

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 A.M. on February 6, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Benjamin Hodge- absent
Representative Ted Powers- excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Wichita Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SuperSAC)
Representative Bill Otto
Bill Reardon, USD 500, Kansas City, KS
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools
Mark Desetti, KNEA (Written only)
Scott Sills, Superintendent, USD 286, Sedan, KS
Richard Spencer, Superintendent, USD 217, Rolla, KS
Dennis Burk, Superintendent, USD 508, Baxter Springs, KS
Dr. Brian Smith, Superintendent, USD #499, Galena, KS
Jim Edwards, KS Association of School Boards
Mike Nulton, Superintendent, USD #242, Weskan, KS (Written testimony)
Robert Loftin, Board Member, USD 242, Weskan, KS (Written testimony)
Representative Doug Gatewood

The Chairman recognized Diane Gjerstad who in turn introduced Wichita area students participating on the Wichita Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SuperSAC). The SuperSAC students provide the administration and Board of Education feedback on a wide range of issues, including upcoming issues on the Board's agenda along with topics being debated in the statehouse. SuperSAC is comprised of two students from each of Wichita seven comprehensive high schools and one from each alternative high school and Northeast Magnet.

HB 2063 - School districts; transportation of pupil residing one mile or more from school.

Representative Otto addressed the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2063**. (Attachment #1)

Bill Reardon, a proponent, stated that in a district such as Kansas City, transporting children who live closer than 2.5 miles to their school is not a luxury. Serious safety concerns make these services a necessity. (Attachment #2)

Diane Gjerstad, a proponent, told Committee members that transportation was a basic issue of safety for parents in determining how their child will get to and from school safely each day. Lowering the mileage threshold would benefit families. (Attachment #3)

Mark Desetti presented written testimony to the Committee regarding **HB 2063**. (Attachment #4)

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2063**.

HB 2092 - School districts; pupils who are nonresidents of the state.

Representative Otto addressed the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2092**. (Attachment #5)

Speaking as opponents to **HB 2092** were the following: Scott Sills (Attachment #6); Richard Spencer

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MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 6, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

(Attachment #7); Dennis Burke (Attachment #8); Jim Edwards (Attachment #9); and Dr. Brian Smith (Attachment #10).

Written testimony opposing **HB 2092** was received from Mike Nulton (Attachment #11) and Robert Loftin (Attachment #12).

Representative Gatewood also spoke in opposition to **HB 2092**. (No written testimony provided)

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2092**.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2007 at 9:00 AM.