

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on February 18, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Amy Brunner, KASB

Others attending: See Attached List

### **SB488--School buildings, closing of**

Amy Brunner, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of **SB488**. KASB is a proponent of this bill because it promotes efficiency and authority for local school boards. The bill reduces the school board process for closing schools and gives appropriate authority to the elected officials of the school boards. (Attachment 1)

Craig Grant, KNEA provided written testimony in favor of **SB488**. KNEA supports the concepts contained in the bill and sees no reason why Shawnee Mission District should be dealt with differently than other school districts. (Attachment 2)

Jacque Oakes, Schools for Quality Education, provided written testimony in favor of **SB488** because passage of this bill would make the closure law of school buildings the same for all districts. It would put the authority into the hands of experienced, elected school board members. (Attachment 3)

Testimony signed by 34 Johnson County residents opposing **SB488** was received in the mail, however, Chairman Umbarger and Vice Chairman Vratil believe that their concerns are related to **SB394** which was passed last week. A copy of the testimony was given to all Committee members. (Attachment 4)

Committee members were given time to review all written testimony. The floor was again opened to discussion.

After discussion, Senator Vratil made a motion to amend wording in SB488 sub-section C, page 3, line 41 and 42 to "the board shall determine whether the school building or buildings should be closed to improve the school system". Seconded by Senator Corbin. Motion passed.

Senator Oleen made a motion to prepare a substitute bill SB488 because the bill has a lot of strike-outs; and to change the enactment date to the Kansas Registry. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

Senator Teichman moved that SB488 be passed favorably as amended. Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

### **SB483--School finance; reimbursement of special education and related services**

Chairman Umbarger asked for discussion and possible action on **SB483**. This bill was introduced to correct a bill passed last year in which special education state aid was paid to interlocal and cooperative schools. **SB483** would amend that provision so that payments previously made to the interlocal and

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cooperatives would be paid to the school districts themselves and they would pay the interlocals and cooperatives. This would allow the school districts to put money in the general fund so that they could use the local option budget. The Committee discussed the effects of this change on the schools involved and how it could be fairly resolved without a big impact on those schools and still be fair to all schools.

Senator Downey made a motion to amend **SB483** to become a phase out with a fifty percent phase out this year and fifty percent next year. Senator Oleen seconded the motion. Motion failed.

Senator Vratil made a motion to pass **SB483** as originally drafted. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion Carried.