

MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 5, 2007
Room 123-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Senator Jean Kurtis Schodorf, Chairperson
Representative Clay Aurand, Vice-Chairperson
Senator Marci Francisco
Senator Roger Pine
Senator Ruth Teichman
Senator John Vratil
Representative Deena Horst
Representative Steve Huebert
Representative Eber Phelps
Representative JoAnn Pottorff
Representative Valdenia Winn

Members Absent

Senator Mark Taddiken
Representative Barbara Ballard

Staff Present

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dianne Rosell, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Others Present

Dr. Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Senator Karin Brownlee
Ken Darting, Highland Park High School
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Gary Musselman, Executive Director, Kansas State High School Activities Association
Phil Andrews, Charter School Solutions
Todd Ziebarth, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
Dr. Bill Craig, Chairperson, Kansas Autism Task Force
Mike Reecht, K-12, Inc.
John Dougherty, Emporia State University
Rita Cook, Smoky Hill Education Service Center
Dodie Wellshear, United School Administrators/Kansas
Terry Forsyth, Kansas National Education Association
Jennie Rose, Kansas Children's Service League
Jacquelyn Koehler, Kansas, Inc.
Gary Penn, USD 497
June Lloyd, USD 497
Val DeFever, Schools for Quality Education
Senator Vicki Schmidt
Scott Rothschild, Lawrence Journal World
Ron Seeber, Hein Law Firm
Michelle Schroeder, Damron Government Relations
Richard Samaniego, Kearney and Associates
Bill Brady, Schools for Fair Funding
Carol Busch, Kansas School for the Deaf
Robert Maile, Kansas School for the Deaf
Margo Quiriconi, Kauffman FDN
Nan Perrin, Community Living Opportunities
Louise Heinz, Lawrence Autism Society
Linda Kenney, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Jim Leiker, Capper Foundation Easter Seals
Doug Bowman, CCECDS

Morning Session

The meeting of the Legislative Educational Planning Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Schodorf.

Dr. Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, spoke to Committee members with an update of Board of Regents' activities as well as a preliminary look at the Board's legislative initiatives for the 2008 Legislative Session.

Dr. Robinson told Committee members that all eleven members of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority, authorized during the 2007 Legislative Session, have been appointed and have met on several occasions.

Board of Regents' Legislative Initiatives

Adult Education

Dr. Robinson told Committee members the Board received a \$500,000 grant from the United States Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education to fund the "Ready for College: Adult Education Transitions Program." This is an adult education program that focuses on helping adult learners transition to postsecondary education programs. During the two-year grant period, the Board's Adult Education Division will initiate Project Next Step which will be implemented at seven community colleges across Kansas.

Dr. Robinson stated the \$500,000 grant is the first competitive federal grant for which the Board's Adult Education division has ever applied. A total of 46 applications were received by the United States Department of Education and the Board was one of only four applicants awarded funding.

Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Dr. Robinson told Committee members that legislation enacted during the 2006 Legislative Session provided for the establishment and operation of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS). As stipulated by statute, key features of KAMS include the following:

- Enrollment limited to high school juniors and seniors who are academically talented in science and mathematics;
- Enrollment in a two-year program of study culminating in both a high school diploma and college credits equivalent to an associate of arts or associate of science degree; and
- Selection of students based in part upon Congressional districts.

Even though state funds were not provided for KAMS in 2006, the Board felt that it was imperative to move forward with plans for the Academy. A steering committee was established in the fall of 2006, in part to assist in the design of a Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a location for the Academy. As it developed the RFP, the steering committee studied existing academies in other states and also identified legislative changes that would enhance the success of KAMS.

Dr. Robinson stated the 2007 Legislature allocated \$100,000 for development of KAMS and these funds will be awarded to the selected institution to finalize its plans for the Academy. In the FY 2009 budget request, the Board has included a "placeholder" for KAMS funding. Based upon the proposals received from institutions next month, the Board will then have a budget estimate of multi-year funding that will be needed to implement this initiative. If funding is approved by the 2008 Legislature, and because it will take some time for personnel to be hired and students to be recruited, KAMS should be open by the Fall 2010 academic semester.

Teacher Scholarships

Dr. Robinson stated a new Kansas Teacher Service Scholarship Program was enacted during the 2007 Legislative Session to streamline four existing teacher scholarships into one comprehensive

teacher scholarship program. This merit-based, service obligation scholarship program provides financial assistance of up to \$2,500 per semester to students and currently licensed teachers pursuing bachelor's or master's degree programs. Students must be pursuing endorsement, licensure, or master's degrees in hard-to-fill disciplines (special education, mathematics, science, music, foreign language, and English as a second language), or planning to teach in an identified underserved geographic area of the state of Kansas (USD 501 - Topeka, USD 500 - Kansas City, USD 259 - Wichita, and State Board of Education District #5 - the western two-thirds of Kansas). Students may be enrolled either full-time or part-time and funding is determined proportionally depending upon enrollment status.

With the inception of the new program, a total of \$1.4 million was available to award in scholarship assistance. The Board received 815 applications for Academic Year 2007 - 08 and was able to award 463 students. The changes in the scholarship program that allowed for part-time enrollment and eligibility of current teachers seeking endorsement in hard-to-fill disciplines greatly increased the number of applicants.

Dr. Robinson stated the Board is very hopeful the revisions in this scholarship program will help address the state's critical teacher shortage, specifically in hard-to-fill disciplines and underserved geographic areas of Kansas and further stated the Legislature should be applauded for enhancing this important program.

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request

Dr. Robinson told Committee members the Board is presenting a two-pronged request for increased funding on the program side. One part of the request seeks to keep pace with high education inflation (HEPT) and the second part asks for an increased investment.

Continued Deferred Maintenance Progress

Dr. Robinson stated that the state's six universities have now initiated work on 50 vitally important building maintenance projects on campuses across the state.

- **Local Option Sales Tax to Reduce Property Taxes**

Proposal: Enabling legislation that would provide community college boards of trustees with the option to offset local property taxes, which are levied in 18 counties and support the annual operating costs of 19 community colleges with a local sales tax.

- **Special Needs Students - Identifying, Accommodating, and Funding**

Proposal: Institutions have noted that providing required accommodations to special needs students have resulted in increased and often unexpected costs.

- **Adjustment of the Partnership for Faculty of Distinction Program Cap**

Proposal: Amend the current law authorizing the Partnership for Faculty of Distinction Program to raise the current cap on the state income earnings equivalent awards from \$5.0 million to \$10.0 million.

- **Crumbling Classroom SGF Payments and Deferred Maintenance Bonding Amendments**

Proposal: Introduce legislation that would transfer approximately \$60.0 million from the State General Fund in FY 2008 to make debt service payments on the Regents Crumbling Classroom bonds, thus freeing up the Educational Building Fund to be used for rehabilitation and repair projects and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog at the state universities. In addition, amend the State Educational Institution Long-Term Infrastructure Maintenance Program to make several amendments to the \$100.0 million no-interest bonding authority provision.

- **Implementation of the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science**

Proposal: Amendments to the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS) statute and the Compulsory School Attendance statute.

- **Benefits Enhancement for University Support Staff and Classified Staff**

Proposal: During the 2005 and 2006 Legislative Sessions, provisions that grant state universities more autonomy over their classified staff were passed. One provision allows a state university to convert classified staff to University Support Staff (USS), thereby moving them out of the State's civil service system and providing flexibility in job classifications, salary levels, and raises. Another provision allows universities to enhance annual leave amounts for classified staff up to the levels of unclassified staff pursuant to Board policies. When read together, these two provisions would preclude USS from receiving leave enhancements that are approved for classified employees (Attachments 1 and 2).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Issues Regarding the Kansas State High School Activities Association

Senator Karin Brownlee spoke to Committee members on key points to be considered for possible areas of change.

- More contact between coaches and student athletes during off season;
- Allow for more additional conditioning/practice time in swimming;
- Number of games per sport, such as basketball and soccer;
- Proper reimbursement of schools hosting substate events (and others);
- Governance structure; and
- 500 mile rule which prevents sports teams from competing or traveling more than 500 miles from the Kansas border.

Senator Brownlee also presented written testimony from parents and coaches in support of these changes (Attachments 3 through 8).

Ken Darting, Highland Park High School, spoke to Committee members on some of the concerns regarding the rules and restrictions from the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA).

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), told Committee members that KASB understands the need for an organization like the KSHSAA to set rules and regulations for interscholastic competition and making these decisions is never going to satisfy everyone. Mr. Tallman also stated the KASB Delegate Assembly adopted a position a number of years ago which advocated the governance structure of KSHSAA being changed so a majority of its governing board is composed of local school board members. This change would require action by the Legislature because the governance structure of KSHSAA is set in statute.

The KASB Delegate Assembly also became concerned the policies of KSHSAA can be an impediment to voluntary local efforts for school district consolidation and cooperation. An example was policies that limited participation of consolidated high schools in football playoffs. After considerable discussion, the KSHSAA board changed the rule.

Mr. Tallman stated the KASB staff is involved in most school district consolidation efforts and advises districts in many other initiatives. Currently, rules limit participation on joint teams to two schools. As a result, in Kiowa County, where there are three districts that could consider consolidation, KSHSAA rules allow only two of those schools to form joint teams (Attachment 9).

Gary Musselman, Executive Director, Kansas State High School Activities Association, spoke to Committee members and gave an overview of the Kansas State High School Activities Association organization (*KSHSAA Handbook 2007 - 2008 Edition* - on file Kansas State High School Activities Association) (*Kansas State High School Activities Journal, May 2007, Volume 69, Number 10* - on file Kansas State High School Activities Association) (Attachments 10 through 22).

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

**Presentation of Performance Audit Entitled: *K-12 Education:
Determining the Reasons for Variations in Virtual School Costs***

Scott Frank, Manager, School Audits, Legislative Division of Post Audit, told Committee members that a number of risks and potential problems had been identified in association with virtual schools in Kansas. Those issues included weak oversight by the Department of Education, opportunities for school districts to manipulate funding and assessment results; and an actual case of a district "giving" virtual students to neighboring districts to help them get additional State funding.

Brenda Heafey, Auditor, Legislative Division of Post Audit, summarized the virtual school issues identified in the LCC topic and relevant LPA audit findings. Ms. Heafey stated the overall conclusion from the audit was that:

- Virtual schools are growing rapidly;
- There are some inherent risks to both the quality of education and the integrity of school finance when students do not have to be physically present;

- Virtual schools have not received a lot of attention from the Department of Education or the Legislature; and
- Stringent measures are needed to address the inherent risks and minimize the opportunity for abuse.

(School District Performance Audit Report: *K-12 Education: Reviewing Issues Related to Virtual Schools* on file - Legislative Division of Post Audit) (School District Performance Audit Report: *K-12 Education: Determining the Reasons for Variations in Virtual School Costs* on file - Legislative Division of Post Audit) ([Attachment 23](#)).

Gary Lewis, Principal, Lawrence Virtual School, spoke to Committee members regarding the academic focus on programs of the virtual school.

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Afternoon Session

Charter Schools

Phil Andrews, Charter School Solutions, and Todd Ziebarth, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, spoke to Committee members on the three priority issues for Kansas charter schools, making the following points:

- Operating Funding:
 - Funding for charter schools is not addressed at all in the Kansas Charter Schools Act;
 - Each charter school is left to negotiate operating funding with the local school district; and
 - Many charter schools end up using federal implementation grant funds that are intended to cover start up costs.
- Operating Flexibility:
 - Charter schools in Kansas cannot waive any provisions of the Kansas education code - only State Board rules and regulations and local school district policies;
 - These limited waivers only are considered at the discretion of the local school system and the State Board of Education;
 - Examples of what a charter school might want to waive:

- School year requirements; non-certified personnel only for non-instructional activities;
 - Only the local board of education can terminate the contract of a teacher in a Kansas public school (including charter schools); and
 - Collective bargaining.
- Charter School Authorization:
 - Local school districts are the only entity that can authorize charter schools in Kansas (with final approval by the State Board of Education);
 - Local school districts often lack the capacity to authorize and oversee independent charter schools;
 - Local school district staff often struggle with applying different sets of rules to different schools in their district;
 - An alternate authorizer can focus exclusively or primarily on authorizing and overseeing charter schools; and
 - A statewide authorizer could approve charter schools to serve multiple districts providing choices for more areas of Kansas (Attachment 24).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Review of Reports

Kansas Autism Task Force

Dr. Bill Craig, Chairperson, Kansas Autism Task Force, told Committee members the Kansas Autism Task Force discussed the charge given it in SB 138 and divided the nine areas of work into issue areas, then divided those areas amongst five subcommittees. The Progress Report results are as follows:

Best Practices for Evidence-Based Intervention for Individuals with Autism

This subcommittee developed a set of standard criteria for evaluating the research and subsequent analyses conducted on various interventions, practices, and models for intervention delivery across disciplines and age groups. The ultimate goal will be the development of a handbook including:

- A list of evidence-based interventions found to fit the definition of “best practice” (strongest, moderate, emerging, minimal, or no evidence), for this population; and

- Recommendations for the use of these practices by physicians, clinicians, parents, educators, child-care providers, and any other persons or groups attempting to determine the interventions with the greatest chances for success.

Recommendations

Final recommendations will be developed over the coming year, based on the findings of literature reviews. However, a preliminary set of recommendations will include:

- Identification of funding streams necessary to provide adequate training for professionals charged with the implementation of the best practices recommendations;
- Identification of barriers to the implementation of best practices across the state and ways to remove the barriers;
- The establishment of a statewide system for appropriate use of data-based assessments for determining the effectiveness of interventions and means/methods for modifying ineffective interventions; and
- The establishment of guidelines regarding the use of evidence based interventions including a comprehensive list of components necessary for best practice to be implemented with individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The Task Force intends to provide comprehensive recommendations to service providers (public schools, infant toddler programs, community service providers, and other similar programs) that result in implementation of evidence-based services for individuals with autism in Kansas.

Adequacy of Qualified Professional and Paraprofessional Staff

This subcommittee acknowledged the urgent need for more staff across the State as well as autism-specific training to improve the knowledge of current staff in evidence-based interventions.

Recommendations

- Provide scholarships for applied behavioral analysis providers to service children with autism in rural areas. The Task Force recommends approval of HB 2327, introduced last session, to insure providers for the new Medicaid waiver if families choose this service in an attempt to better equip the state for the Kansas Positive Behavior Support Project;
- Develop a bill providing scholarships for other allied health providers to service rural area children with autism;
- Through existing sources, conduct surveys to determine the areas of need for professionals and paraprofessionals (including certified providers) across the state;

- Once areas of need are identified, develop bonus or incentive programs to encourage certified providers to work in these areas.
- Develop a certification system in autism that involves course work in assessment and treatment as well as practicum experiences for teachers. (These teachers would then be eligible for bonuses.)
- Include continuing education related to certification in various conferences across the state, making updating of skills readily accessible; and
- Provide additional training for paraprofessionals who are involved with children with autism and make this training available to schools. (Paraprofessionals currently are required to go through training. Also provide this training in community colleges to provide a career ladder for paraprofessionals. Paraprofessionals who seek this extra training should be eligible for bonuses.)

Determining the Adequacy of Funding and Other Resources Across the State

Special Education funding in public schools is seen as a vital component of the network which can support autism services. The funding streams of categorical aid and catastrophic funding will play an increasingly important role in providing for the educational needs of this growing population. The recent proposal (by the 2010 Commission) to dramatically increase the threshold (by 44 percent) for catastrophic aid eligibility is a direct threat to the ability of schools to support high-cost students. The Autism Task Force strongly recommends further study of this proposal prior to action on it or implementation.

The Autism Task Force supports the expansion of funding for the Autism Waiver in fiscal year 2009 to an amount that would allow 100 children to be served.

The Autism Task Force also supports additional funding for the Infant-Toddler (tiny-k) Program because it is the statewide network that is identifying children at risk for autism at a very early age.

Insurance Issues

The Autism Task Force is considering a proposal of a state health insurance mandate specific for autism spectrum disorders that would include coverage for intensive behavioral treatments such as applied behavior analysis (ABA). Evidence supporting these interventions, previously considered “experimental,” has reached a threshold where they are now considered best practice or standard of care.

Arguments against autism specific health insurance legislation include the concern that such a mandate would unduly raise health insurance premiums. This argument also was made prior to statewide implementation of the Kansas Mental Health Parity Act in 2002. However, a 2004 report provided by the Kansas Department of Insurance concluded the Kansas Mental Health Parity Act had “no meaningful impact” on overall health care costs.

The cost to the state of not providing early and appropriate intervention for an individual with autism has been estimated to be \$4.3 million over the lifetime of the individual. Autism specific health insurance legislation is a fiscally responsible consideration.

Additional adverse effects of inadequate health insurance coverage for autism related services in Kansas include its effect on the available pool of qualified service providers. Many service providers, including members of the Kansas Autism Task Force, have reported they have cut back on the number of children with autism that they serve due to difficulties with reimbursement from health insurance. Kansas is not likely to attract new graduates for the same reason. These professionals are more likely to relocate to states where they can be appropriately compensated for their expertise (Attachment 25).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

2010 Commission Report to the 2008 Legislature

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department, reported to Committee members the conclusions and recommendations of the 2010 Commission. Two areas that appear to be of utmost importance to Kansas regarding public education are:

- Teacher Shortages, Retention, and Recruitment Issues; and
- Early Childhood Development.

Teacher Shortages, Retention, and Recruitment Recommendation Package

- Increase the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) \$100 in SFY 2009 to \$4,474 per pupil which would add nearly \$26.0 million to the 2008-09 budgets of school districts.

The 2010 Commission further recommends that this funding focus on increasing teacher salaries so that Kansas can become more competitive with surrounding states and states currently employing Kansas teachers.

Research both in Kansas and across the country recognizes the importance of mentoring and professional development programs in retaining both new and veteran teachers. The following recommendations would assist in this effort:

- Add \$2.250 million to the Professional Development Program.

The law enacting this program provides 50 percent reimbursement to districts for actual professional development expenditures.

- Add \$500,000 to the Mentor Teacher Program.

These additional funds would fund the second year of mentoring for 500 new teachers.

- Fund leadership academies for principals and other administrators for \$500,000.
- Provide \$2.5 million to create a Teacher Retention Incentive Program.

These funds would be used to encourage math, science, and special education teachers who are eligible to retire to remain in teaching by matching local school

district funds up to \$2,500 per teacher placed into a savings plan for the teacher, outside of the current Kansas Public Employees Retirement Plan.

Early Childhood Recommendation Package

- The 2010 Commission recommended retaining current Department of Education early childhood programs in the Department and shifting the Infant-Toddler special education program (tiny-k) from the Department of Health and Environment to the Department of Education. In addition, the recommendation includes shifting the Early Head Start Program from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the Department of Education and the Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program in the Children's Cabinet to the Department of Education.
- The 2010 Commission recommended that the Children's Cabinet move forward over the next year leading the Early Learning Coordinating Council (ELCC) in improving coordination and expanding services in early childhood programs not included in the Department of Education. The Commission expressed the desire that these programs "cover all corners of the state."
- Provide \$15.0 million in SFY 2009 to fund all-day kindergarten.

In its 2007 report, the 2010 Commission acknowledged the importance of early education and recommended that all-day kindergarten be expanded to include all Kansas children eligible to attend. In light of this, the 2010 Commission recommends the Legislature fund \$15.0 million in SFY 2009 to begin funding this effort. In order to fully fund all-day kindergarten across the state, \$15.0 million would be needed every year for five years.

Other Recommendations

- As part of its statutory responsibility, the 2010 Commission reviewed the various weightings in the School Finance Act. Because of this, the Commission recommends that the second level of funding for at-risk students, the high-density formula, be based on the prior year's data and be determined using a linear transition calculation.
- The 2010 Commission recommends that the base amount of the Special Education Catastrophic State Aid Program for school year 2008-2009 be increased from \$25,000 per student to \$36,000 and in years thereafter the base be increased by an amount equal to the percentage increase of the CPI (urban). Students meeting the qualifications of an exceptional child and for whom the district provided special education services, the state would reimburse the district 75 percent of the cost above \$26,000 per student.
- In addition, the Commission recommends that the bilingual weighting in the school finance formula be changed from a full-time equivalent weighting with contact hours to headcount and adjusted to 0.2 from the present 0.395 ([Attachment 26](#)).

Kansas Technical College and Technical School Commission Report

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department, reported to Committee members the conclusions and recommendations of the Technical College and Technical School Commission (Attachment 27):

- The Commission applauds the work of the Authority since its July 1, 2007 inception date, and supports its commitment to technical education.
- The Commission recommends the Authority standardize the curriculum within each technical program with significant input from employers.
- The Commission recommends the Authority develop competency certification for all technical education completers with significant input from employers.
- The Commission recommends the Authority develop programs to assist technical education completers in maintaining current skills in their technical field, acknowledging the rapidly changing technology in today's world.
- The Commission recommends the appropriation of funds to the five technical schools to assist them as they merge with other institutions, affiliate with other institutions, or pursue independent status as a degree granting institution.
- The Commission recommends the appropriations of funds for direct marketing programs for technical education which concentrate on the needs and interests of the students.
- The Commission recommends the Legislature continue, if not increase, funding for the technology and equipment matching grant program.
- The Commission recommends additional funding for the Authority in FY 2009, noting the initial funding estimates for the Authority were based on expenditures for only a partial fiscal year.

Legislative Educational Planning Committee Recommendations

Chairperson Schodorf inquired of Committee members regarding their desire to recommend legislation.

Mandatory Attendance

Committee members were advised there is currently a bill from last session regarding this issue.

Senator Teichman moved to recommend the two changes which included that in order to be eligible to attend kindergarten in school year 2008 - 2009, a child must be five years of age on or before August 31 of the school year; and in order to be eligible to attend kindergarten in a school year commencing after school year 2008 - 2009, a child must be five years of age on or before July 31 of the school year, and the religious exemption. The motion was seconded by Representative Pottorff. The motion carried.

The Committee recommended this bill start in the Senate.

Military Scholarship Program

Chairperson Schodorf told Committee members a bill draft for military scholarship was requested and advised this issue had started in the House.

Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes, gave an overview of the proposed bill concerning the establishment of the military service scholarship program (Attachment 28).

After a discussion by Committee members, *Representative Huebert moved to recommend this bill. The motion was seconded by Senator Pine. The motion carried.*

The Committee recommended this bill start in the House.

Early Childhood Programming

After a discussion by Committee members, it was agreed this topic should start in the Senate.

Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department, gave an overview of the proposed Sound START program to Committee members (Attachments 29 and 30).

After a discussion by Committee members, it was agreed, by consensus, that the intent of the program is good but needs to be refined as presented. The Committee agreed the program should be coordinated with the tiny-k network.

Disasters and Schools

An overview of the proposed bill was given to Committee members by Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes (Attachment 31).

After a discussion by Committee members, *Senator Pine moved to leave in the wording “to apply to the second, third, and fourth school years following the disaster” with a review to follow. The motion was seconded by Senator Teichman. The motion carried.*

The Committee recommended the bill be referred to the Disaster Relief and Recovery Special Committee.

Obesity

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave a handout of HB 2090 with the ‘balloon’ as requested by Representative Pat Colloton (Attachment 32).

After a discussion by Committee members, it was recognized this is an increasing problem in children and an important issue but the question is what is the State Board of Education doing about this. *Senator Vratil moved to recommend the Committee neither support nor oppose the existing bill. The motion was seconded by Representative Aurand. The motion failed.*

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an overview of a proposed bill concerning school districts, relating to obesity education programs (Attachment 33).

Representative Pottorff moved to recommend the proposed bill relating to grants for obesity education programs in middle schools, subject to appropriations. The motion was seconded by Representative Phelps. The motion carried.

Virtual Schools

After discussion by Committee members, Representative Aurand recommended low enrollment weightings not go to the virtual schools. No further action was taken by the Committee.

Other Issues

It was proposed the Chairperson, working with staff, come up with proposed recommendations on each one of these topics, along with fiscal notes, to present to Committee members in advance of the next meeting.

Proposed topics include:

- Teacher retention;
- Virtual Schools;
- Kansas State High School Activities Association;
- Charter Schools;
- Community College Issues;
- Regents' Institutions; and
- Dyslexia.

Chairperson Schodorf told Committee members there were two areas that could make a difference in dyslexia: a college class about reading problems, including dyslexia, as beginning teachers are not trained to deal with severe reading problems. Also require a professional development in-service/session for identifying those students with severe reading problems. This could be one area that could help teachers and classes of students. Also require that a five-minute screening process be added that would help identify possible reading problems and this would be an early intervention process.

Representative Pottorff moved to recommend the previously described topics be included for legislation. Senator Pine seconded the motion. After discussion by Committee members, Representative Pottorff withdrew the motion and recommended that staff draft legislation to be presented at the next meeting.

The Chairperson asked Committee members if there were any changes or additions to the Committee minutes of October 15-16, 2007. *Senator Teichman moved the minutes be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Representative Huebert. The motion carried.*

The next meeting of the Legislative Educational Planning Committee is scheduled for December 3, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Prepared by Janet Henning
Edited by Sharon Wenger

Approved by Committee on:

December 3, 2007

(Date)