

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Deena Horst at 9:00 a.m. on January 21, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

- Representative Clay Aurand - excused
- Representative Melvin Neufeld - excused

Committee staff present:

- Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education
- Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Rochelle Chronister, 2010 Commission
- Larry Isaak, Midwest Higher Education Compact
- Scott Frank, Legislative Division Post Audit
- Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Ron Walker, Superintendent, Geary County School District

Rochelle Chronister, Chairperson, 2010 Commission, addressed Committee members and advised the Commission recognizes the Committee will be focused on trying to balance the budget for the state of Kansas. However, the 2010 Commission requests the following items remain in sight as goals for Kansas schools:

- Principals must be the educational leaders of their schools. Too many principals are isolated and not given the opportunity to learn how to be educational leaders. Providing an opportunity for development of leadership skills is one of the most inexpensive and successful practices that can be provided.
- Teachers must have access to high quality, relevant professional development content and given time, on a regular basis, where they can work cooperatively with and across grades for their age group and subject matter. They must identify the tools they need and learn how to best use them together in their individual schools.
- New teachers need master teachers as their mentors.
- At-risk students need the special attention that is being provided by individualized curricula, before and after school help, summer school and an investment in early childhood education. It is known that the sooner problems are identified, the earlier they can be solved, often preventing longer and more costly solutions later in their educational lives. (Attachment 1 and 2)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Larry Issak, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, spoke to Committee members and gave an overview of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

HB 2002 - School finance; military children, determination of enrollment

Scott Frank, Audit Manager, Legislative Division of Post Audit, gave an overview of **HB2002** to Committee members. Mr. Frank told Committee members that **HB 2123** from the 2007 Legislative session would have allowed districts to receive additional funding if their student enrollment significantly increased from September to February. A review of the current second count date for military dependents shows that some of the statutory provisions for administering it appears to be unclear.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:00 a.m. on January 21, 2009, in Room DSOB 711 of the Capitol.

(Performance Audit Report K-12 Education: *Estimating the Impact of a Second Count Date on School District Funding* - on file, Legislative Division of Post Audit)

Theresa Kiernan, Senior Assistant Revisor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an explanation to Committee members of the balloon for **HB 2002**. (Attachment 3)

Ronald Walker, Superintendent, Geary County USD 475, spoke to Committee members and stated that because of the military student second count date, this afforded their district and others throughout Kansas to do something special for those families arriving in Kansas, not by choice but by order of the Department of Defense. Mr. Walker advised those families found a state and many school districts which were especially well prepared to meet the academic needs of their children. They found transitions were very smooth where administrators, teachers, and support personnel were prepared to meet their circumstances.

Mr. Walker told Committee members that the Global War on Terrorism continues to take a toll on their families, students, and staff. The social consequences are now more intense as the war fight continues to be a dominate force in the lives of the children. These children face emotional stressors that are so strenuous it is almost impossible to explain to others.

Mr. Walker stated all of their schools have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years. And it was accomplished in spite of the fact the district faces a tremendous mobility rate for their students and teachers. Social workers and counselors have been increased to address issues of transition and emotional stress. The district staff has received training in Military Lifestyles and Living in the New Normal to assist them in understanding what our soldiers face from their arrival on Fort Riley to their eventual departure. The student body has grown from approximately 5,700 to 7,000 students during this time.

Mr. Walker advised he was most interested in the fiscal note for the legislation. He asked the Committee to consider changing the date from September 20 to September 21. It would still provide serious reductions in the fiscal note but he was making the request because of the nature of the current structure of the Army. Mr. Walker told Committee members the second count is vital to their overall success. It is crucial that funds are available to meet the needs of students whenever families arrive.

Mr. Walker requested that Committee members review the fiscal note and review the impact a net gain from September 20th to February 20th would have on school districts prior to moving **HB 2002**. (Attachment 4)

Written testimony was received from Robert Shannon, Superintendent, Manhattan-Ogden USD #383. (Attachment 5)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Chairperson Horst told Committee members that the hearing on **HB2002** would be continued at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.