

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on March 17, 2000 in Room 423S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Bleeker, Jones and Lee - Excused
Senator Hensley - Absent

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dr. Kim Wilcox, State Board of Regents
Andy Tompkins, Commissioner of Education

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairperson Lawrence called the meeting to order and thanked Dr. Wilcox, Commissioner Tompkins, and Deputy Commissioner Dennis for getting together and working out a solution to the Carl Perkins problem.

Dr. Wilcox stated in **SB 345**, the Carl Perkins vocational technical program was moved to the Board of Regents. There was some uncertainty if that was the real intent of the bill or miscommunication within the law. There was rethinking on the Perkins program, where it should be administered and what role it should play in the state. The Board of Education and the Board of Regents had concerns and had been talking about the strategy. At the present time **SB 345** moves the Carl Perkins program to the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents does not have the space or the funds to pay the people. Administratively, the program would be at risk to move it.

Dr. Wilcox stated the proposal is for the Perkins program to stay with the Board of Education through July 1, 2001. By that time plans will have been made as to what will be done in the future.

Commissioner Tompkins stated that the Board of Education will take the program for one year with a one-year sunset and no reversion at that point. A decision can be made whether it stays with the Board of Education or goes to the Board of Regents. He is sure a plan can be worked out so that it will not be a problem and the Board of Education and the Board of Regents will agree on it.

In response to a comment that some type of entity could be created to handle the program, Dr. Wilcox stated the administrative core should probably stay with the Board of Education because of the infrastructure it has. All programs would come to one entity.

It was suggested that if there is time to do planning, it might afford an opportunity to see how some other states are doing things. There were federal dollars that came to the State Board of Education on School to Work which involved a variety of training. These types of programs should have a high profile and priority. No matter what age, there still needs to be that focus.

It was stated that the state is receiving approximately \$11 million dollars from the Carl Perkins program.

In response to an auditing question, Dr. Wilcox stated the actual auditing program that will be required in order to complete the funding for many of the institutions is definitely at risk. They have been talking with and working with the technical schools and will meet with the community college presidents today to plan for this coming year's audit situation. There is no solution as yet, but a way will be found to make it work. It could be through independent auditors that would be the responsibility of an institution or a structured simple audit that would target certain areas. It will be a different type of audit program.

The comment was made that this is a sizeable amount of money that Kansas gets from the federal government. Whatever plan is worked out, the people who administer these programs need to be a part of this as well. Whether the Board of Regents or the State Board of Education, the money needs to go in that direction for administration.

It was clarified that the sunset would be 2001 with no reversion back to the Regents.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Room 423S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on March 17, 2000.

Several different options in dealing with the amendment were discussed. It was decided to offer the amendment on the floor of the Senate.

Senator Langworthy moved to adopt the amended amendment that would place the sunset at 2001 and no reversion to the Board of Regents. Senator Kerr gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.