

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:      Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
   Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
   Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department  
   Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:              See Attached List

Chairman Umbarger introduced Martha Gage, Director of Certification in Teacher Education for the Kansas State Department of Education. She is a member of the Mentoring Committee and they have been working on developing a mentoring program following the legislation which was passed last year. The committee now has temporary regulations which have been drawn up and adopted by the state board. The committee developed an implementation handbook with guidelines and strategies that both large and small districts can use. This is a voluntary program, however, they hope that school districts will implement the program and work with their beginning teachers. A list of the members of the Mentoring Committee is attached. (Attachment 1)

Jerrie Brooks, chairperson of the committee, stated the committee first had to come to a consensus on some kind of philosophy behind mentoring. The visual, "New Teacher Induction" (Attachment 2) describes the support they felt was needed in mentoring. The strong consensus of the committee is that new teachers stay in the profession. Mentoring is a key piece to training and retaining teachers, but the teachers also need support professionally and administratively. They used a study, "An Investigation of Support for Beginning Teachers in Kansas" by Dr. Dana S. Selzer, (Attachment 3) to help develop the mentoring program guidelines. All pages of the report are not provided, only the ones pertinent to the study. After a lot of thought and consideration, the committee recommends the standards and criteria in the attached, "Mentoring Program Standards and Criteria" (Attachment 4)

Walter Carter and Dr. Sandra Chapman, Blue Valley School District, talked about the mentoring program which they now have in their district. They have six days of pre-contract work to learn the curriculum and classroom management. Mentors are assigned on site. They have three master teachers that have been released from classroom duties full time. Their sole responsibility is observing the classrooms of beginning teachers. New teachers have said their primary need is for instructional support. They have a partnership with the University of Kansas for the teachers to get their first nine hours of their master's degree.

For the second part of the meeting, Senator Schodorf introduced Colonel Robert Hester, who works for the Wichita Public School System. He has been instrumental in developing the JROTC program in Wichita. The history of this program is described in the attachment, "Wichita JROTC Leadership Corps" (Attachment 5). Four members of the JROTC, John Griner, Chris Dunugan, Matt Wellemeyer and Mike Erwin, talked about their experience with the program. Colonel Hester surprised Senator Jean Schodorf making her an honorary member of JROTC for thanked her for her support of the program.

Senator Jenkins moved to introduce bill 1rs0388, An act making and concerning appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for the department of education; authorizing certain transfers and imposing certain restrictions and limitations, and directing or authorizing certain receipts and disbursements and acts incidental to the foregoing. The Motion was seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion passed.

CONTINUATION SHEET

January 25, 2001

Senator Vratil moved to introduce bill 1rs0534, An Act establishing the Kansas council on school district finance and quality performance; imposing duties on the council. The Motion was seconded by Senator Jenkins. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Umbarger. The next meeting is scheduled on January 25, 2001.