

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Chris Steineger- excused
Senator Susan Wagle- excused

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Marcus McNeal, Youth Mayor, Mayor's Youth Council, Wichita
Rachel King, Mayor's Youth Council, Wichita
Drew Papadelis, Mayor's Youth Council, Wichita
Carrie Greenwood, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Chris Roberson, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Andrew Crane, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy
Anne-Marie Hughey, SKIL Resource Center
Julia Fonseca, Executive Director, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (written only)
Mark Desetti, KNEA and KASB

Others attending:

See attached list.

Mayor's Youth Council, Wichita, KS

Marcus McNeal, Youth Mayor, Mayor's Youth Council, Wichita, ([Attachment 1](#)) Rachel King and Drew Papadelis, also of the Mayor's Youth Council of Wichita, presented testimony in support of restoring funding for driver's education training in the state's public schools. The mission of the Wichita Mayor's Youth Council is "To provide Wichita youth with the opportunity to weigh in on community issues and learn about city government." Their current mission of service is to lobby on the issue of driver's education funding in the 2009-2010 budget. The research conducted regarding automobile accidents, fatal accidents, injury accidents, ages of drivers involved in accidents and numbers of accident victims having taken driver's education training was presented in the Senate Education Committee.

Hearing on SB 162 - Disability history and awareness

Carrie Greenwood, ([Attachment 2](#)), Chris Roberson, ([Attachment 3](#)), and Andrew Crane, all with the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy ([Attachment 4](#)), and Anne-Marie Hughey, SKIL Resource Center ([Attachment 5](#)) provided testimony in support of **SB 162** which provides for designating the last two weeks in January of each year as disability history and awareness weeks. The state board shall assist school districts in the implementation of programs which provide a course of instruction on disability history and disability awareness during these weeks. Carrie, Chris, Andrew and Anne-Marie each provided personal testimony regarding living with a disability. Julia Fonseca, Executive Director, Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (written only) ([Attachment 6](#)), provided written testimony in support of the legislation.

Mark Desetti, representing the Kansas National Education Association and Kansas Association of School Boards, ([Attachment 7](#)) provided testimony in opposition to **SB 162**. Support for opposition of the legislation included the fiscal note of a \$3,000 mandate imposed on schools following the House and Senate vote to cut funding for schools for students with disabilities.

The hearing on **SB 162** was closed.

Senator Vratil moved to recommend **SB 162** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Senator

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Education Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 2009, in Room 545-N of the Capitol.

Umbarger. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.