

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on February 17, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Linda Taylor, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mark Tallman, KASB
Mark Desetti, KNEA
Diane Gjerstaad, Wichita Public Schools
Julene Miller, Attorney General's Office
Dr. Larry Anderson
Tony Woolen
Craig Grant, KNEA
Representative Kent Glasscock

Others attending: See Attached List

Mark Tallman appeared before the committee with comments on **HB 2794**, **HB 2811**, and **HB 2899**. (Attachment 1) He stated that the KASB position on **HB 2794** is that, while they support the development of broad, basic curriculum standards by the State Board, they feel that local school boards should determine the specific curriculum, requirements, and assessments used in each district. On **HB 2811**, the KASB has concerns about unclear language in the bill and the implementation of unfunded mandates. The KASB supports **HB 2899** because it would target resources to those schools and students with the greatest need.

Mark Desetti of the KNEA appeared before the committee in opposition to **HB 2801**. He stated that KNEA has issues with the bill in the areas of alignment, cost and bias. He also stated that standardized testing is only one part of the complex system of student and school evaluation.

Diane Gjerstaad appeared before the committee to present materials from the Wichita Public Schools concerning addressing the needs of students in danger of not passing the benchmark assessments in reading, writing and math. (Attachment 2)

Hearings on **HB 2791 - Juvenile offenses at school** were opened.

Assistant Attorney General Julene Miller appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2791**. (Attachment 3) She stated that this bill is a result of the Kids in Safe Schools Taskforce which was sponsored by the Attorney General's office; it would require psychological testing for students in possession of weapons at school. She requested that the committee pass the bill out favorably.

Dr. Larry Andersen, Chairperson of the Attorney General's Kids in Safe Schools Taskforce appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2791**. (Attachment 4) He stated that when students are taken into custody for weapons violations at school, the assumption is made that the student will not return that day; unfortunately, this is not always the case. When those students do return to the school on the same day, it causes a great deal of concern for both students and parents. He feels that the bill would eliminate this problem and urges its passage.

Tony Woolen, President of the Kansas Association of School Resource Officers, appeared before the committee as a proponent of the **HB 2791**. (Attachment 5) He stated that this bill would at least provide a check for someone's emotional evaluation in cases of weapons possession at school.

Craig Grant, representing KNEA, appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2791**. (Attachment 6) He stated that the KNEA supports the bill because they feel this is an excellent preventative measure to help ensure a safe school environment. KNEA does, however, have some concerns about who will pay for the evaluations and any inequities that could result from inability to pay.

Hearings on **HB 2791** were closed.

Hearings on **HB 2795 - Teaching technology act of 2000** were opened.

Representative Kent Glasscock appeared before the committee as a proponent of the bill. (Attachment 7) He stated that the main goal of this bill is to bolster teacher performance. He also stated that a teacher's ability to teach often plays a more important part in a child's education than class size or the level of the other students in the classroom. After his presentation, Representative Glasscock stood for questions.

Hearings on **HB 2795** were closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.