

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:37 p.m. on March 6, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Downey (excused)

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: Mark Tallman, KASB  
Craig Grant, KNEA  
Dr. Milton Pippenger, Superintendent, Garden City  
Kevin Burr, Principal, Garden City High School  
Richard Erickson, Superintendent, Tonganoxie  
Steve Woolf, Middle School Principal, Tonganoxie  
Gary George, Asst. Superintendent, Olathe  
Gene Neeley, President, KNEA  
Brilla Highfill Scott, USA  
Shelby Smith, USD 501 Lobbyist  
Dr. Robert McFrazier, Superintendent, USD 501  
Joe Zima, USD 501 Attorney

Others attending: See Attached List

**SB188--Kansas exemplary school recognition program**

Mark Tallman, KASB, offered testimony in support of **SB188**. ([Attachment 1](#)) He stated that he supports the bill in concept, but has reservations about priorities. Senator Vratil reported that the Governor's Task Force struggled with the question of rewarding schools in low-income areas as opposed to rewarding schools in high-income areas. Although that is a difficult problem to resolve, the task force's effort to do that is reflected by the recommendation for grants for significant and continuous progress towards attainment by pupils in school's levels of performance. The task force wanted to make sure that all schools, regardless of their poverty level, have an equal opportunity to receive these achievement grants. This is one of the very few accountability provisions that we have at our disposal and the task force felt strongly that it was important to have some accountability aspects in the school finance formula.

Craig Grant, KNEA, gave testimony in support of **SB188**. ([Attachment 2](#)) Craig said he also supports the concept of the bill and is happy that the award can be given to those who have attained standards of excellence, but also to those that are making progress toward attainment of those standards.

**SB191--School districts, state grants to study teacher compensation plans for development of alternative compensation plans**

Dr. Milton L. Pippenger, Superintendent, Garden City, gave testimony in support of **SB191**. ([Attachment 3](#)) Dr. Pippenger stated that passage of this bill would be of great benefit to their district for development of their plan for an alternative compensation plan for teachers.

Dr. Pippenger introduced Kevin E. Burr, Principal, Garden City High School, to talk about the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) which includes five key principles - Multiple Career Paths, Market-Driven Compensation, Performance-Based Accountability, Ongoing, Applied Professional Growth and Expanding the Supply of High Quality Teachers. ([Attachment 4](#))

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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This bill is another recommendation of the Governor's Task Force. This bill would provide a grant for the sole purpose of developing and implementing an alternative teacher compensation plan. There is a companion bill to finance the end result of the alternative compensation plan. It envisions in each school district, the administration and boards working with the teachers to come up with a voluntary plan. There is no mandated plan imposed upon teachers.

Richard Erickson, Superintendent, Tonganoxie, spoke briefly about the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) and introduced several teachers and administrators from the Tonganoxie district who have worked to establish the program. He introduced Steve Woolf who spoke of the TAP program. (Attachment 5) He believes that the program has to be driven by the teachers to be successful. The program is outlined in his testimony and a notebook was handed to Committee members showing where the district is now with the program.

Gary George, Assistant Superintendent, Olathe School, gave testimony in support of **SB191**. (Attachment 6) Mr. George asked that an amendment be considered to allow school districts to be permitted to contribute to deferred compensation and tax sheltered investment plans on behalf of employees. This would be a voluntary program.

Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas, offered her testimony as written since the Committee has a full schedule today. (Attachment 7) She just stated that they are supportive of **SB191**.

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, gave testimony in support of **SB191**. (Attachment 8) KASB supports the bill but does not believe that this compensation plan will be very popular with teachers who would not benefit, which could be a majority. He believes greater financial incentives are needed to help support the plan. Senator Vratil reported that the task force very strongly believes that the program must be voluntary and that it would never be successful if forced on the teachers. The task force is very optimistic of the program.

Gene Neely, President, KNEA, gave testimony in support of **SB191**. (Attachment 9) He stated that the parts of the program that he feels are on target is that the program is voluntary and that it provides the time and resources for school districts and local associations to review alternative compensations. He believes that now is the time to explore ways to reward enhanced teacher quality, improve student achievement, and provide recruitment and retention incentives for the best and the brightest of teachers.

### **SB313--School districts, school days and school hours additional to school days and school hours scheduled for the regular school term**

Shelby Smith, representing USD 501 Topeka, introduced Dr. Robert McFrazier, Superintendent USD 501 who spoke in favor of **SB313**. (Attachment 10) Joe Zima, USD 501 attorney stood for questions. An editorial "Mandatory Summer School," was distributed. (Attachment 11)

Mark Tallman, KASB, gave brief supportive testimony on **SB313**. (Attachment 12) KASB believes that local school boards should be able to require a longer school term for individual students if additional time is required to meet learning standards.

Craig Grant, KNEA offered his support of **SB313**. (Attachment 13) Craig stated that they were more interested in the remedial programs than the disciplinary ones. They believe summer school, Saturday classes, before and after school programs are all worthwhile and should be explored.

Brilla Highfill Scott offered her testimony in support of **SB313**. (Attachment 14) She just briefly stated that USA supports the bill. They are encouraged that it allows the local district to further help with remedial needs of the students and provides the flexibility that they need.

Senator Vratil moved that the Committee recommend favorably **SB313**. Seconded by Senator Lee. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2001.