

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 A.M. on March 7, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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:

Representative Arlen Siegfried  
Dr. Robert Milie, Superintendent, Kansas School for the Deaf  
William Daugherty, Superintendent, Kansas School for the Blind  
Mark Desetti, KNEA  
Diane Lindeman, Director of Student Financial Assistance, Kansas Board of Regents  
Doug Penner, President, Kansas Independent College Association & Fund (written only)

**HB 2422: Kansas state schools for the blind and the deaf, rates of compensation for teachers.**

Representative Siegfried told Committee members the schools must maintain the educational standards of public schools but their employees are paid at the state agency rate and further expressed support of **HB 2422**.

(Attachment #1)

Dr. Maile and William Daugherty both testified before the Committee by stating that **HB 2422** would provide consistent pay equity for teachers at the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind in relation to local public school districts, a status which has depended in past years on one-time supplemental appropriations and the uncertain relationship between state employee pay increments and the pay raises provided by local school districts. (Attachment #2)

Mark Desetti spoke to the Committee in support of **HB 2422**'s intent which is to make teacher salaries at the Kansas School for the Deaf and Kansas School for the Blind competitive. (Attachment #3)

After a question and answer discussion, the Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2422**.

**SB 23: Teacher service scholarship program.**

Diane Lindeman spoke in support of **SB 23** which consolidates and streamlines the Board's existing teacher scholarship program. (Attachment #4)

Written testimony was received from Doug Penner in support of **SB 23**. (Attachment #5)

After a brief question and answer discussion, the Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 23**.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8, 2007.