

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:30 A.M. on February 19, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Jay Emler - excused

Committee staff present:

Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes  
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kristen Clarke Kellems, Assistant Revisor of Statutes  
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Leah Robinson, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means  
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association  
Doug Mays

Others attending:  
See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger referred the following bill to the Subcommittee for the State Treasurer's Budget:

**SB 508--Postsecondary education savings program, low-income families**

Copies of the Kansas Legislative Research Department Budget Analysis Report for FY 2008 and FY 2009 were available to the committee.

**Subcommittee report on:**

**Kansas Department of Education (Attachment 1)**

Subcommittee Chairman Dwayne Umbarger reported that the subcommittee on the Kansas Department of Education concurs with the Governor's recommendation in FY 2008 with adjustment and concurs with the Governor's FY 2009 recommendation with adjustments and observations.

Senator Schodorf moved, with a second by Senator Betts, to amend the subcommittee report on the Kansas Department of Education in FY 2009 to consider additional funding for the Kansas Career Pipeline (Item No. 12) following the report requested by the subcommittee at Omnibus. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Betts explained a program called Circle of Friends that pairs regular education students with special education students in a mentoring relationship. The Senator distributed information about the program, Circle of Friends, The Arc of Sedgwick County (Attachment 2) and a study by Wichita State University, Educational Leadership, An appreciative Inquiry into the Circle of Friends Program: A Case Study of Student Mentors, Sponsors and Parents (Attachment 3).

Senator Betts moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to consider adding \$100,000 for the Circle of Friends Program at Omnibus. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Teichman moved, with a second by Senator Senator Schodorf, to adopt the subcommittee budget report on the Kansas Department of Education in FY 2008 and FY 2009 as amended. Motion carried on a voice vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Ways and Means Committee at 10:30 A.M. on February 19, 2008, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Chairman Umbarger opened the public hearing on:

**SB 531--School finance; base state aid per pupil**

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed the following conferees:

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards, testified in support of **SB 531** (Attachment 4). Mr. Tallman expressed concern that although student proficiency in math and reading is at an all-time high, requirements for Adequate Yearly Progress continue to rise each year, and the Post Audit study indicated the base budget should increase approximately \$200 per year in addition to inflation to meet those requirements.

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association, spoke as a neutral conferee on **SB 531** (Attachment 5). Mr. Desetti mentioned that **SB 531** is a sub-inflationary increase in base state aid per pupil. It has been presented as a 2.2 percent increase but in terms of money districts can use, it is a 1.3 percent increase. This is because a significant portion of the funding goes to the increases in the employer contribution to KPERs required under earlier legislation. Mr. Desetti urged the committee to strive, even in tough times, to at the very least maintain the progress that has been made.

Written testimony was submitted by Senator Derek Schmidt on **SB 531** (Attachment 6).

The Chairman recognized Doug Mays, on behalf of the Topeka Public Schools, USD 501, who explained that **SB 531** is important in that it sets a precedent in planning and is a huge step in the right direction. (No written testimony was submitted.)

The Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 531**.

Senator Morris moved, with a second by Senator Teichman, to recommend SB 531 favorable for passage. Motion carried on a roll call vote.

Chairman Umbarger turned the committee's attention to discussion of:

**SB 406--Colleges and universities; fees and tuition; service scholarship programs, applied health care professionals for children with autism**

Staff gave a briefing on the bill. Following discussion, the committee determined that they would like additional information from the Kansas Board of Regents on how the scholarship programs work.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 20, 2008.