

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:15 A.M. on February 5, 2008 in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Barbara Craft- excused

Marti Crow- excused

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Dianne Rosell, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Darin Headrick, Superintendent, USD 422 - Greensburg

Gary French, Superintendent, USD 367 - Osawatomie

Robert Morton, Superintendent, USD 445 - Coffeyville

Chuck Schmidt, representing USD 446 - Independence, USD 484 - Fredonia, and USD 461 - Neodesha

Scott Frank, Manager, School Audits, Legislative Division of Post Audit, responded to Representative Crow's request for information regarding how distributing special education categorical aid so that each district or cooperative has an equal percent of its excess costs covered. (Attachment #1)

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department, distributed handout material to Committee members from Larry Isaak, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact. The material was in response to the discussion surrounding Kansas' use of the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP). (Attachment #2)

HB 2608: School finance; determining enrollment after a disaster.

Darin Headrick, Superintendent, USD 422 - Greensburg, spoke to Committee members about the effects of the EF-5 tornado which struck their city on May 4, 2007. Superintendent Headrick stated that over 960 homes, 125 businesses, several city and county buildings, and the K-12 school facilities were all destroyed in a matter of minutes. In addition, the city also suffered a complete loss of their city's infrastructure. Superintendent Headrick stated their biggest concern at this point is where the school district will be financially in years two, three, four, and five after the tornado. A Power Point presentation was also provided to show the devastation of the high school and elementary school. (Attachment #3)

Gary French, Superintendent, USD 367 - Osawatomie, spoke to Committee members about the flooding which occurred July 1, 2007 and damaged 256 residential structures, including multi-family complexes and affected 126 K-12 school children from Osawatomie. (Attachment #4 and #5)

Robert Morton, Superintendent, USD 445 - Coffeyville, spoke to Committee members about the economic impact of the flood on Coffeyville and USD 445. Superintendent Morton told Committee members that many families displaced by the flood are unable to relocate in the city because of the lack of housing, resulting in the loss of students and less state aid to their school district. (Attachment #6)

Chuck Schmidt, Superintendent, USD USD 446 - Independence and also speaking on behalf of USD 484 - Fredonia and USD 461 - Neodesha, told Committee members of the homes and businesses which were damaged or destroyed by the flooding in the Independence, Fredonia, and Neodesha areas. Superintendent Schmidt told Committee members when hit with sudden drops in enrollment, the districts have no opportunity to soften the impact in 3rd and 4th years. (Attachment #7)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:05 A.M. on February 5, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2608.**

Introduction of Bills:

Representative Colloton introduced a bill which provides a second count date to determine enrollment for school districts and the second count date would be February 20th. The bill was seconded by Representative Storm. The motion carried.

Representative Hill introduced a bill to help that would Emporia school district not be penalized for the loss of student enrollment that may occur because of potential layoffs at the Tyson plant. The Committee agreed by consensus.

Representative Aurand introduced a bill that would prevent school districts with fewer than 200 students or less than 200 square miles to get low enrollment weighting. The Committee agreed by consensus.

Representative Trimmer requested Legislative Post Audit add a column for clarification of the Special Education funding regarding the per pupil cost for categorical aid.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2008.