

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on February 10, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Judy Steinlicht, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jim Edwards, KASB
Mark Brown, President, School Board USD 501

Others attending:

See Attached List

Chairman Umbarger advised the Committee that resolutions had been prepared for the Horizen Awardees and the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awardees. Any committee member wishing to co-sponsor the bill should sign the form being circulated.

SB 374--School board development programs

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, spoke in support of **SB374**. The training of school board members has been a long standing position of KASB. **SB374** provides that the state board of education shall adopt rules and regulations for administration of the Kansas school board development program; they may establish reasonable fees to offset the cost of administering the program; any entity, with approval of the KSBE could be an accredited provider of such programs; each member of a school board shall earn a minimum of ten credit hours of board development in each year; the state board may grant waivers or extensions of time to complete development program requirements for good cause; the state board may reevaluate, at any time, an accredited sponsor; and a school board member may attend an educational activity which was conducted by a non-accredited sponsor and still receive credit.

(Attachment 1)

Mr. Edwards introduced Mark Brown, President, Board of Education, USD501. Mr. Brown said he did a great deal of learning prior to taking his position on the school board and has no problem with the training but he did not believe there is mandatory training for other officials, such as mayor, legislators, etc.

In discussion, it was determined that the bill allows a board member to get a waiver from getting the training and the bill provides no penalty.

SB304--Consolidation of school districts; computation of school aid

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, spoke in support of **SB304**. The bill is a measure that was recommended by LEPC. Mr. Edwards explained that it sometimes takes up to 18 months to complete a full school consolidation process. **SB304** would give incentive to districts to consolidate in the form of extending the deadline that an actual consolidation would have to take place, from July 1, 2004 to July 1, 2005, and provide that the districts would receive two year's of extended budget authority. (Attachment 2)

Senator Vratil asked what the sentence meant on page 1, Line 23,24 of **SB304**. It was determined that the line should read "If the consolidation is effectuated commencing with the 2002-2003 school year and completed by July 1, 2005." instead of "prior to July 1, 2005".

SB373--School districts; consolidation; meetings

Jim Edwards explained that **SB373** would assist districts going through the trials and tribulations of consolidating school districts. The bill would state emphatically in the Kansas Statutes that a school board

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of a district considering consolidation could meet within the boundaries of any of the districts considering such consolidation. (Attachment 3)

Senator Teichman made a motion to recommend favorably for passage, **SB374**, **SB373** and **SB304** with the amendment to change the wording from "prior to" to "completed by" on Page 1, Line 24 and Page 2, Line 9 and additional technical amendments recommended by staff. Senator Bunten requested the bills be handled separately. Senator Teichman withdrew her motion.

Senator Downey made a motion to amend **SB304** as stated above. Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion carried on the amendment of **SB304**.

Senator Teichman made a motion to recommend **SB374** favorably for passage. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried with two no votes, Senator Bunten requested to have his "no" vote recorded.

In discussing **SB374**, the idea of requiring education for those elected to the school board was supported by the committee, but it was felt by some that it didn't make sense to have a law if there is no penalty. It was also said that the State Board of Education does not need other program to administer. It was determined that this bill provides that KSBE will accredit the providers of such programs. Other education organization would administer the program. It was also said that since school board members are elected by the people, that constitutionally, they could not be removed from the office if they do not receive the required hours of education. Another concern is the time and the cost involved for the school board members who are not paid to serve.

Senator Teichman made a motion to recommend **SB373** favorably for passage. Seconded by Senator Emler. Senator Oleen made a friendly amendment to make the law effective upon publication in the Kansas Register. Senator Teichman and Senator Emler agreed. The motion to recommend **SB373** as amended carried.

Senator Vratil made a motion to recommend favorably **SB304** as amended. Seconded by Senator Downey. Motion carried. Senator Bunten requested his no vote be recorded.

Senator Teichman made a motion to approve the minutes for February 2 and February 3. Seconded by Senator Bunten. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2004.