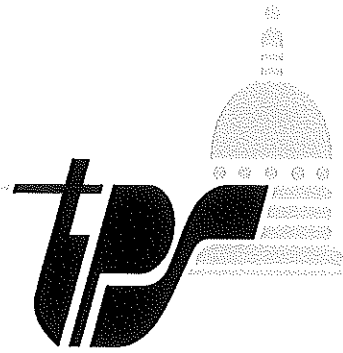




February 10, 2015

Senate Education Committee
Testimony - SB 136

Chairman Abrams and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Patrick Woods, and I am a member of the Topeka Public School Board for USD 501 and was President of the board when this issue surfaced a few years ago. I have been on the Board of Directors at KASB since 2009 and have always supported the more collaborative approach to negotiations, which I believe is encompassed in SB 136.

When a plan was proposed that narrowed negotiations, I was a lead and vocal opponent of any unnecessary modification to the current system, on behalf of our locally elected school board. After thorough consideration and negotiation on this issue, I am proud to report that the process reflected in this bill was passed unanimously by KASB this year.

Last year was a difficult year for us. The district was under unprecedented financial restraints, and we knew that the board had to consider the possibility that we would likely be faced with further state budget cuts. During the process of negotiations the board and the teachers did come to an impasse. However, the current process allowed us to reach agreement and maintain a positive work environment that supports our teachers so that students will continue to be afforded a quality educational opportunity.

This bill is a good compromise. We deeply value our teachers and will continue to collaborate and include them in the decision-making process. I urge your support of SB 136.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Patrick Woods'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'C.' and last name 'Woods' being clearly legible.

Patrick Woods
Board Member, Topeka Public School Board