

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on February 4, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)
Senator Teichman (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dr. Andy Tompkins, Commissioner of Education

Others attending:

Senator Vratil moved that the Committee introduce a bill which would allow school district capital outlay funds to be used for the payment of expenses for utility services including gas, electricity, water, telephone, sewage and solid waste disposal. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried.

Today's meeting was designated as "Take the Test Day." Andy Tompkins, Commissioner of Education, explained that the purpose of the Kansas Take the Test Day is to demonstrate to the public that state assessments are rigorous, that the Kansas public education system has high expectations for all children, and that community partnerships are desirable in helping all students achieve. Elected officials, business representatives and community members from all over the state have been invited to participate in taking the test. Individuals interested in taking the sample assessment and did not have the opportunity can visit the web site, www.ksde.org beginning February 5, 2002.

Dr. Tompkins advised that the Kansas State Board of Education has developed booklets entitled, *Just for Parents, A Guide to the Kansas Curricular Standards* for different grade levels which are available to parents. Dr. Tompkins provided a History of the Kansas State Assessment Program (Attachment 1), How Test Questions are Developed for the Kansas State Assessments (Attachment 2), Frequently Asked Questions about the Kansas State Assessment Program (Attachment 3), Frequently Asked Questions about the ESEA and the Kansas Assessment Program (Attachment 4).

The test was followed by questions from the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned 2:20 p.m.