

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:40 p.m. on January 20, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator James Barnett
Keil E. Hileman, Monticello Trails Middle School, USD 232, Desoto
Sandra J. Groth, Lakewood Elementary, USD 229, Blue Valley
Kimberly Ann Thomas, McLean Science & Technology Magnet Elem, USD 259, Wichita
Greg Mittman, Valley Center Middle School, USD 262, Valley Center
Erin L. Vancil, Eisenhower Elementary, USD 418, McPherson
Connie Jo Ferree, Emporia High School, USD 253, Emporia
Vicki Lynn O'Neal, Lincoln Elementary, USD 508, Baxter Springs
Patrick R. Lamb, Manhattan High School, USD #383, Manhattan

Others attending:

See Attached List

Senator Barnett introduced a bill concerning technical colleges; relating to the powers and duties of the governing bodies. Motion to introduce by Senator Teichman, seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education, introduced the Kansas Teacher of the Year, Keil Hileman and the members of the Kansas Teacher of the Year Team. Each member shared personal information about their schools, their education background, their area of teaching and shared areas of concern.

During discussion, the team expressed challenges they are dealing with and concerns with No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Some of the concerns discussed was the education required for para professionals under NCLB; that all students do not learn at the same pace which will affect test results and grading of the schools under (NCLB); the number of teachers reaching retirement age; the need for more parental and community involvement; the number of students per class and the limited time the teachers have to spend with their students who need extra help.

The group expressed the importance of retaining quality teachers; teacher mentoring; the Professional Development Program; being a positive roll model for students; and involvement of parents and communities.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.