

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on February 11, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statues  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Mark Buhler  
Scott Morgan, President, Lawrence School Board, USD 497  
John Koepke, Executive Director, KASB  
Lynn Jenkins, State Treasurer  
Jill Docking, Vice President, A.G. Edwards  
Carol Rupe, State Board of Education  
Mikel Miller, President, KS Council on Economic Education  
Kevin Glendening, Deputy Commissioner, KS Bank  
Commission Division  
Kristin Brumm, Division Manager, Consumer Credit  
Counseling Service  
Scott Oberkrom, American Century

Others attending: See Attached List

### **SB 55–School Boards, meeting schedules**

Senator Mark Buhler introduced Scott Morgan, President, Lawrence School Board who spoke in support of **SB55**. The bill will simply clear up cloudy language ensuring that the public has actual knowledge of when and where a school board will be meeting. ([Attachment 1](#))

John Koepke, Executive Director, KASB thanked Senator Buhler for introducing the legislation in **SB55** that will remove confusing language from the bill and simply require a local school board in July to establish a meeting time for its statutorily required monthly meeting for the rest of the fiscal year. This bill will not prevent boards from having other meetings authorized by law. ([Attachment 2](#))

Mark Desetti, KNEA, submitted written testimony on **SB55**. KNEA does not support the bill as they believe the current law has served the public well. Under **SB55**, it appears that the date for a board meeting can float and even though the meeting dates would be set in July and posted, it increases the possibility for constituents to miss meetings because the schedule is not regular. ([Attachment 3](#))

### **SB 74–Schools, personal financial literacy programs**

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State Treasurer, Lynn Jenkins, thanked Senator Schodorf for researching and drafting the legislation to encourage teaching financial literacy in our Kansas schools. State Treasurer Jenkins supports **SB74** as she feels the fundamentals of financial literacy are just as important as the education of ethics, values and the basic skills of reading, writing and simple arithmetic. ([Attachment 4](#))

Jill Docking, Vice President, A.G. Edwards, spoke in support of **SB74**. Jill believes we must teach our children the fundamentals of financial literacy from an early age as they may not be able to look to a retirement with Social Security and Medicare benefits. Our society today has immediate gratification through the use of credit cards, second mortgages, car payments, etc. She believes we must change this pattern in order to help our children secure their future. She does not recommend moving forward on the bill without thoughts of how it will be funded. The State Department of Education estimates that it will cost \$15,000 to hire the teachers to design curriculum to meet the math standards. Financial Fitness Foundation is an organization whose primary purpose is to help Kansas commit to educating Kansas children in the concepts of financial literacy. They will pledge to raise this money. ([Attachment 5](#))

Carol Rupe, State Board of Education, spoke in favor of **SB74**. She believes teaching financial literacy is the most important information students should learn after they learn to read and write. We need to arm our students with personal finance information so they can make appropriate choices for their financial futures. ([Attachment 6](#))

Mikel Miller, President, KS Council on Economic Education urged support of **SB74**. Mikel outlined steps to develop an efficient and effective plan to train teachers in districts that adopt the new standards. She believes the resources necessary to prepare Kansas students for the financial responsibilities of adulthood are already in place or within reach. ([Attachment 7](#))

Kevin Glendening, Deputy Commissioner, KS Bank Commission Division, also supports **SB74**. He observes in his daily business that the lack of consumer knowledge in personal finance puts them at high risk of being victimized by deceptive and illegal lending practices that exist in the marketplace. Consumer knowledge is an important deterrent to potential predatory lending activities. He believes **SB74** is a step in the right direction by encouraging and facilitating personal finance education in Kansas schools. ([Attachment 8](#))

Kristin Brumm, Division Manager, Consumer Credit Counseling Service spoke on behalf of both her agency which covers Topeka, Manhattan, Lawrence and Emporia and CCCS of Salina/Wichita. They collectively counsel 5000 Kansans each year on budgeting and debt management. Their clients are from a wide range of people, but increasingly their clients are students or recent graduates. They find that many of these are learning basic financial skills for the first time. K-12 financial literacy education would provide a strong foundation, therefore, they strongly support **SB74**. ([Attachment 9](#))

Scott Oberkrom, Community Relations Specialist, American Century Companies, states that they have long supported efforts to improve financial literacy and applauds the Committee's interest in curriculum adjustments for Kansas schools. American Century wishes to make the Committee aware of a program sponsored by the company and developed in partnership with the Learning Exchange called Tips for Kids. It is a hands-on learning program that teaches students about managing their personal finances and school-

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to-career issues. American Century would be pleased to serve as a resource to the Committee in its legislative consideration of Kansas curriculum adjustments. ([Attachment 10](#))

Chuck Stones, Senior Vice President, Kansas Bankers Association, states that they have considered financial literacy a priority for a long time. They believe that a coordinated, centralized effort to teach financial literacy makes a lot of sense. It would raise the level of awareness and commitment of all parties involved. ([Attachment 11](#))

Mark Desetti, KNEA, offered written testimony in support of **SB74**. KNEA believes **SB74** is a good idea, not a mandate or requirement on our schools, just a common sense approach to financial literacy. ([Attachment 12](#))

Other letters of support for **SB74** were provided to Committee members from Suzie Ahlstrand, Vice President of Education and Membership Development, Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce ([Attachment 13](#)); Kathy Shockley, Business Teacher, Haysville-Campus High School ([Attachment 14](#)); M.D. Michaelis, Emprise Financial Corporation, Wichita ([Attachment 15](#)); Tara Towns, Legislative Director Student Government Association, Fort Hays State University ([Attachment 16](#)) and Lois Smith, Business Teacher, Marion High School. ([Attachment 17](#))

Senator Schodorf made a motion to recommend **SB74** favorable for passage. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried with one no vote by Senator Emler.

### **SB 82–School districts; repeal of obsolete statutes**

Tim Rooney, Manager of Budget and Finance, Shawnee Mission School District was scheduled to testify on **SB82**, however, time ran out. Written testimony in favor of **SB82** was turned in stating that removal of several obsolete statutes requiring advisory board meetings was no longer needed. Patrons have many other avenues for communication. This will save money for the district. ([Attachment 18](#))

Chairman Umbarger stated that hearings for **SB82** will be rescheduled.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123-S.