

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:05 A.M. on March 20, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Benjamin Hodge- absent
Ted Powers- 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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association

SB 531: School finance - base state aid per pupil

Theresa Kiernan, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an explanation of **SB 531** to Committee members.

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), spoke to Committee members in support of **SB 531**. Mr. Tallman also advised Committee members of the following entities which also support **SB 531**:

Olathe School District
Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools
Wichita Public Schools
United School Administrators of Kansas
Schools for Fair Funding
Schools for Quality Education

Mr. Tallman acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the work of legislators who have supported increased funding for public education, however, many serious needs remain unanswered. Currently Kansas schools face a growing shortage of qualified teachers, especially in critical areas such as mathematics, science, and special education, because both salaries and support for induction, mentoring and professional development are too low. However, it is the belief of KASB that continued advocacy for funding based on what schools need to do the job they have been given, not based on what is available. (Attachment #1)

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association (KNEA), spoke to Committee members and advised that KNEA supports a move to out-year funding, the addition of a fourth year to the three year plan. The KNEA also supports additional funds being allocated on base state aid per pupil as the best way to give flexibility in the expenditure of those funds and the best way to address educator salaries.

However, **SB 531** is a sub-inflationary increase in base state aid per pupil. It has been presented as a 2.2% increase but in terms of money districts can use, it is a 1.3% increase. KNEA fears that what progress has been made recently will be lost if we return to the days of sub-inflationary increases in BSAPP. (Attachment #2)

After a brief discussion of **SB 531**, Chairman Aurand closed the hearing on **SB 531**.

HB 2903: School district teacher licensure program

Representative Horst gave a report to Committee members on the House Education Sub-Committee on Alternative Teacher Licensure. (Attachment #3 and #4)

A question and answer session followed the Sub-Committee report.

Representative Crow moved to adopt the Sub-Committee Report as a Committee Resolution. The motion was seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.

HR 6021: Dyslexia, Kansas board of education to study

Representative Rhoades gave a report to Committee members on the House Education Sub-Committee on Dyslexia. Representative Rhoades also informed Committee members of the language proposed by the Kansas Department of Education for the Resolution. (Attachment #5 and #6)

A question and answer session followed the Sub-Committee report.

Chairman Aurand asked Committee members to review the Dyslexia report and upon meeting on Monday, March 24th, further discussion will take place.

Chairman Aurand reminded Committee members of the Sub-Committee meeting for Virtual Schools which is to take place upon adjournment of this day's House session.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2008.