

Approved: 2-9-2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Bleeker, Emert and Lee excused

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Glasscock
Representative Tanner

Others attending: See Attached List

The meeting of the joint House and Senate Education committee was called to order by Senator Lawrence, Chairperson. She called on Nancy Lindberg, Attorney General's office, to request a bill introduction to the House Education Committee. The legislation was introduced.

Chairperson Lawrence stated the purpose of the joint meeting was to complete the cycle of new reform plans for education. She welcomed Representatives Glasscock and Tanner to present their plan.

Representative Glasscock led off the testimony and referred to the blue book that had been distributed. (Attachment 1) He stated that each of the tabs would delineate one part of the plan which covers the four topics of, basic research, early childhood education, teacher performance and school choice research.

Representative Glasscock commented that when he and Representative Tanner approached education last summer and fall, two things were thought to be important; the one to propose reform that was significant and had meaning and reform that was backed by solid research. Research has proven that getting a good start in life makes a material difference for children in the long run. One of the prime correlations to student's learning is teacher performance and excellence. These are two elements that every parent can realize. Good teaching results in greater student learning.

Representative Glasscock took the committee through the basic skills and early childhood components of the plan and stated that Representative Tanner would speak on teacher preparation. He said that the school choice part of the plan is the only plan that is not backed by research, because there is no definitive research on school choice. There is a voucher debate every year without knowing if there is any positive correlation between school choice and student learning. The question must be answered if there is a positive, negative or neutral correlation of school choice in children's learning. A research-based study will be asked for that will create a level playing field so that at the end of the study there will be no excuses. Those that advocate for vouchers will understand whatever the results, and will accept the results. Conversely, those who have opposed vouchers, would have to accept the results should there be a positive correlation between school choice and student learning.

Representative Tanner referred the committees to the tab dealing with teacher preparation and performance and stated that he would speak of bill introduction. Several bills will be introduced in this component of the plan. He began with teacher competency which would be established by regulation of the State Board of Education. If it is determined by a school system that a newly graduated teacher from one of the teacher training institutions has a deficiency in background or training, that teacher could return to the school and receive appropriate instruction without further fees. Another bill introduction would deal with certification examination. There could possibly be another test which would determine the general knowledge capability of a teacher. Each successful person in achieving national board certification will receive a \$1,000 bonus or a \$1,000 commitment from the state in addition to salary. Legislation will be introduced with regard to school building report cards. Curriculum standards will be established in each of the core areas of social studies, mathematics, reading, writing and science. More core areas could be established.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Room 313-S Statehouse, at 9:00 a.m. on January 27, 2000.

A bill will be introduced that will provide for a state requirement that each local school district develop a mentoring program especially for first-year teachers or beyond. The state will supply a stipend to assist local boards in achieving this essential program. Another area spoken of was issuance of renewal of certification. Legislation will be introduced calling for a KBI background check for all people who are entering the teaching profession. Issues that would be brought to light would be felony convictions, drug charges or sexual predator charges. There will be bill introduction with regard to a teacher service scholarship program. This would relate to length of service for a teacher, as well as dealing with hard to fill teaching positions. Legislation would state those hard to fill disciplines, meaning an under served area or a low enrollment area, would be given some assistance from the state to assist in providing an improved salary structure for those teachers.

Representatives Glasscock and Tanner stood for questions and after questions and comments, the meeting was adjourned.