

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on February 12, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Mark Tallman, KASB
Winston Brooks, Superintendent, Wichita Schools
Brilla Highfill Scott, USA
Mark Desetti, KNEA

Others attending: See attached list

SB 57–School district, powers of local control

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes explained amendments to **SB57** adding language to clarify the intent of the bill as shown in the attachment. (Attachment 1) These changes were worked out by KNEA, KASB and members of the Committee.

Senator Schodorf made a motion to amend **SB57** with the language proposed by staff. Seconded by Senator Lee. Motion carried.

Senator Schodorf made a motion to recommend **SB57** as amended favorable for passage. Seconded by Senator Downey. Motion carried.

Continued hearing on SB 82–School districts; repeal of obsolete statutes

Mark Tallman, KASB, explained an amendment striking obsolete language as shown on the attachment. (Attachment 2)

Senator Vratil made a motion to amend **SB82** as recommended by KASB. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried. One no vote by Senator Bunten.

Senator Teichman made a motion to recommend **SB82** as amended favorable for passage. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried. One no vote by Senator Bunten.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:35 p.m. on February 12, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

SB60--Employment of certain teachers following retirement

Winston Brooks, Superintendent, Wichita Schools provided testimony in favor of **SB60**. Mr. Brook's district believes this bill will entice a very small number of teachers and they would appreciate more legislation to attract and retain teachers. **SB60** will give schools a little more flexibility to meet the mandated requirements of NCLB; cope with the lack of graduating teacher candidates in math and science; and an aging workforce. If they can keep a few more great teachers in the classroom a few more years, the winners are the kids. (Attachment 3)

Brilla Highfill Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas, spoke as a proponent of **SB60**. This bill would enable a teacher to return to work and retain retirement benefits. The shortage of qualified teachers is a reality in Kansas and we need to encourage professionals to remain in the field. USA believes an amendment should be considered, changing the term "teacher" to "educator". (Attachment 4)

Mark Desetti, KNEA believes it is a good idea to allow retirees to return to teaching in the school districts from which they retired, but they have some concerns. The bill limits teachers by designation of their area as a shortage area while there is no limit under the current system for those willing to change districts. These teachers would be exempted from both the continuing contract law and the due process law. **SB60** creates a two-tiered teacher system, one tier with rights, another without rights. KNEA would recommend that the Committee reconsider some of the provisions of the bill to make it a good idea for all teachers. (Attachment 5)

Brad Stauffer, USD 501 Topeka, provided written testimony in favor of **SB60**. (Attachment 6)

Several amendments were discussed to provide the desired language for **SB60**. Several motions were made on the amendments discussed. Each motion was withdrawn to allow staff time to work on the language so that the bill will have the intended results.

Senator Vratil made a motion to amend **SB60** as drafted by staff to delete the floating continuing contract date as it pertains to teachers. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried. (Attachment 7)

SB89--Teachers and school administrators, employment contracts; notice requirements

Mark Desetti, KNEA is opposed to **SB89** because of the floating date. KNEA believes it will cause difficulties for both school districts and teachers wondering when the appropriations might be made. They believe it would be too difficult for the school boards, teachers and administration to work with. (Attachment 8)

Mark Tallman, KASB also opposed **SB89** and concurred with the comments made by KNEA.

Senator Vratil made a motion to table **SB89** and take no further action. Second by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:35 p.m. on February 12, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

An announcement was made that LEPC will have a report from Task Force on School District Budgeting on Monday, February 17, at 12:00 in the Old Supreme Court Chambers. All members of the Committee are encouraged to attend.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for February 3, 4 and 5 by Senator Emler. Second by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.