

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:00 a.m. on, January 11, 2001 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Phil Kline
 Representative Doug Spangler

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Legislative Research
 Rae Anne Davis, Legislative Research
 Amy Kramer, Legislative Research
 Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
 Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
 Nikki Feuerborn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education

Others attending: See Attached

Representative Bob Bethell moved for the introduction of legislation which would require vaccination for Hepatitis B be included in those vaccines required for entry into public schools. Motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

Representative Neufeld moved to introduce legislation concerning biennial budget estimates for state agencies. Motion was seconded by Representative Landwehr. Motion carried.

Orientation for new budget committee members will be held on Tuesday, January 16 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 514-S.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education, presented an overhead presentation on increased state funding for FY 2002. A comparison of recommendations from the State Board of Education, the Governor's Task Force, and the Governor was explained program by program (Attachment 1). During general discussion with the Committee, Mr. Dennis noted the Kansas daily attendance record in the public schools averaged 95% with the national being 90%. The Teacher of the Year program which was originally funded by Senator Kassebaum is needing funding as the balance is being depleted through payment for substitute teachers as the awardee travels throughout the state during their award year. Mr. Dennis also discussed the success of the Vision Therapy Study conducted by the Optometry Association and the need for additional funding for the program, particularly as it helps low-income children with vision problems. Some school districts have opted to pay expenses for children with convergence problems rather than pay for their extended time spent in special education.

In response to questions regarding liability and insurance for school buses, Mr. Dennis said many schools are using 10 passenger vans or Suburbans for safety and liability purposes. Sometimes 14 passenger vans are purchased and reconfigured with 10 seats and storage areas which lowers the insurance costs. Any school vehicle carrying more than 10 passengers is required to have the same yellow coloration and equipment as a school bus, i.e., signal lights, traffic arms.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17.