

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:38 p.m. on February 20, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Hensley & Downey (excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Brownlee
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education
Jim Medina, USD #233, Olathe, Milken Award Winner
Cheris Bass, USD #204, Bonner Springs, Milken Award Winner
Senator Oleen
Mark Tallman, KASB
Senator Lee

Others attending: See Attached List

Milken Family Foundation Awards

Senator Brownlee visited the Senate Education Committee to congratulate Milken award winner, Jim Medina. Jim is a teacher at her son's school in Olathe.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education, told the Committee about the selection process of the Milken Family Foundation and introduced Jim Medina, USD #233 Olathe and Cheris Bass, USD #204 Bonner Springs. Jim Medina and Cheris Bass shared personal experience with the Committee and answered questions.

Information on other state's boards of education was requested at yesterday's meeting. This information on the method of election, number of members, etc. was distributed today for the Committee's reference. ([Attachment 1](#))

SB190--State Board of Education; nonpartisan election

Senator Oleen stated that she introduced **SB190** to create dialog among Committee members and to bring more visibility to the various components and various methods of election to the state boards of education in other states. There were no questions.

Mark Tallman, KASB spoke as a proponent of **SB190**. KASB believes there should be an odd number of

CONTINUATION SHEET

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state board members to prevent tie votes; board members should be selected on a non-partisan basis; and that elections for state board members should be held in conjunction with elections for local board members. KASB members believe that the long tradition of non-partisanship in local school board elections has worked well, and should be extended to members of the state board. (Attachment 2)

SCR 1611–State Board of Education; elected by members of the local boards of education

Senator Lee introduced **SCR 1611** on behalf of letter received from a constituent. He had attended area informational forums on redesigning Kansas schools and has always been interested in education. Senator Lee shared her constituent's letter with the Committee. The local school board is elected by the people and they are subject to the voter's wishes in the individual districts. He believes the local school board members are the most knowledgeable and very interested in what is best for local students. Local level school boards are accountable to the electorate for their decisions. They are well aware of who is on the state board and what they stand for and he believes that the local school boards should elect the State Board of Education. Several comments were made by Committee members.

Chairman Umbarger invited Committee members to let him know if they wished to have further discussion on bills. Interest was expressed in electing an odd number to the State Board of Education.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123-S.