

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:32 p.m. on February 5, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present:

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Dr. Ed Berger, President, Hutchinson Community College
Bruce Wyatt, State Board of Education

Others attending:

See Attached List

Update on the Arkansas School Finance Lawsuit

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research gave the Committee information and answers to questions asked in the Senate Education Committee on February 4, 2004. ([Attachment 1](#))

Briefing on Community Colleges

Dr. Ed Berger, President of Hutchinson Community College briefed the committee on community colleges and community college issues. The community colleges serve nearly 200,000 students. The vision for the colleges is to be responsive, affordable, accessible and provide quality learning opportunities.

Dr. Berger stated that when the community colleges moved from the State Board of Education to the reconstituted Board of Regents under **SB345**, there were certain components that they wanted to retain. Those components were, 1) operate under the authority of locally elected boards of trustees and coordinated by the Kansas Board of Regents; 2) select, retain, compensate and dismiss their chief executive officers; 3) set institutional budgets in response to the learning needs of the citizens being served; 4) determine and approve institutional missions with emphasis on meeting community, area and regional needs to benefit the entire state; 5) maintain existing service areas which form a statewide network for citizen and student access; 6) respond quickly and effectively to the training needs of area business and industry; 7) provide education that is accessible to all Kansans at a cost all citizens can afford; and 8) own and administer campus property. Dr. Berger briefed the Committee on state funding for community colleges and provided charts and figures in his hand-out. ([Attachment 2](#)) Discussion followed.

Overview on Need for Additional School Funding

Bruce Wyatt, Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) briefed the Committee regarding K-12 education and the case for increased funding. Mr. Wyatt said that the framework for education in Kansas had been rewritten in the last year by the KSBE. The new focus is: first, criteria goals that our schools should have in place, including a school improvement plan, fully certified teachers, curriculum that meets the requirements for a Regents' Scholarship, State Board graduation requirements, and programs and services that support student learning. Second, performance goals that are expected to provide accountability by identifying students and schools that need help and third, continued accreditation of a school by KSBE will depend on schools meeting the above criteria and performance goals.

Mr. Wyatt said in order to achieve these goals, schools have been working to find out what works and what does not. The results achieved in schools he visited are impressive and show what can happen with planning, leadership and commitment. The KSBE identified the programs that they feel will directly impact and contribute most to student achievement, and then determined the cost of those programs. The

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Board has adopted a proposed budget increase of just over 4%, totaling \$104 million dollars. The increase is targeted at an early childhood Reading & Math Literacy programs; kids who need extra help and those in special education; attracting and retaining quality teachers; and paying utility and insurance bills.

Regarding the lawsuit pending before Shawnee County District Court, Mr. Wyatt said that KSBE was disappointed that the Court turned down their request to appeal because they believed a decision from the Supreme Court would have provided guidance to the Governor, the Legislature and KSBE. Mr. Wyatt urged that the Committee take an active role in studying and acting upon increased support for K-12 schools in this session. (Attachment 3)

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2004.