

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Theresa Kiernan, Senior Assistant Revisor of Statutes  
Senator Roger Reitz  
Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, KASB  
Robert Shannon, Superintendent, Manhattan-Ogden USD #383  
Peter J. Paukstelis, President, Manhattan-Ogden USD #383 Board of Education  
Ronald P. Walker, Supt., Geary County USD #475  
Representative Virgil Peck, Jr.  
Lauren Palmer, Asst. City Manager, City of Manhattan, KS (written only)

Others attending:

See attached list.

**Hearing on HB 2002 - School finance; military children, determination of enrollment**

Theresa Kiernan, Senior Assistant Revisor of Statutes, presented a summary of the proposed legislation. This bill was introduced by the LEPC. It would allow a school district to determine the enrollment of the district on February 20 if the number of new military pupils meets the threshold established by the bill. The definition of a “new” pupil is one who is enrolled on February 20, but was not enrolled on the preceding September 20. If the number of “new” pupils is at least 25, or 1%, of the total enrollment of the district as determined on September 20, the number of new military pupils is added to the enrollment of the district. The state board would be directed to recompute the adjusted enrollment of the district as well as the general fund budget of the school district based on the enrollment as determined under this section. The bill amends a statute that was enacted in 2005, extended for two additional years in 2007 and would be make it effective until the end of school year 2012-2013. As originally introduced, the bill would require a net counting of the new military pupils. The House Committee on Education amended the bill to allow the addition of new military pupils without netting out any pupils who may have left the district after September 20. The House Committee amendment codifies the existing method of counting new military pupils.

Senator Roger Reitz, ([Attachment 1](#)); Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, KASB ([Attachment 2](#)); Robert Shannon, Superintendent, Manhattan-Ogden USD #383 ([Attachment 3](#)); Peter J. Paukstelis, President, Manhattan-Ogden USD #383 Board of Education ([Attachment 4](#)); Ronald P. Walker, Supt., Geary County USD #475 ([Attachment 5](#)); and Lauren Palmer, Asst. City Manager, City of Manhattan, KS (written only) ([Attachment 6](#)) all presented testimony in support of **HB 2002**.

Representative Virgil Peck, Jr. ([Attachment 7](#)) presented testimony in support of the bill with the exception that he feels that it should be a net increase in the number of students. He feels it would be unfair to other school districts if funding is provided to those districts educating military students for students they no longer have in the district at the second count date.

Other discussion stressed the importance of education to military families and the state being viewed as “military friendly” when decisions regarding base closings surfaced.

The hearing on **HB 2002** was closed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.