

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:40 p.m. on February 19, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dr. Joe Birmingham, Deputy Exec. Director, Kansas Board of Regents
Mark Desitti, KNEA
Christy Levings, KNEA
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes

Others attending: See Attached List

SB11--Vocational education, supervision of programs

Dr. Joe Birmingham, Deputy Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Regents, gave testimony in favor of **SB11**. This bill has to do with the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998. The bill specifies that the State Board of Education would be responsible for the program until June 30, 2004 and beginning July 1, 2004, the State Board of Regents would be responsible for the program. The two agencies have worked together and have developed a Memorandum of Agreement to assign responsibility for secondary and postsecondary technical education, respectively to each board. Both Boards have recommended an amendment to KSA 72-4421, deleting paragraph C. (Attachment 1)

Concern was expressed about the affect the amendment would have on the bill on the secondary part of this program. Dr. Birmingham stated that the secondary program is not affected at all by the amendment. This bill is simply two boards entering into an agreement relative to vocational education services. When the two boards enter into an agreement to provide service for secondary students to take the curriculum, it is felt that it is unnecessary for that agreement between the two boards to go to a higher level. Staff reported that the statute refers to boards of districts and not necessarily between a school district board and a board of post-secondary institution. The provisions for these agreements were required under the Federal Act, and the staff did not know if the Carl Perkins Act has changed that or not.

Senator Vratil recommended that given the doubt about whether this amendment would be authorized by Federal law, the Committee should not include the proposed amendment in the bill until we can find out whether and how Federal law impacts it. There was no further discussion. A motion was made by Senator Vratil to pass **SB11** without the amendment. Seconded by Senator Downey. Motion carried.

Read Across America

Mark Desetti and Christy Levins, KNEA gave a presentation on the Read Across America Program. All Senators were given a story book. Mark recommended that they take the book back to their respective districts and read it to students and donate it to the school.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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SB161-- School districts, policies relating to the use of credit or debit cards

Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes, explained K.S.A. 75-3321 as a result of questions that arose from Mr. Michael Byington's request for an amendment on **SB161**. (Attachment 2) She sees no way that **SB161** would exempt school districts from the requirements in these sections. There is still concern about schools paying interest on credit cards. It is up to the Boards of Education to set the rules. **SB161** has been amended to delete all references to debit cards in Section 1. (Attachment 3)

Senator Vratil explained the Amendment to **SB161**. Section 1 of this bill generally authorized a Board of Education to acquire and to authorize the use of credit cards, not debit cards for school district employees. The first amendment deletes the language about adopting a policy only at the organizational meeting in July. The thought was that they should not be restricted to adopting policies at only one meeting each year. The large deletion eliminates the requirements that they establish a special fund. Line 40 on the first page, the provision is unnecessary because under Kansas law a board can amend or repeal any policy that it adopts. On page two, the word "shall" is changed to "may" so that the board would have the discretionary authority to impose an additional fee to recover costs of accepting debit or credit for payment of fees. The last amendment is to make it effective upon publication of the Kansas Register. Senator Vratil announced that Dale Dennis just advised the Committee that there is a Kansas prompt payment law that requires schools to pay their debts within 30 days after receiving an invoice.

Senator Teichman made a motion to pass **SB161** as amended by Senator Vratil. Motion was seconded by Senator Downey. Motion carried.

Ben Barrett brought information to the Committee in response to a question raised by Senator Hensley in Committee on February 15, 2001. Ben explained his handout regarding the school funding proposal. (Attachment 4)

Senator Downey presented information regarding the amount of dollars allocated to low enrollment and correlation weighting. (Attachment 5)

Dale Dennis provided information requested by the Committee and explained it briefly. It shows the 2000-01 general fund budget, the 2001-02 general fund budget under current law, and the proposed plan. This information will be on file in Senator Umbarger's office and the State Department of Education.

A motion to accept the minutes for February 6, 7, 8 and 12th was made by Senator Oleen. Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled February 20, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.