

MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Lana Gordon at 3:30 pm on March 8, 2011, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except for:

- Rep. Tom Arpke - excused
- Rep. Brenda Landwehr - excused
- Rep. Sheryl Spalding - excused

Committee staff present:

- Reagan Cussimano, Fiscal Analyst, KLRD
- Jason Long, Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes
- Bernadine Lloyd, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

- Tom Krebs, KASB
- Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
- Cheryl Semmel, Director, USA Kansas
- Gary George, Asst. Superintendent of Schools, Olathe Public Schools
- Jennifer Crow, Government Affairs specialist, USD 501
- Bill Reardon, KCKSP Lobbyist

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on:

HB 2248 - Requiring school districts to finance cost of remedial college courses.

Jason Long, Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes, gave a shor synopsis of the bill.

Proponents:

Rep. Charlotte O'Hara, 27th Dist., submitted and presented testimony on the bill which would require high schools, whose graduates are required to take remedial courses in math and English in post secondary schools in Kansas, would be required to reimburse the post secondary school for the cost of the remedial classes. She also submitted a chart of Developmental Courses, Number of Sections and Course Enrollment, Academic Year 2008, for the universities and community colleges in Kansas. ([Attachment 1](#))

Opponents:

Tom Krebs, Government Relations Specialist, KASB, submitted and presented testimony that he believes the bill is conceptually and technically flawed. He summarizes that there is the underlying fact if the institutions don't want to have the remedial classes they don't have to offer them. By making tutoring and other support programs for for which they could charge the students who use them available, they might be able to do a better job of keeping students enrolled in non-remedial classes. ([Attachment 2](#))

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, submitted and presented testimony that the bill would charge the cost of remediation classes at community colleges and universities to the graduating high school for students enrolled with two years of high school graduation. She believes there are positive ways to increase achievement at both the K-12 and post-secondary levels and this bill is punitive, not positive. ([Attachment 3](#))

Cheryl Semmel, Director, USA Kansas, submitted testimony that USA Kansas oppose this bill because of the financial implications for Schools. She states administrators believe that recent collaborative efforts by the Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents address concerns related to the alignment of curriculum between K-12 and higher education and believes that the students are best served through these efforts. ([Attachment 4](#))

Gary George, Asst. Superintendent of Schools, Olathe Public Schools, submitted and presented testimony that the bill is designed to reimburse colleges and universities for remedial costs they incur. The reimbursement would come from the local Kansas school district where the student graduated. He

believes all students do not learn at the same speed and do not all arrive at the same point in their learning at the end of high school. His district strongly encourages students who indicate they want to go to college to take at least on AP or College Now course. ([Attachment 5](#))

Jennifer Crow, Government Affairs Specialist, USD 501, submitted testimony on the bill. She believes a better approach to this bill would be a strategy to implement college prep/remediation courses for students while still in the secondary educational setting. She says this proposal does not take the best interests of high school students into account and is blind to the fact that the K-12 system will be grossly underfunded if current budget proposals are adopted. ([Attachment 6](#))

Bill Reardon, KCKPS Lobbyist, submitted and presented testimony that addressing the very real problem should be a collaborative process among students, parents, school districts, institutions of higher learning and the Legislature. He said they are willing and anxious to be a partner in this process. ([Attachment 7](#))

A question and answer session followed each presentation.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2011, in 159-S.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.