

MINUTES

2010 COMMISSION

September 18-19, 2006
Lakin and Wichita USDs

Members Present

Rochelle Chronister, Chairperson
Dr. Ray Daniels, Vice Chairperson
Senator Jean Kurtis Schodorf
Representative Kathe Decker
Carolyn Campbell
Dennis Jones
Barbara Mackey
Jesse Paine, Attorney General's Office
Barbara Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor

Member Absent

Stephen Iliff

Staff Present

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Art Griggs, Revisor of Statutes Office
Scott Frank, Legislative Division of Post Audit
Heidi Zimmerman, Legislative Division of Post Audit

Monday, September 18
Lakin USD

Attachment 1 includes demographic information about the Lakin School District.

Lakin USD Superintendent Randall Steinle and Lakin Elementary School Principal Dick Schneider greeted the Commission and led a tour of the Lakin Elementary School. Lakin Elementary School has approximately 260 FTE students. Approximately one-third of the student population is Hispanic and about 30 percent have English as a second language (ESL). Class size at the

elementary school averages 15 – 16 students per class, which is a number the community seems committing to maintaining rather than larger classes, according to Superintendent Steinle.

Commission members also visited Lakin Middle and High Schools. Lakin Middle School was built anticipating 900 students districtwide; however, because of a loss of 15 – 20 students per year, the district population is down to about 600 presently.

Because of difficulties locating and retaining some teachers, Lakin USD was successful in hiring a high school Spanish teacher from Spain and a chemistry teacher from India. Problems the District faced in certification of these two teachers are described in [Attachment 1](#).

Commission members visited special education classrooms which included students with a variety of special education needs. Because of a shortage of special education teachers, it had not been possible to separate the various special needs students into separate classrooms. Because a home economics teacher could not be found, home economics can only be offered via ITV at the present time. The salary budgeted for a home economics teacher is being used for a math teacher.

The Lakin USD has several distinctions. Among them is that it was the first school district to offer the Read 180 (reading intervention program) west of Wichita. This is the District's third year of offering Read 180.

At 1:00 p.m., the following representatives of area USDs, the Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, and the High Plains Education Cooperative presented information regarding their organizations:

- Dr. Richard Atha, Superintendent of Garden City USD 457 ([Attachment 2](#));
- Skip Landis, Superintendent of Holcomb USD 363 ([Attachment 3](#));
- Jon Ansley, Superintendent of Deerfield USD 216 ([Attachment 4](#));
- Randy Steinle, Superintendent of Lakin USD 215;
- Bill Hall, Superintendent of Ulysses USD 214 ([Attachment 5](#));
- David Novack, Superintendent of Ingalls USD 477 ([Attachment 6](#));
- Joan Friend, Superintendent of Syracuse USD 494 ([Attachment 7](#));
- Dr. Jim Barrett, CEO of Southwest Plains Regional Service Center ([Attachment 8](#)); and
- Mike Lewis, Director of High Plains Educational Cooperative.

At 3:00 p.m., Dr. Andy Tompkins, Chairperson of the At-Risk Education Council, presented the Council's report to the 2010 Commission ([Attachment 9](#)).

At-Risk Education Council members attending in addition to Dr. Tompkins were Ms. Deloyce McKee and Mr. Bud Moore.

Tuesday, September 19 Wichita Public Schools

Carol Rupe, State Board of Education member, joined the 2010 Commission for an overview by Wichita USD staff regarding the District ([Attachment 10](#)).

Wichita USD's high school reform initiative, "Professional Learning Communities," was presented ([Attachment 11](#)).

The 2010 Commission members visited Wichita North High School, Levy Special Day School, and Jackson Elementary School. The high school students acted as guides to a variety of classrooms. Wichita North High School has 1,780 students and 100 teachers. Forty-six percent of the School's population is Hispanic and 75 percent of the total population receive either free or reduced price lunches. Reforms over the past few years have led to an increase in the graduation rate from 48 percent to 82 percent.

A visit to the Levy Special Day School highlighted the District's special education issues. The Wichita USD has approximately 8,600 special education students, an increase of approximately 25 percent over the past seven years. District staff discussed current challenges in special education, including pressure to integrate special education students into regular classrooms, transitioning special education students to the community after age 21, and increased funding demands for special education due to increased student population.

The 2010 Commission members visited Jackson Elementary School for the last tour of the day. This school had 484 students and five special education programs. Fifty-seven percent of the student body is African-American and there are different languages represented. Seventy percent of the student body is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. The School's principal discussed the high rate of teacher turnover and the fact the school did not meet AYP (annual yearly progress) last year.

The Commission's tour ended at 2:00 p.m.

Prepared by Sharon Wenger

Approved by Commission on:

October 13, 2006

(date)