

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on February 23, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Linda Taylor, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Shari Weber
Representative Dave Gregory
Representative Phill Kline
Representative Jonathan Wells
James Crowder
Sharon Lakey
Mulveena Davis

Others attending: See Attached List

Hearings were opened on **HB 2584 - School districts, fees for maintenance of full day kindergarten classes**. Hearings on **HB 2584** were closed.

Representative Faber moved to pass **HB 2584** out favorably. The motion died for lack of a second.

Hearings were opened on **HB 2953 - Not attending school not a reason for a child to be a child in need of care**.

Representative Shari Weber appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2953**. (Attachment 1) She stated that truancy has been identified as a major problem for all teenage youth and often leads to other juvenile offenses. She further stated that state policy and school district practices related to truancy need legislative clarification. She urged passage of the bill.

Representative Dave Gregory also appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2953**. (Attachment 2) He stated that, while truancy cheats children of a good education, it should not be used as a tool to remove the child from his or her home. He asked the committee to ensure that children and their parents will not have to fear a removal from their home over truancy issues.

Hearings on **HB 2953** were closed.

Chairman Tanner entertained motions. None were made. Representative Ballou requested that the committee have the bill "blessed" by leadership.

Hearings on **HB 2946 - School district finance, special needs local enhancement budgets** were opened.

Representative Phill Kline appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2946**. (Attachment 3) He presented the committee with a brief outline of the bill's content. He stated that, since the bill meets all constitutional parameters, the question becomes one of fairness. He further stated that the bill will have a varied impact— for many districts the exercise of a special needs local enhancement budget will decrease the disparity in state funding in actual dollars. He urged passage of the bill.

Hearings on **HB 2946** were closed.

Representative Kline moved that **HB 2946** be passed out favorably. Representative Storm seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Hearings were opened on **HB 2220 - Employment security benefits for school bus drivers** were opened.

Representative Jonathan Wells appeared before the committee as a proponent of **HB 2220**. He stated that the bill is needed to ensure that school districts will be able to keep good school bus drivers.

Also appearing before the committee were James Crowder, Sharon Lakey, and Mulveena Davis, school bus drivers for Wichita Public Schools. They also urged committee members to consider the bill favorably.

Hearings on **HB 2220** were closed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.