

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

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

All members were present except: A quorum was present.

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
 Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
 Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
 Linda Taylor, 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 Gjerstaad, 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 explained each of the ten points of the program, then stood for questions.

Senator Lawrence asked Representative O'Connor if she planned 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, she would be happy to introduce all or any part of her ten-point plan as legislation if there is enough interest. She believes that the bills would have a better chance of being heard if they were introduced as committee bills.

In discussing the point on Charter Schools, Senator Lawrence stated that some charters went unfilled for three years because people weren't aware of the availability of federal funds.

After a discussion on legislation that might be introduced, Chairman Tanner responded with the information that there will be legislation introduced on teacher preparation and teaching as a second career. Alternative teacher certification was discussed; the point was made that in the future, this means of filling educational needs may be used more often due to the lack of teachers in certain fields of expertise.

Deputy Education Commissioner Dale Dennis stated that most people who choose teaching as a second career obtain their teacher certification in three years. Usually a person seeking certification will attend college in the spring and fall, with additional hours needed picked up in the summer.

Another aspect of Representative O'Connor's plan that was discussed was lowering the mandatory school attendance age. Comments were made both for and against. Representative O'Connor stated that while she sympathized with children who have a troubled student life, she also sympathizes with those who must be in the class with those children.

After several additional comments, the meeting was adjourned.

