

MINUTES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FINANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathe Decker at 9:00 on January 25, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Jim Edwards, KASB
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Mark Desetti, KNEA
Ginger Lewman, KGTC
Christina Kolm, Parent

Kathie Sparks appeared before the Committee with an overview of the Cost Study Analysis contained in the Legislative Post Audit Report.

Some of her findings were that 49% of all special ed children spent less than 2 hours a day out of a regular classroom. Only 34% spend at least a half-day out of a regular classroom.

Changes recommended by the Post Audit in calculating special ed. excess cost were: 1. Reduce regular education cost deduction from 100% to 34%; and 2. change the calculation for regular education cost from an average operating cost per pupil to average instructional cost per students.

The effect of these changes would be a requirement of an additional \$78.9 million in state aid for the state financial aid excluding increased expenditures for local option budgets.

Jim Edwards presented the views of the KASB on funding of special ed. (Attachment 1).

Diane Gjerstad spoke to the Committee in support of the findings of the Post Audit Report. (Attachment 2). She said that the "special ed" student also falls under the "at risk" category as well as "bi-lingual"

Kathie Sparks pointed out that those labeled "special ed" cannot access the state's "at risk" funds.

Mark Desetti appeared before the Committee regarding the Post Audit Report. (Attachment 3).

Speaking in support of the full funding of special ed was, Ginger Lewman. (Attachment 4).

Christina Kolm testified next in support of the gifted program. (Attachment 5).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday , January 26, 2006.