

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:35 p.m. on January 30, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley and Schodorf (excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education  
Bruce Wyatt, Member Kansas Board of Education  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statues  
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association

Others attending: See attached list

### **Bill Introductions**

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of the State Board of Education introduced four bills; the first concerning the due process hearing; the second concerning due process, regarding schools of the blind and deaf; the third, regarding the procedures for adoption of rules and regulations; the fourth, regarding the bidding requirements on all food and food stuffs served by school districts. A motion to introduce the four bills was made by Senator Teichman, seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

### **No Child Left Behind**

Bruce Wyatt, member of Kansas Board of Education presented the Committee with his views on the No Child Left Behind Act which will have a substantial impact on education with substantial challenges. The target is to raise the expectations of performance of all school children. All students are to be proficient by the year 2014, which will require a 5% improvement each year which will be measured in math and reading. This will be accomplished through quality teachers, coupled with the time to provide the teaching instruction these children need. The board believes that Kansas must develop a multi-year plan that targets the attraction and retention of quality teachers, combined with professional development programs. (Attachment 1) Discussion followed Mr. Wyatt's presentation.

### **SB57--School districts; powers of local control**

Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes, gave the Committee a brief description of the intent of **SB57**. The

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bill would allow the board to transact all school district business and adopt policies that the board deems appropriate to perform its constitutional duty to maintain, develop and operate local public schools. The bill would not relieve any other unit of government of its duties and responsibilities which are prescribed by law.

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards spoke as a proponent to **SB57**. This bill represents one of the associations highest priorities. The bill would provide schools with more flexibility in their operations and reduce the need for the Legislature to consider bills to authorize school boards to take common sense actions on a local level every year. (Attachment 2)

Craig Grant, Kansas National Education Association, testified as an opponent to **SB57**. The concern of KNEA is that the law could be interpreted to adopt a policy of signing bonuses or institute a merit pay plan for educators without talking to the teachers. KNEA is willing to sit down and work out language that would clarify the intent of **SB57**. (Attachment 3)

In discussion, it was decided that language could be included to clarify the intent of **SB57** and clearly state that the bill does not give any authority to adopt a policy of signing bonuses or merit pay plans for teachers or authority on any personnel matters. It was decided that Senator Vratil and Senator Umbarger would meet with members of KNEA and KASB to work out language to satisfy and clarify the intent of **SB57**.

Written testimony in favor of **SB57** was submitted by the following:

Jacque Oakes, Schools for Quality Education (Attachment 4)

Gary George, Assistant Superintendent, Olathe School District USD 233 (Attachment 5)

Ashley Sherard, Vice President, Lenexa Chamber of Commerce (Attachment 6)

Senator Emler made a motion to approve the minutes of January 27, 2003. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2003 at 1:30 in Room 123S.