

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on January 31, 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:     Steve Adams, Department of Education  
  Dr. Mary Devin, Superintendent, USD 475  
  Dr. Robert Goodwin, USD 306

Others attending:        See attached list

Senator Schodorf introduced members of the Board of Education and the superintendent from the Wichita School District.

Chairman Umbarger opened the floor for bill introductions.

Senator Lyons asked the committee to introduce a bill that is being drafted concerning teachers; providing for initial certification upon completion of an alternate teacher certification program. Senator Teichman moved to introduce the bill, Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Senator Jenkins made a motion to introduce a committee bill to allow full time, non-certified employees of school districts to be able to serve on their local school boards. Senator Emler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Senator Vratil made a motion to introduce five bills. The first bill is the same as **HB 2072** commonly referred to as the home rule bill for boards of education. The next three implement recommendations of the governor's school finance task force. The first bill is to provide grants to school districts to study alternative teacher compensation plans; the second to authorize grants for the implementation and maintenance of alternative teacher compensation plans that meet certain standards; and the third to provide grants for Kansas schools and school districts who model exemplary performance. The fifth bill, a conceptual bill to provide reward grants to school districts and schools that engage in cooperation with other schools and school districts. The motion was seconded Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

Senator Downey made a motion to introduce three bills; two that are related to the 3R's program that was introduced to eliminate teacher shortages, the first to add about \$1 million to the current teacher service scholarship program, but also adds to the high subject area need. It also allows degreed teachers to use the scholarship dollars if they are wanting to add endorsements in the high need subject areas; the second bill relates to a program known as "grow your own", it defines the program, sets up a 50-50 match between the state and school district and in return the teacher teaches for three years in the district to pay that back and the third bill, allows schools a third year of computational declining enrollment. Seconded by Senator Jenkins. Motion passed.

Senator Oleen made a motion to introduce a bill pertaining to opportunity fellowships or vouchers. Seconded by Senator Downey seconded. Motion passed.

Senator Umbarger introduced a bill concerning school district finance and definitions, increasing base state aid per pupil, affecting determination of program weighting and at-risk pupil weighting, relating to school district ad valorem taxes as recommended by the Governor in the State of the State address. Motion to introduce by Senator Schodorf. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion passed.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Chairman Umbarger introduced Steve Adams, Department of Education who gave an overview of the Kansas Quality Performance Accreditation. ([Attachment 1](#))

During committee discussion, Mr. Adams stated that a school that had been accredited conditionally has one year to provide evidence that problems have been corrected. The visiting team comes back and makes recommendations to the state board either to accredit or not to accredit the school. The state board takes final action. So far all schools have been accredited. Mr. Adams described accreditation of a school as a school earning a badge of quality so that parents can have some assurance that their kids will receive a quality education against standards that the board has determined.

Chairman Umbarger introduced Dr. Mary Devin, Superintendent, Geary County United School District 475. She spoke about the Accreditation Study Task Force. ([Attachment 2](#))

Chairman Umbarger introduced Dr. Robert Goodwin, Chairman of QPA Advisory Committee and Superintendent of Schools, Southeast of Saline School District. Dr. Goodwin gave a report on QPA issues that impact the effectiveness of QPA and spoke about identifying strategies to correct the problems. ([Attachment 3](#)) and ([Attachment 4](#))

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled February 1, 2001.