

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 10:35 A.M. on January 9, 2007, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Jim Barone- excused

Committee staff present:

Norman Furse, Revisor Emeritus  
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Aaron Klaassen, Kansas Legislative Research  
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Matt Spurgin, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Melinda Gaul, Chief of Staff, Senate Ways & Means  
Mary Shaw, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rochelle Chronister, Chairperson, 2010 Commission  
Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association  
Dodie Wellshear, United School Administrators of Kansas (written)

Others attending:  
See attached list.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed everyone back to the 2007 Legislative Session. The Chairman introduced Melinda Gaul, the Chief of Staff for Senate Ways and Means Committee and his office.

### **Bill Introductions**

Senator Vicki Schmidt moved, with a second by Senator Wysong, to introduce a bill concerning filling prescriptions (7rs0032) and to introduce a bill restricting the prescribing, ordering, dispensing, administering, selling, supplying or giving certain amphetamine or sympathomimetic amine controlled substances (7rs0013). Motion carried on a voice vote.

J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, was recognized by the Chairman and Mr. Scott introduced the department's Fiscal Staff. Copies of the Kansas Legislative Research Department Fiscal Assignments—FY 2005 were distributed (Attachment 1). Senate Ways and Means staff from the Office of Revisor of Statutes were also introduced.

Chairman Umbarger welcomed Rochelle Chronister, Chair, 2010 Commission, who presented information

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on the Commission's report to the 2007 Kansas Legislature ([Attachment 2](#)). Chairwoman Chronister mentioned that the 2010 Commission had one topic that had been referred by the Legislative Coordinating Council which was the School Transportation Weighting Formula. She addressed the 2010 Commission's activities, school district consolidation, special education and vocational education. Ms. Chronister noted that shortage of special education teachers is a main challenge. Another issue regarding special education funding is the strong possibility that federal Medicaid funds paid to school districts for services to special education students will be dramatically reduced in future years.

Regarding the Committee recommendations from the 2010 Commission, Chair Chronister noted that the Commission recommends the following:

- \$500,000 of annual and on-going funding be approved for leadership academies.
- An additional \$1.0 million be added to the state's Mentor Teacher Program so the Program can be extended to the second year of a new teacher's probationary period.
- Professional Development (In-service education) Aid Fund be increased to \$4.0 million in FY 2008.
- Supports the state database project being developed by the Kansas Department of Education to include both student and teacher information.

The 2010 Commission added the following special notes:

- No child should be required to ride on a school bus - one way - more than 60 minutes per day.
- The Commission recognizes the importance of ensuring our state's schools are safe for all children.
- Parental involvement in school activities is crucial to a child's success.
- The Commission believes that informing the public of the progress of their schools is vital to ensure confidence in our system of public education.

Ms. Chronister noted a Minority Report which was attached to the 2010 Commission report. The Minority Report was written by Mr. Stephen Iliff. Senator Morris requested committee time at some point in the future to further discuss the 2010 Commission report.

Chairman Umbarger opened an informational briefing on:

### **SB 30--Keeping education promises trust fund, established, transferring moneys from the state general fund to the KEPT fund for fiscal year 2008**

Staff briefed the Committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed the following proponent conferees:

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards, who explained that education is critical. He mentioned that their members believe that work must continue to improve the quality of education in every community in the state, and the three-year plan is minimum, not a maximum, for a number of important reasons which are listed in his written testimony. In closing, Mr. Tallman noted that they support the goal of **SB 30**, but they will continue to support other goals to make sure schools are among the best in the nation and the world. ([Attachment 3](#))

Mark Desetti mentioned that the commitments made last year by the Legislature will go a long way to helping Kansas young people achieve high educational standards. He noted that the Legislature needs to honor these

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commitments and find ways to provide for the kinds of initiatives and programs that will be emphasized by the 2010 Commission, the At-Risk Council and other advisory bodies to whom the Legislature will turn. (Attachment 4)

Written testimony was submitted by United School Administrators of Kansas (Attachment 5).

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2007.