

MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 24, 2010
Room 68-W—Statehouse
Conference Call

Members Present

Representative Deena Horst, Chairperson
Senator Jean Kurtis Schodorf, Vice-chairperson
Senator Marci Francisco
Senator Ruth Teichman
Representative Barbara Ballard
Representative Owen Donohoe
Representative Steve Huebert
Representative Eber Phelps

Staff Present

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Others Present

Carol Benoit, Chief of Staff for Senator Vratil
Dr. Gary George, Assistant Superintendent, Olathe USD
Tom Krebs, Kansas Association of School Boards

Chairperson Horst introduced the topic for discussion: determining whether Committee members wanted to include a recommendation in its final report related to dyslexic students.

Chairperson Horst reviewed the House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 5015 related to this topic (Attachment 1), as well as the testimony presented by Dr. Terry Sader of the Kansas Coalition for Dyslexia Legislation from the September 2, 2010, meeting. In meeting the requirements of HCR 5015, the Kansas Department of Education's report of activities related to educating dyslexic students briefly was discussed.

It was moved by Senator Teichman and seconded by Representative Ballard that the following recommendation be added to the final report of the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) to the 2011 Legislature:

Regarding the teaching of students with dyslexia, the Committee recommended the education committees of the Kansas House and Senate continue to monitor the work of the State Board of Education on behalf of dyslexic students. The Committee specifically mentioned two areas the education committees should review: the progress of the State Board of Education in implementing the multi-tier system of support in Kansas school districts; and review of teacher preparation courses to ensure that knowledge of best practices of instruction, including scientifically-based reading instruction used to instruct children with dyslexia, is addressed.

A roll call vote was taken via the conference call with all eight members voting aye.

The conference call was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Prepared and Edited by Sharon Wenger

Approved by the Committee on:

December 10, 2010

(Date)

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5015

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION directing the State Board of Education to take certain actions in relation to children with reading problems, including dyslexia.

WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has made a strong commitment for all students to learn and perform well in school, which requires a focus on early literacy programs and appropriate diagnostic screening, including the screening of language processing; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas legislature has made a strong commitment to help children with disabilities, including dyslexia, and is determined that all children with disabilities, including dyslexia, be provided help and support within Kansas schools; and

WHEREAS, Federal law requires each school district to comply with appropriate teacher training to meet the needs of children with disabilities, including dyslexia, as required in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

WHEREAS, Federal law requires each school district to implement appropriate activities to ensure children with disabilities, including dyslexia, are appropriately screened at an early age, and where appropriate, identified as a child with dyslexia: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the State Board of Education shall endeavor to ensure that early screening or testing will identify children with a reading disability, including dyslexia; and

Be it further resolved: That the State Board of Education shall endeavor to review the partnerships with early childhood education providers to see that reading diagnostic assessments used in pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten levels and grades 1 and 2 will ensure that reading problems, including dyslexia, are identified and analyzed; and

Be it further resolved: That the State Board of Education shall endeavor to review the level and pace of implementation of the best practices of instruction including, but not limited to, the multi-tier system of support in school districts to ensure that reading problems, including dyslexia, are identified and analyzed; and

Be it further resolved: That the State Board of Education shall endeavor to review teacher preparation courses to ensure that knowledge of the best practices of instruction including, but not limited to, the multi-tier system of support and scientifically-based reading instructional components used to instruct children with disabilities, including dyslexia, is addressed; and

Be it further resolved: That the State Board of Education shall endeavor to ensure that parents have easy access to all information, including appropriate interventions and the appropriate pace of interventions that are recommended by the multi-tier system of support and contact information of school building administrators, school district administrators and the State Department of Education; and

Be it further resolved: That the State Board of Education shall submit a report of the activities of the Board in relation to this resolution and the progress made in achieving the endeavors specified in the resolution and shall submit such report to the legislature on or before December 31, 2009.

I hereby certify that the above CONCURRENT RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Adopted by the SENATE _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.