

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Umbarger at 1:10 p.m. on February 14, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley, Senator Schodorf (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Bill Frick, Shawnee Mission School District
Gary George, Olathe School District
Dave Benson, Blue Valley School District
Senator Karin Brownlee

Others attending See Attached List

SB124--Kansas council on school district finance and quality performance

SB134--School district finance, professional evaluation

SB145--School district finance, increases state prescribed percentage to 30% for local option budget purposes

SB234--School district finance, local option budget, base state aid per pupil increase less than CPI percentage increase

SB281--School District finance, local option budget, state prescribed percentage for districts experiencing declining enrollment

SB282--School district finance, local option budgets, increase for payment of costs of utilities and insurance premiums

Ben offered a corrected, revised copy of the "Summary of Main Provisions of School Finance Bills" dated February 12, 2001 which was presented at yesterday's committee meeting. ([Attachment 1](#))

Ben gave an overview of the four Local Option Budget bills, **SB145**, **SB234**, **SB281** and **SB282**. These are listed on page 2 of ([Attachment 1](#)) above.

Bill Frick, Shawnee Mission School District, offered his testimony supporting all four LOB bills. ([Attachment 2](#)) His district had a committee of about 33 people spending four months trying to reduce their budget by \$10 million. Mr. Frick stated that if funding levels had kept up with inflation, they would not be in this situation. They will be supportive of any effort to get more money for schools across the state.

Senator Karin Brownlee offered her support for **SB281**. ([Attachment 3](#)) She is concerned about how a tax increase would impact Kansas after two years of a slower economy. Money is sent to the schools in separate "silos" for the different programs. If a school does not have a particular program, then they do not qualify and do not get the money. Why not give the schools the money in the base and correlation weighting and let them decide how to best use it. Senator Vratil offered that 37% of the money that the Legislature spends on education has gone to the schools in "silos".

CONTINUATION SHEET

February 14, 2001

Gary George, Olathe School District offered testimony supporting the Local Option Budget bills. (Attachment 4) They believe that the \$50 per pupil increase will raise about \$1.2 million for their district and they believe that all will be spent on increased utilities and insurance.

Dr. David L. Benson, Superintendent of Schools, Blue Valley School District, offered testimony in support of **SB145**, **SB234**, **SB181** and **SB281**. (Attachment 5) In discussion, Dr. Benson stated that they have used a large portion of their reserve account. At the end of this fiscal year, they will only have 1.5 percent of their operating budget in reserve.

Ben Barrett gave a briefing on **SB124** and **SB134** included in (Attachment 1) listed above. **SB124** is one of the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force which creates Kansas Council on School District Finance and Quality Performance. **SB134** is the legislative version of the Governor's Task Force recommendation for the study of the school finance plan.

Senator Dave Corbin passed out information that was requested a few days ago by the Committee. (Attachment 6) He will be willing to answer questions.

Dale Dennis also provided handouts of selected school data that the Committee requested a few days ago. An explanation of each column and a summary table is included with the handout. A handout was also provided giving the 2000-2001 Community College Mill Levies. Dale answered question regarding the handout. The handout will be on file in Senator Umbarger's office, 401S and in Dale Dennis's office at the Department of Education.

Chairman Umbarger acknowledged that Senator Corbin and Dale Dennis gave the Committee a lot of material to digest. He stated that he, Senators Downey, Oleen and Vratil would get together and try to work out a school finance plan. Chairman Umbarger would like to get a bill voted out of the Committee by Monday or Tuesday.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled on February 15, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 514S.