

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 27, 2005, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards requested the introduction of two bills. The first bill concerned alternative teacher certification. The second bill concerned the teacher due process system. (Attachment 1)

Senator McGinn moved to introduce both of the bills, seconded by Senator Apple. The motion carried.

Senator Schodorf called the Committee's attention to copies of an article entitled, "A Suitable Education," which was prepared by a professor, John E. Cleek, Ph.D., at the request of Senator Apple. (Attachment 2) Senator Schodorf read the last two paragraphs of Dr. Cleek's definition at the January 26 meeting.

Senator Schodorf noted that several requests had been made for information on the actual cost for educating children in Kansas schools. In response, Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education, prepared a report summarizing the results of the Department's recent survey of 55 school districts on the cost of providing a suitable education. The districts were asked (1) what the per pupil cost would be for the district to educate a "normal/regular" student, (2) what the additional per pupil cost for an at-risk student would be, and (3) what the additional per pupil cost for a bilingual student would be.

Mr. Dennis distributed copies of the following: the school finance survey form sent to the school districts, the definition of "at-risk" and "bilingual education" used for the project, the definition of "suitable education" used for the project, a list of programs and services that are part of the suitable education definition, tables showing the low, median, and high amounts for different enrollment categories, and charts showing the cost of enrollments which would be helpful in analyzing the information. (Attachment 3) He noted that the Department surveyed a cross section of school districts by geographical area and by size. Each district was told to come up with the cost to meet the definition in their district and that base was not the issue. He commended the school districts surveyed for their effort and timely response. After discussing the data in the three sections of the handout, he informed the Committee that another survey of pupil cost for bilingual students would be necessary to get a more accurate view of the issue. In addition, he confirmed that relating the cost per pupil to the school finance formula was not the purpose or intent of the survey.

Mr. Dennis distributed copies of a list of unaudited state and federal education mandates which was requested at the January 26 meeting. (Attachment 4)

Senator Steineger moved to approve the minutes of the January 25 meeting, seconded by Senator Apple. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2005.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 27, 2005, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.