning Period classes that are currently paid for as an extended contract.
- Elimination of the MAPS norm-referenced assessment program. (better than ITBS but more\$)
- Use of our Contingency Reserve fund in FY10 (\$5,883)

Conclusion In closing, I would like to thank this committee for considering the plight of the 432 students currently enrolled in USD 284. We are not asking that the budget for public education be increased to solve our problem. This is a budget neutral request. We realize and support budget control needs and efforts. We should know. Due to this funding formula inequity, we have been doing so for years. This bill would not require the Legislature to allocate more funds for public education. It would simply allow USD 284 to get an equitable share of whatever the Legislature decides is possible and economically prudent in regards to state assistance for the Supplemental General Fund. This is primarily a fairness and equity issue. We do not ask that the budget “pie” be made any bigger. We do ask that our children in Chase County be given the right to reap the benefits from our very small “slice” of that pie. If approved, **SB 149** would allow the USD 284 BOE to reallocate a compensate amount of our local tax base to repair and modernize aging and by necessity ignored attendance centers that are getting more and more expensive in a time when we are getting less and less funding to do so. Thanks to **Senator Barnett** for his support and leadership. Thanks to this *committee* for considering our needs. The *children* of Chase County are counting on you to fix this correctable budget mistake. Thank you.

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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J. ROBERT (BOB) BROOKENS
70TH DISTRICT

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL #149
February 10, 2009

Senate Bill No. 149 was introduced in response to the difficulties faced by the Chase County Unified School District #284. It is a consolidated county-wide district, except for a few square miles here and there. The Chase County schools receive no matching Local Option Budget funding (supplemental general state aid), it has already unified its county schools and has nowhere to unify unless we are proposing to destroy the community and expect it to send its students beyond its borders. The District spans about 780 square miles; its student population is declining and its primary industry is pasturing cattle on its native grasslands—the Flint Hills. While it is a beautiful blessing, pastureland doesn't bring in much tax revenue compared to industry and housing, and Chase County has little industry and a population under 3,000; it will not have wind powered generators because of its being the heart of the Flint Hills, and yet we have the ranchers and farmers of Chase County living there, raising their families and living in community. The largest towns are Strong City and Cottonwood Falls. Chase County has had a local option budget for years, and even with that, when a window cracks, the custodial staff puts duct tape on the crack to hold the window together. Chase County doesn't re-roof—it patches the patches on the school roofs. It needs help.

During the 2008 session, Sen. Jim Barnett introduced SB627 in response to discussions with the Chase County Superintendent of Schools and members of its school board. It proposed placing Chase County schools at the 50th percentile of LOB funding which I understand to be a roughly 25% matching level. The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Educational Planning for summer discussion, and after deliberations that Committee recommended the issue of low enrollment and seemingly high assessed property valuation be reviewed by standing education committees during the 2009 session, and that legislative staff work with Senator Barnett to more fully develop a recommendation.

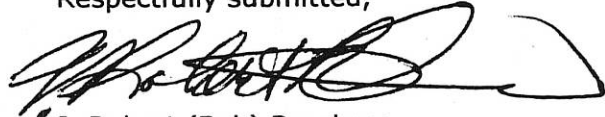
We spoke to Dr. Dale Dennis and Ms. Sarah Barnes from the Department of Education about the criteria we were interested in, as we set out to modify the parameters of the 2008 Senate bill. We set out to craft a bill that would assist all schools similarly situated with Chase County, and Senate Bill 149 is the result. We obtained information on county-wide (or essentially county-wide) districts which have low or no matching LOB funding from the state, and we searched for those districts with less than \$120,000 valuation per full-time-equivalent student to see who would pull up on the chart. This created a subset of school districts that includes Chase County (Cottonwood Falls & Strong City), Sheridan County (Hoxie), Trego County (WaKeeney), Graham County (Hill City), and Scott County

Brookens Testimony
2-9-09

(Scott City). This was not a planned set, merely those which met the criteria given to the Department. My goal was to get the districts some assistance around the edges, not make them rich, so after looking at the funding of such a bill at various levels, settled on a 12% sharing. While we thought 20% might be more appropriate funding for the schools, in tough times one doesn't go for the gold—one tries to be as reasonable as possible and hope the committee can see the need. These districts have done what has been asked of them in the way of unification and now they seek your help.

I attach the charts I received from the Department of Education and which we examined in creating the bills' criteria; I would be happy to answer questions about my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Robert Brookens", written in a cursive style.

J. Robert (Bob) Brookens

JRB/bb

Kansas School Districts

Consolidated Countywide Districts

Select District Data

4-3

#	USD	District	Town	FTE	Square Miles	FTE per Square Mile	Valuation per FTE	State LOB Aid (%)	State CO Aid (%)	State Bond Aid (%)
1	105	Rawlins County	Atwood	309	740	0.4	\$75,881	19.00%	6.00%	0.00%
2	200	Greeley County	Tribune	233	780	0.3	\$154,223	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
3	208	Trego County	WaKeeney	400	707	0.6	\$87,900	11.00%	0.00%	0.00%
4	214	Grant County	Ulysses	1,593	517	3.1	\$205,384	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
5	281	Graham County	Hill City	381	728	0.5	\$118,725	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
6	284	Chase County	Strong City / CWF	438	780	0.6	\$93,635	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
7	294	Decatur County	Oberline	393	828	0.5	\$81,469	13.00%	0.00%	0.00%
8	300	Comanche County	Coldwater/Protection	320	864	0.4	\$173,691	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
9	352	Sherman County	Goodland	940	914	1.0	\$67,150	28.00%	14.00%	0.00%
10	379	Clay County	Clay Center	1,358	633	2.1	\$47,047	52.00%	36.00%	16.00%
11	392	Osbourne County	Osbourne	330	511	0.6	\$52,740	44.00%	19.00%	9.00%
12	412	Sheridan County	Hoxie	292	674	0.4	\$93,028	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%
13	417	Morris County	Council Grove	784	537	1.5	\$67,764	28.00%	14.00%	0.00%
14	452	Stanton County	Johnson	433	690	0.6	\$257,258	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
15	466	Scott County	Scott City	837	756	1.1	\$89,717	5.00%	0.00%	0.00%
16	467	Wichita County	Leoti	417	776	0.5	\$73,185	24.00%	10.00%	0.00%
17	494	Hamilton County	Syracuse	448	992	0.5	\$158,237	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
		Countywide District Averages, 17 districts		591	715	0.9	\$108,675	14.06%	6.19%	1.56%
		USD 284 Difference from <u>Countywide</u> Average		-153	65	-0.3	-\$15,040	-14.06%	-6.19%	-1.56%
		State Averages		1,497	277	5.4	\$78,718	35.43%	NA	16.94%
		USD 284 Difference from <u>State</u> Average		-1,116	451	-4.9	\$40,007	-35.43%	NA	-16.94%
Note: Data sources for this report are KASB data, Jim H. and KSDE Budget Workshop data, Dale D. and Brad N.										

Kansas School Districts

0.0% State Assistance Districts

LOB / Capital Outlay / Bonds

4-7

#	USD	District	Town	County	County-Wide District?	FTE	Square Miles	FTE per Square Mile	Valuation per FTE	Known Wealth Factors
1	106	Western Plains	Ransom / Bazine	Ness	1 of 2	171	601	0.3	\$168,657	
2	200	Greeley County	Tribune	Greeley	YES	233	780	0.3	\$154,223	
3	203	Piper-KC	Piper	Wyandotte	1 of 4	1,527	31	49.3	\$107,380	Valuation
4	209	Moscow	Moscow	Stevens	1 of 2	207	223	0.9	\$467,551	Minerals
5	210	Hugoton	Hugoton	Stevens	1 of 2	972	575	1.7	\$314,387	Minerals
6	213	West Solomon Valley	Lenora	Norton	1 of 3	47	300	0.2	\$235,076	Student Numbers
7	214	Ulysses	Ulysses	Grant	YES	1,593	517	3.1	\$205,384	
8	215	Lakin	Lakin	Kearney	1 of 2	610	645	0.9	\$352,344	Minerals
9	216	Deerfield	Deerfield	Kearney	1 of 2	286	216	1.3	\$235,797	Minerals
10	217	Rolla	Rolla	Morton	1 of 2	201	252	0.8	\$479,868	Minerals
11	218	Elkhart	Elkhart	Morton	1 of 2	654	376	1.7	\$140,727	
12	220	Ashland	Ashland	Clark	1 of 2	209	660	0.3	\$166,045	
13	226	Meade	Meade	Meade	1 of 2	477	440	1.1	\$128,213	
14	228	Hanston	Hanston	Hodgeman	1 of 2	72	249	0.3	\$129,092	Student Numbers
15	229	Blue Valley	Overland Park	Johnson	1 of 6	19,808	91	217.7	\$119,602	Valuation
16	244	Burlington	Burlington	Coffey	1 of 3	820	147	5.6	\$462,446	Power Plant
17	254	Barber Co. North	Medicine Lodge	Barber	1 of 2	523	718	0.7	\$124,877	
18	255	South Barber	Kiowa	Barber	1 of 2	218	426	0.5	\$158,117	
19	269	Palco	Palco	Rooks	1 of 3	156	249	0.6	\$228,909	Student Numbers
20	270	Plainville	Plainville	Rooks	1 of 3	364	276	1.3	\$124,133	
21	281	Hill City	Hill City	Graham	YES	381	728	0.5	\$118,725	
22	284	Chase County	Strong City / CWF	Chase	YES	438	780	0.6	\$93,635	
23	291	Grinnel	Grinnel	Gove	1 of 3	91	268	0.3	\$155,260	Student Numbers
24	297	St. Francis	St. Francis	Cheyenne	1 of 2	308	640	0.5	\$95,632	
25	300	Comanche County	Coldwater/Protection	Comanche	YES	320	864	0.4	\$173,691	
26	303	Ness City	Ness City	Ness	1 of 2	269	518	0.5	\$127,084	
27	310	Fairfield	Langdon	Reno	1 of 6	324	436	0.7	\$102,222	
28	314	Brewster	Brewster	Thomas	1 of 3	98	373	0.3	\$112,097	Student Numbers
29	321	Kaw Valley	St. Mary's/Rossville	Pottawatomie	1 of 4	1,094	34	32.2	\$212,105	Power Plant
30	328	Lorraine	Bushton/Lorraine	Ellsworth	1 of 2	448	421	1.1	\$125,197	
31	332	Cunningham	Cunningham	Kingman	1 of 2	179	324	0.6	\$344,030	

Kansas School Districts

0.0% State Assistance Districts

LOB / Capital Outlay / Bonds

4-5

#	USD	District	Town	County	County-Wide District?	FTE	Square Miles	FTE per Square Mile	Valuation per FTE	Known Wealth Factors
32	351	Macksville	Macksville	Stafford	1 of 3	302	360	0.8	\$116,875	
33	362	Prairie View	LaCygne	Linn	1 of 3	961	320	3.0	\$140,333	Power Plant
34	363	Holcomb	Finney	Finney	1 of 2	814	231	3.5	\$202,895	Power Plant
35	374	Sublette	Sublette	Haskell	1 of 2	488	201	2.4	\$231,139	Minerals
36	375	Circle	Towanda	Butler	1 of 9	1,490	175	8.5	\$94,939	
37	387	Altoona-Midway	Altoona	Wilson	1 of 3	202	192	1.1	\$108,268	
38	399	Paradise	Natoma	Russell	1 of 2	142	439	0.3	\$190,056	Student Numbers
39	401	Chase-Raymond	Chase / Raymond	Rice	1 of 4	126	196	0.6	\$144,877	Student Numbers
40	403	Otis-Bison	Otis / Bison	Rush	1 of 2	185	340	0.5	\$104,632	
41	422	Greensburg	Greensburg	Kiowa	1 of 3	197	244	0.8	\$160,403	
42	424	Mullinville	Mullinville	Kiowa	1 of 3	157	216	0.7	\$164,851	
43	432	Victoria	Victoria	Ellis	1 of 3	259	193	1.3	\$117,276	
44	452	Stanton County	Johnson	Stanton	YES	433	690	0.6	\$257,258	Minerals
45	459	Bucklin	Bucklin	Ford	1 of 3	230	358	0.6	\$100,747	
46	482	Dighton	Dighton	Lane	1 of 2	234	620	0.4	\$149,356	
47	483	Kismet-Plains	Plains	Seward	1 of 2	687	541	1.3	\$112,237	
48	494	Syracuse	Syracuse	Hamilton	YES	448	992	0.5	\$158,237	
49	497	Lawrence	Lawrence	Douglas	1 of 3	10,277	175	58.7	\$94,754	Valuation
50	502	Lewis	Lewis	Edwards	1 of 2	100	224	0.4	\$170,462	
51	507	Satanta	Satanta	Haskell	1 of 2	331	250	1.3	\$520,903	Minerals
52	511	Attica	Attica	Harper	1 of 2	127	126	1.0	\$154,545	Student Numbers
53	512	Shawnee Mission	Shawnee Mission	Johnson	1 of 6	26,966	72	374.5	\$119,699	Valuation

Note: Data sources for this report are KASB data, Jim H. and KSDE Budget Workshop data, Dale D. and Brad N.

USD	County	District	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5	Col 6	Col 7
			2008-09 LOB Aid Rate	2008-09 LOB State Aid	% LOB of Gen Fund	LOB Aid Rate 15%	Additional State Aid (Col4-Col2)	LOB Aid Rate 10%	Additional State Aid (Col6-Col2)
412	Sheridan	Hoxie	0.0055	4,098	28.48%	111,750	107,653	74,500	70,403
241	Wallace	Wallace	0.0259	9,304	17.89%	53,882	44,578	35,921	26,617
103	Cheyenne	Cheylin	0.0000	0	26.27%	65,299	65,299	43,533	43,533
208	Trego	WaKeeney	0.1051	73,570	19.03%	105,000	31,430	N/A	N/A
281	Graham	Graham County	0.0000	0	28.83%	142,500	142,500	95,000	95,000
466	Scott	Scott County	0.0479	93,133	29.65%	291,647	198,514	194,431	101,298
284	Chase	Chase County	0.0000	0	28.25%	159,634	159,634	106,422	106,422
Total							749,608		443,273

This e-mail is written in response to your inquiry concerning the potential cost of providing a guaranteed minimum of 10% or 15% for local option budget state aid for all districts that have at least 670 square miles and have less than \$120,000 in assessed valuation per pupil.

Attached is a chart which provides the estimated cost for these assumptions.

Dale M. Dennis, Deputy
 Commissioner of Education
 (785) 296-3871
ddennis@ksde.org



Central Kansas
Community Foundation

John Torline, Associate Director
PO Box 548, Newton KS 67114 • 316-283-5474 • Fax 316-283-5489

February 10, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is John Torline. I am the City Administrator of North Newton. I am also the Associate Director of Central Kansas Community Foundation. I come from a large family. I have six sisters. About 20 years ago, my sisters and I had run out of ideas on what to get our parents for Christmas. We had run through the various appliances, tools, etc. One of my sisters came upon the idea of starting a scholarship in my parent's name. So we did. It turned out to be the most cherished gift we had ever given them. Every year our parents contributed to the scholarship, and every year the seven of us knew what the parents wanted. It took the worry out of shopping. Over the years the scholarship fund at USD 373 has grown to a tidy sum.

My association with Central Kansas Community Foundation began about 10 years ago. One of the then and current programs of the Foundation was to provide 50% matching funds to create and enhance scholarships and endowments. With my sisters' and surviving mother's blessing, I approached the school district about placing the funds with the Foundation thereby increasing the scholarship award potential overnight. The school district would continue to award scholarships as it had done. The awards would just be greater. The district was sympathetic, but, I was told by legal counsel, school districts do not have the statutory authority that would enable my request. I am here today to ask that you correct this matter.

I understand and recognize that my story is my story and that legislation should be for the benefit of all, not a single family. However I think my story is an example of opportunities that are available to community foundations and that school districts are neither designed nor capable of pursuing.

I ask for your support of Senate Bill 175, and I will do my best to respond to any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

John Torline
Associate Director

Senate Education
2-10-09
Attachment 5

KANSAS
ASSOCIATION



OF
SCHOOL
BOARDS

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

Testimony before the
Senate Education Committee
on
SB 175
by

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

February 10, 2009

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **SB 175**. We appear today a proponent of this bill because it would give local schools more flexibility to manage funds provided to the district as gifts, donations and bequests.

The bill would allow districts, if they so choose, to place these funds with community foundations, as narrowly described in the bill, for investment and management. We believe this would provide another way for local schools to cooperate with other community organizations in a mutually beneficial manner.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to respond to questions.

Senate Education
2-10-09
Attachment 6



Newton USD 373

McKinley Administrative Center
308 East 1st Street
Newton, KS 67114-3846

316.284.6200 • FAX 316.284.6207
www.newton.k12.ks.us

February 10, 2009

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 175, which would allow school districts to move funds to community foundations. This is an idea that just makes sense to me and others who work with our special scholarship and gift accounts in school districts. It would allow us to move those funds, with all of their restrictions intact, to a community foundation, such as the Central Kansas Community Foundation (CKCF) which currently houses our USD 373 Endowment Funds.

We have considered this idea at our endowment committee meetings and feel it would ultimately prove beneficial for all involved. It would allow us to place all such funds (none of which have to do with our school district budgets) into a community foundation fund and would ultimately allow them to be utilized in a collective way that would benefit all funds.

Please give this bill every consideration. It is one of those common sense things that should have been accomplished quite some time ago. Thanks to Senator McGinn for introducing this bill and to the committee for hearing its merits.

I would be happy to provide any additional information or testimony if needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. John R. Morton, Superintendent
Newton Public Schools USD 373

Senate Education
2-10-09
Attachment 7



February 9, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

School districts today are weathering all sorts of challenges as they struggle to deal with tightening budgets and proposed cuts in state funding. Building public school endowments may be one part of the solution.

Community foundations are natural partners for school districts who want to seek private support and build long-term endowments. Local education funds and affiliated foundations may support such things as scholarships, technology advancements and classroom enhancements that may well go beyond today's strained school budgets.

Those districts who have historical gifts and donations currently available to them may find it desirable to transfer these funds into local community foundations in order to pool their charitable resources, motivate additional giving, and enhance their ability to grow their endowments. Under current law, this transfer of monies into community foundations is not allowed.

Senate Bill 175 simply gives the school districts the option to transfer existing donated gifts and contributions into restricted funds at their local community foundations. These funds remain subject to any restrictions that were originally imposed by the donors and may only be used for the benefit of the school district.

The Kansas Association of Community Foundations lends its support to Senate Bill 175 and member foundations look forward to the opportunity to assist school districts in their efforts to build endowments for the future.

Sincerely,

Becky Goss
KACF Chairperson

Senate Education
2-10-09
Attachment 8



KACF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| ▪ Chip Blaser | Douglas County Community Foundation |
| ▪ Kim Clark | Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas |
| ▪ Janie DeVore Gillis | Coffeyville Area Community Foundation |
| ▪ Catherine Domsce | Bird City Century II Community Foundation |
| ▪ Becky Goss | McPherson Community Foundation |
| ▪ Lori Huber | Washington County |
| ▪ Kristine Meyer | The Community Foundation of Dickinson County, Inc. |
| ▪ Jim Moore | Wichita Community Foundation |
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