

Approved: 2-9-2000  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on January 20, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:       Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
                                      Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
                                      Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department  
                                      Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:    Representative Kay O'Connor

Others attending:            See Attached List

The meeting of the House and Senate Education committees was called to order by Representative Tanner, House Chairman. He called on Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, who asked the committees if they would fill out a form that would allow the junior ROTC students from Wichita to spend Wednesday of next week shadowing them to learn the legislative process.

Chairman Tanner called on Representative O'Connor to present her education plan.

Representative O'Connor distributed a press release dated November 23, 1999, that she had sent to all legislators (Attachment 1). She had requested and received input from several legislators. She went through the plan and expounded on each of the ten points of the program and stood for questions.

Chairperson Lawrence asked Representative O'Connor if she was going to introduce legislation that could be debated in committee.

Representative O'Connor stated that although she has several bills that she has already introduced and is involved with these bills, if there is enough interest, she would be happy to introduce all or any part of her ten-point plan as legislation. She feels, though, that the bills would have a better chance of being heard if they were introduced as committee bills.

Chairman Tanner told Representative O'Connor that she could have the bills drawn up and brought to committee to be introduced as committee bills.

In discussing the point on Charter Schools, Chairperson Lawrence stated that some charters went unfilled for three years because people were not privy to the fact that federal money was available.

Several comments on legislation that could be introduced resulted in Chairman Tanner responding that there will be legislation introduced on teacher preparation and teaching as a second career. Alternative teacher certification was discussed, with the point being made by several members that there is a definite lack of teachers in certain fields of expertise. The time may come when this means of filling educational needs may have to be employed more often.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Education Commissioner, stated that most people will get their certification in three years. A plan must be filed, with the university evaluating it. Usually a person who is seeking certification will attend college in the spring and fall, with additional hours needed picked up in the summer.

Another area discussed in Representative O'Connor's plan was lowering the mandatory school attendance age. Several comments were made for and against this point. Representative O'Connor stated she sympathized with the child who is having a troubled student life, but also sympathizes with those other students who must be in the classroom with that child.

After several additional comments, the meeting was adjourned.