

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:05 A.M. on March 25, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Benjamin Hodge- absent

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Dianne Rosell, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

On a "Point of Personal Privilege", the Chairman recognized Representatives Loganbill and Craft..

Representative Loganbill introduced a group of teachers from USD 259 who were visiting in the Capitol. Representative Craft introduced two constituents from USD 475 who were visiting in the Capitol.

SB 399: Mandatory attendance of kindergarten; age of eligibility

Representative Aurand told Committee members there were two issues for this bill. The first one was an attempt to eliminate some of the confusion with regard to five and six years old under current law that if they are enrolled in school, even though they aren't required to be enrolled, once they are enrolled in school, they are required to attend and are truant if they do not. But if the Committee could come to a consensus of this clarifying language, it was thought this may be inserted in place of the entirety of the rest of the bill. (Attachment #1)

A discussion among Committee members occurred regarding this matter.

Chairman Aurand inquired of Committee members of their intent to work **SB 399** and include the preceding language to the bill. A show of hands, 6 - yes and 8 - no, indicated the Committee did not wish to proceed further.

Chairman Aurand advised Committee members that it was possible of an amendment on the Appropriations bill and acknowledged there were several members in the audience with comments with regard to the second amendment.

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, spoke to Committee members concerning proposed language concerning compulsory attendance. (Attachment # 2)

Mr. Tallman also provided handout material to Committee members comparing the National Assessment of Education Progress - Reading Scores for Kansas and Texas. (Attachment #3)

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association, spoke to Committee members of concerns regarding the proposed amendment to allow students to be excused from school in order to attend other instructional programs. (Attachment #4)

HB 2969: Virtual school act

SB 669: Virtual schools, funding; enrollment; administration

Chairman Aurand gave a brief explanation of the Sub-Committee Report on Virtual Schools and advised this issue was expected to be heard at the next meeting, March 26, 2008 and **SB 669** would be worked

SB 531: School finance; base state aid per pupil

Chairman Aurand requested by show of hands if the Committee members wanted to work this bill. It was the consensus of the Committee to do so. Chairman Aurand advised Committee members this bill would be worked at the next meeting, March 26th, and Committee member should have prepared amendments, if necessary.

Chairman Aurand adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2008.