

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:00 p.m. on April 6, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Emler (excused)

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: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, KS State Board of Education
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department

Others attending: See Attached List

Substitute for HB2051–School Finance

The meeting was called to further discuss the education proposal as well as the funding for the proposal. Chairman Umbarger stated that he wished to get ideas out on the table so that the Committee could study the proposals and come back on April 16, 2001 to work on getting a bill put together that would be acceptable to the whole Senate.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas State Board of Education, had prepared, for Chairman Umbarger, some options to cut back on the proposals in **Substitute for HB2051**. Dale explained these options in (Attachment 1).

Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department, also had prepared some ideas at the direction of Chairman Umbarger. Ben explained the ideas and options in (Attachment 2).

The Committee communicated a number of ideas, a 2-tier program for special education with little support at this time, that the \$50 increase per pupil recommended in the Governor's proposal should be the minimum amount of increase accepted. The \$50 increase may keep things even, but it will not be enough to increase teachers salaries or meet the high gas prices. One member of the Committee believes that we should not cut the proposal too much, that we need to fight for the needs of school districts. Another stated that an overwhelming amount of support for the Governor's plan was received in their district and that the most popular tax to increase was sales tax. There is little or no support for beverage and fuel taxes. Liquor tax was also discussed.

The committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m.