

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:45 p.m. on March 8, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:    Dr. Rita Cook, Executive Director, Smoky Hill Education  
Service Center  
Dr. Kay Schultz, Superintendent, Wathena USD 406 &  
Elwood USD 486  
Stacy Farmer, KASB  
Dr. James C. Christman, Superintendent, Galena USD #499  
Craig Grant, KNEA  
Jacque Oakes, SQE

Others attending:        See Attached List

**SB246--School districts, grants of state moneys for maintenance of school district cooperation plans and education technology plans**

Dr. Rita Cook, Executive Director, Smoky Hill Education Service Center, presented testimony favoring **SB246**. (Attachment 1) Kansas has nine educational service centers. They offer services to the schools to save money such as volume purchasing, scanning services, personnel, crisis intervention, direct instructional services and technology service.

The intent of the bill is to provide grants to individual schools or school districts. Dr. Cook says they see the service centers in an active role in helping districts acquire additional funding by helping them develop plans and submit applications for the available grants. The bill will help the school district by providing grant money to the schools to support educational programs and for technology.

Dr. Kay Schultz, Superintendent, Wathena USD 406 and Elwood USD 486, gave testimony on her experience of being a shared superintendent for two school districts. (Attachment 2) Being a shared superintendent came about because of a natural disaster, a flood, and the death of the superintendent of Elwood. The flood caused a considerable loss in enrollment which meant loss of income. The sharing has worked well for the district. They share three teachers, an elementary counselor, buses, and staff development services. Dr. Schultz feels that the agreement has worked well and has helped both districts use resources more effectively and efficiently.

Stacy Farmer, KASB, gave testimony supporting the concept of **SB246**. (Attachment 3) They do have reservations about the priorities. They suggest that other options may have a more significant impact on students than the financial incentives proposed in the bill.

Dr. James C. Christman, Superintendent, Galena Unified School District No. 499 gave testimony in favor of **SB246**. (Attachment 4) With limited resources, the establishment of supportive and cooperative connections between school systems, service centers, communities and the State, has allowed the districts to provide quality educational programs for students. The district experienced a high drop out rate. By

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pooling resources, three districts opened Cornerstone Alternative High School and the following year a fourth district joined them. They provide school for high school dropouts, adult education and technology programs. Together, they have also developed an interactive distance learning network. Dr. Christman feels technology is critical to the education of all students and **SB246** provides for the funding of an educational technology grant program. Dr. Christman also provided a booklet providing an overview of Southeast Kansas Education Service Center - Greenbush. (Attachment 5)

Jacque Oakes, SQE, offered written testimony in support of **SB246**. (Attachment 6)

Craig Grant, KNEA, offered written testimony in support of **SB246**. (Attachment 7)

Chairman Umbarger closed hearings on **SB246** and asked for final action on **HB2015** if the Committee so desired.

Senator Vratil made a motion to pass favorably **HB2015**. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Senator Jenkins offered a letter regarding fire safety requirements from Gale Haag, Kansas State Fire Marshal. If there are any concerns, he is willing to answer questions. (Attachment 8) Motion carried.

Senator Vratil stated that staff pointed out a grammatical error on Line 33 of **HB2015**. Senator Vratil asked to amend his motion and have staff correct the grammatical problem on Line 33 and pass favorably **HB2015** as amended. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

Chairman Umbarger adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, March 12, 2001.