

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on February 25, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Edward H. Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University
Ron Keller, Director, Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science, FHSU
Tyler Clark, St. John High School
Rabbi Michael and Kay Davis (written only)
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others attending:

See attached list.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes of February 16, 2009; February 17, 2009; and February 18, 2009 as written. The motion was seconded by Senator Owens. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Dr. Edward H. Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University, ([Attachment 1](#)) provided a short overview of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS), a project created by the legislature, including progress-to-date on implementation of the concept. He also introduced information on “KAMS Lite”, an alternate funding proposal they have developed for KAMS; funding at less than the \$713,000 which was pre-approved in this fiscal year. Their proposal includes a reduction of \$216,000 by not hiring two faculty positions, academic counselor, and psychologist; a reduction of \$55,000 through reduction of general equipment purchases associated with the staffing needs; and a reduction of \$29,000 in the activities fund; for a total reduction of \$300,000. With these reductions, plus private support in the amount of \$63,000, they have reduced requested appropriations to \$350,000.

Ron Keller, Director, Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science, FHSU, ([Attachment 2](#)) gave a short presentation which included a brief history of the program, curriculum overview, living arrangements for the students, admission and selection process, number of students to be admitted and costs involved in attending the Academy. Tyler Clark, St. John High School ([Attachment 3](#)), a KAMS applicant, presented testimony in support of the program from a student’s perspective. Rabbi Michael and Kay Davis, ([Attachment 4](#)) (written only), presented testimony in support of the program from a parent’s perspective.

Stimulus Package for Education

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education, ([Attachment 5](#)) provided brief testimony regarding preliminary amounts of funding that may be available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for K-12 education. He emphasized he felt the amounts were reasonably accurate but that they had not received any guidelines that accompany the funding; until the U.S. Department of Education provides guidelines for implementation of the program, they will not know the specific requirements. He anticipates a considerable amount of paperwork and accountability with many of the programs requiring an application.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 25, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, (Attachment 6) also presented testimony regarding the economic stimulus funding. He also stressed the fact that any information was preliminary but did note that the ARRA directs states/school districts obligate funding for specific purposes by September 30, 2010.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.