

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2000 in Room 123S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Emert and Jones - Excused

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Bill Milliken, Communities in Schools
Shelby Smith, Communities in Schools-Kansas
Senator Lana Oleen

Others attending: See Attached List

The joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees was called to order by Senator Lawrence, Chairperson. She called on Senator Oleen to present the Resolution the Subcommittee on Special Education has been working on and would give a full report to the Senate Education Committee later in the hour. Members of both House and Senate have been working on the Resolution in regard to the funding level provided by Congress to fund special education. Congress has the authorization to fund at 40%; it is funding at 12%. There is a plan for model legislation with both members working on the project. The Resolution will be introduced in the Senate, will go through the legislative process and will eventually involve all 50 states working with those Congressmen and Congresswomen who are actually involved in the funding mechanism at several levels. Other legislative organizations will be involved as well. Senator Oleen stated she would make the motion later in the meeting.

Chairman Tanner added that he favors the Resolution and hopes that it will accomplish what it is intended to do.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Education Commissioner, introduced State Board of Education members Bill Wagon, Val De Fever and Scott Hill. He gave a short introduction of Bill Milliken and his program, Communities in Schools and turned the podium over to Shelby Smith.

Shelby Smith, Communities in Schools-Kansas, stated the number of Kansas schools participating in this concept is approximately 58. Bill Milliken started the program 40 years ago in Harlem. It has since been recognized across the United States. Mr. Milliken has served under Presidents, Carter, Bush and Clinton in an advisory capacity. Colin Powell has adopted this program to use in conjunction with his healthy start program. There are now programs in Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland. Last month the National Association of School Administrators awarded Mr. Milliken its prestigious Champion of Children award for his outstanding service to children.

Mr. Milliken related the history and philosophy of his program. He emphasized that relationships change kids; not programs. Once someone believes in a child, that child can be turned on to the learning process. The 1960s was the first generation that became disconnected from caring adults or any sense of community. School is the last hope to get to the kids, because when they drop out, they have no future. He emphasized three points. Bigger is not better. Bigger means a loss of community. There must be accountability. There is fragmentation in the way resources are being expended. All the systems that money is funding needs to be brought into the schools. Kids need a safe environment and a skill to use when they get out of school. Communities in schools is a process to take all the fragmented pieces and bring them together to a school site. He summed up his presentation by stating Communities in Schools is now in 1500 schools in 30 states and 3 countries.

Mr. Milliken was asked to comment on the connection between Communities in Schools and the HOSTS Structured Mentoring program.

He responded that they are trying to find the best programs in the country. HOSTS is a program that gets the reading scores up. He used the example of Houston, where the HOSTS program is used as a part of the Cisco Systems Networking Academy. Communities in Schools will be working with HOSTS in the future in locations throughout the country.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Room 123S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on March 14, 2000.

Mr. Milliken received the joint committees' thanks for an informative presentation.

Chairperson Lawrence called for a motion on the Resolution offered by Senator Oleen.

Senator Langworthy moved the introduction of the Resolution urging the President and Congress to increase funding for special education from 12% to the 40% level authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Senator Umbarger gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The Senate Education Committee moved to Room 123S to continue the meeting. Senator Langworthy went through the Resolution, explaining its contents. She commented that Avis Swartzman, Revisor, had been directed to draft what was called a masterful and compelling piece of legislation.

The Resolution is being directed to Congress, the President of the United States, members of Congress on the House and Senate Education Committees, the National Governors Association, all Education members in 50 states, the United States Department of Education, the Kansas Congressional Delegation, and several others. A copy was given to the Kansas liaison of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Doug Webb, for review at the April executive meeting.

The Chairperson thanked Senator Langworthy, referred to page 2 of the Resolution, and stated it was staggering to look at the position it puts the states in when special education is so inadequately funded by the federal government. The state has tried for years to get the attention of Washington to get more equitable funding. Only last year did the federal government listen to a small extent when the funding is now 13% or 14%. This is far from the 40% needed. Not only are the numbers growing in the categories now, but new categories are being created by the federal government.

Several other comments were made about the creation of new programs by the federal government while funding for established programs is lacking. It is very hard to approach the federal government with its bureaucracy.

Senator Oleen accepted the thanks of the committee on behalf of the subcommittee and stated she was going to add persons to receive the Resolution. The Governor has committed to work with the National Governors Association, Republicans, Democrats and Independents, to supply this information and Resolution to the other governors for them to step up their efforts in this issue. Governor Jessie Ventura has also stated at a National Governor's Conference that "this comes first." The time to be heard is now. The Resolution needs to be amended to include the campaigns of Mr. Gore and Mr. Bush so they will receive copies. The National Conference of State Legislatures is taking this into a model bill and will helping us as we go to work with the other states to bring theirs forward.

Senator Oleen moved to amend the Resolution to include the Bush and Gore campaigns.

Senator Kerr gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Downey had concern with the wording of the language on page 5 relating to class size and that it might not reflect what is really wanted by persons involved in the education process.

After discussion it was decided to make a conceptual motion so as to have the Revisor have the Resolution ready to be read in as soon as possible.

Senator Oleen moved to amend the Resolution with a conceptual motion to have the language reworded so as to reflect the committee's wishes. Senator Hensley gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Langworthy moved approval of the March 1, 2, 6 and 9 minutes; Senator Umbarger gave a second to the motion; the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned.