

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Melvin Neufeld- excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education

Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Russell Jennings, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice Authority

Representative Jerry Henry

Dr. Susan Myers, Superintendent, Atchison USD #409

Chairman Aurand asked Committee members if there were any bill introductions. The following were introduced:

Representative Brookens moved to introduce a bill which was related to school finance and supplemental general state aid. The motion was seconded by Representative Phelps. The motion carried.

Representative Crow moved to introduce a bill which was related to the 'Abstinence Education Act'. The motion was seconded by Representative Loganbill. The motion carried.

Chairman Aurand moved to introduce a bill to establish an Early Literacy Protocol for Kansas schools. The motion was seconded by Representative Brookens. The motion carried.

Chairman Aurand moved to introduce a bill request from Representative Schroeder regarding teacher and administrator contracts. The motion was seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.

Chairman Aurand moved to introduce a bill relating to low enrollment weighting and districts with less than 200 pupils. The motion was seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.

Chairman Aurand moved to introduce a bill relating to low enrollment weighting and limitation relating to high and medium density at-risk pupil weightings. The motion was seconded by Representative Crow. The motion carried.

Representative Hill moved to introduce a bill which was related to the national school psychology certification incentive program. The motion was seconded by Representative Brookens. The motion carried.

Representative Loganbill requested the staff prepare a set of curricular standards for kindergarten, third, fifth, and eighth grades so Education Committee members would know exactly what teachers are doing. This would be for reading, math, and science. She also requested that staff prepare a set of curricular standards for librarians as well.

HB 2001 - School districts; number of pupils in USD No. 409, Atchison

Russell Jennings, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA), told Committee members the Juvenile Justice Authority had previously announced the suspension of operations at the Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility as a juvenile correctional facility. A repurposing plan for the facility to become a Youth Residential Center II (YRCII) was issued in late 2008. The new proposal calls for a 56 bed YRCII operation licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and JJA anticipates the repurposed facility to become operational as early as May 1, 2009. During the term of operations of the Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility, JJA contracted with USD 409, Atchison Public Schools, to provide accredited education services. USD 409 will be obligated by law to provide education for the residents of the successor YRCII. JJA has agreed with USD 409 to continue to provide building space on the Atchison campus for student instruction. (Attachment 1)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Education Committee at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

Representative Jerry Henry spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2001** and advised that the Juvenile Justice Authority has released a proposal request to repurpose the Juvenile Justice Authority Facility into a Youth Residential Center II to serve between 55 - 60 youths. The establishment of a Youth Residential Center at this facility would require the Atchison School District #409 to re-open a stand alone school located on the campus.

Representative Henry told Committee members the purpose for the introduction of **HB 2001** is to request that a student enrolled in USD 409 but housed, maintained, and receiving education services at the Youth Residential Center, should be counted as two pupils.

Representative Henry further advised that **HB 2001** also requests that on the pupil count date of September 20, 2009, that the pupil count shall be deemed to be equal to two times the licensed capacity of the Youth Residential Center as certified by the secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. (Attachment 2)

Dr. Susan Myers, Superintendent, Atchison Public Schools, USD 409, spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2001** and advised that USD 409 has provided educational services for youth residing at the Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility for over 35 years.

Dr. Myers advised that in order to provide the necessary educational programs to this facility, USD 409 is requesting funding as provided to the Judge James V. Riddel Boys Ranch in Wichita per K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 72-6407. A student housed, maintained and receiving educational services at the Judge James V. Riddel Boys Ranch is counted as two pupils. The YRCII in Atchison will deliver educational programming in a like manner to the Judge James V. Riddel Boys Ranch.

Dr. Myers also advised they are requesting for the first year of operation, USD 409 would receive funding at the license capacity of 56 resident YRCII students for the September 20, 2009 headcount. (Attachment 3)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Chairman Aurand closed the hearing on **HB 2001**.

The following students were recognized by the Committee for their participation in the Legislative Shadow Day:

For Representative Mah:
Antoinette Cutler, Shawnee Heights
Stephanie Lischke, Shawnee Heights

For Representative Spalding:
Christopher Wartko
Sarah Green

For Representative Gordon:
Annastasia Lipp, French Middle School

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2009.