

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:32 p.m. on March 10, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator David Corbin (excused)

Senator Janis Lee (excused)

Committee staff present:

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Judy Steinlicht, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Walt Chappell, Educational Management Consultants

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards

Dr. Kent Hurn, United School Administrators

Others attending:

See Attached List

### **Overview School Finance Formula**

Dr. Walt Chappell, Educational Management Consultants, presented a Model for Funding Quality-Equal Education in Kansas. Dr. Chappell said this model has been in development for about 30 years and was started in California. His focus is on kids to make sure there is enough funding to have their needs met. He believes that first we need to determine what we want each child to learn, what the current achievement level is in each school building, what resources are needed to get to that achievement level and then what the financial costs would be to provide the necessary resources to assure a suitable education for each child. Dr. Chappell believes **SB512** is an excellent bill. He believes that we must build a budget from the building up and build the budget on the actual cost to teach students who attend each school. When the total budget for each school to achieve state standards is determined, the total costs can be determined for each school district and those combined can determine the cost for the entire state. ([Attachment 1](#))

Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, expressed the concerns of KASB on measures that would require individual school building budgets. Two of three proposals would expand the currently required budgets that have already been criticized for being perplexing for patrons and board members. Last year legislation was passed to streamline budgets into clear, concise and accurate documents. The Legislative Post Audit and the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) recommended not pursuing building level budgets. Attachments are a comparison of the different proposals; excerpt from post audit report; excerpt from LEPC Task Force; consultant's reply to the interim Building-Based Budget Workgroup request; revised QPA detailing accreditation criteria for quality and performance; letter from Olathe school district on projected cost of implementing building-based budgets; and a copy of Budget-at-a-Glance. ([Attachment 2](#))

Dr. Kent Hurn, United School Administrators, provided a copy of Seaman USD 345's pilot project building-based budget. Dr. Hurn explained the findings of Mr. Rob Balsters, Deputy Superintendent of Business at Seaman USD 345. Dr. Hurn read the comments in the letter from Mr. Balsters that said when the building-based budget is looked at closely, the summary information shows that the differences in expenditures per student are directly related to the salaries paid at each building. The salaries of teachers are determined by level of experience, while the salaries of other employees are determined by initial experience and length of time on the job. Mr. Balsters letter also stated that given the cost of implementing this system, he could not recommend that it be considered as a cost-saving measure for school districts. It gives interesting information, but does not give any useful way of reducing costs, other than hiring less experienced and/or less educated teachers and staff. Mr. Balsters advised that he believed it would take \$40,000 to reprogram their computers for the building-based budget and that it would take someone 3 hours a day to maintain the system. This pilot project took a total of 240 hours to complete.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:32 p.m. on March 10, 2004 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

(Attachment 3)

**SB 512--School districts; building-based budgeting**

Senator Bunten advised the committee that he was not happy that the information completed on the building-based budgets by Mr. Balsters from Seaman was shared with the Senate Education Committee prior to being shared with his working group. KASB has been opposed to building-based budgets and Senator Bunten advised that he was denied a copy of the minutes when the building-based budgets were discussed. KASB told him they were not open to the public.

Chairman Umbarger stated that it was his intent that the committee be fully informed prior to voting on **SB512**. Chairman Umbarger yielded to Senator Bunten if he wished to make that motion. Senator Bunten declined as two members of the committee were not present. He believes there is interest in the bill and wants the bill brought out of the committee and debated on the floor.

In discussion, a committee member stated that she did not believe that the bill was a bad idea, but that it was a work in progress and believes that this is not the time. She believes that next year the school finance formula will have to be rewritten. She would like to see a pilot program sanctioned by the legislature and set up with the cooperation of the State Board of Education with a volunteer school district to participate. Secondly, she likes the idea of separate budgets, but in her school district, the budget change would take 1500 more pages and this is a time when schools are trying to cut costs.

Chairman Umbarger again yielded to Senator Bunten to make a motion if he so desired. Senator Bunten requested that the vote not be taken until next week when the full committee is present.

Senator Oleen requested that **HB2795** be brought back to the committee as there is another measure, similarly related, that she would like to put in the bill. Senator Oleen made a motion to reconsider the committee action and bring **HB2795** back to the committee. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 15th.