

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:40 p.m. on February 5, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research  
Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statues  
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education

Others attending: See attached list

### **Bill Introductions**

Senator Vratil made a motion to conceptually introduce a bill to renew the 20 mill levy for school funding which must be renewed every two years. This would also include the homestead exemption. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion Carried.

Senator Lee made motion to introduce a Senate Concurrent Resolution to have the State Board of Education members elected by local school boards. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion Carried.

Senator Oleen made a motion to introduce a Senate Concurrent Resolution regarding the current method of electing the State Board of Education that it be on a non-partisan basis. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion Carried.

Senator Salmans requested introduction of a bill that pertains to diversity in the instruction in education and provides for academic freedom of teachers. A motion was made by Senator Buntin to introduce the bill; seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

### **Implementation of SB551 (2002) concerning school finance, consolidation, and reorganization of districts**

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education, reviewed with the Committee the effects of what has happened since the adoption of **SB551**. Two districts are consolidating as of July 1, 2003;

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two other combinations of schools are voting on consolidation this spring; and they have had inquiries from five additional districts regarding consolidation.

Kansas currently has four superintendents that serve two school districts each; fifty-two superintendents that serve in multiply roles, and thirty-two attendance centers are currently being considered for closing during the 2003-04 school year. (Attachment 1)

### **SB117–Non renewal or termination of teacher’s contracts; hearing officers; compensation costs**

Dale Dennis explained that the current law provides that hearing officers for a teachers due process hearing must be an attorney, that a list of nine officers be provided for a hearing and the law provides a payment limit of \$240 per day of actual hearing. A second list of nine must be provided if requested. Currently, the list only contains 15 attorneys. **SB117** would reduce the number of officers required from nine to five and would eliminate the payment limitation to encourage more attorneys to serve. (Attachment 2)

Staff proposed an amendment to remove redundant language on page 2, lines 39,40, and 41. (Attachment 3)

Senator Vratil made a motion to amend **SB117** as recommended by staff and that **SB117** be recommended favorably for passage as amended. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

### **SB118–State Board of Education, rules & regulations, procedure for adoption**

Dale Dennis explained that the law at this time provides that when the Board of Education adopts a change in rules and regulations, it is required to print the full text. **SB118** would allow a summary of the change to be printed. This bill would bring the State Board of Education back in line with all other state agencies. (Attachment 4)

A motion was made by Senator Downey to recommend favorably passage of **SB118** as drafted. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

### **SB119–State school for the deaf and state school for the blind; teacher requirements**

Dale Dennis explained that **SB119** would make the laws governing teacher due process at the State School for the Deaf and the State School for the Blind the same as the laws that apply to all school districts. (Attachment 5)

Senator Teichman made a motion to recommend favorably passage of **SB119**; seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

### **SB120–School district expenditures; bidding requirements; exception for expenditures for food and food stuffs**

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Dale Dennis explained that **SB120** is a clean-up bill on the school bid law so that the statute would account for all the various nutrition programs currently available to school districts. (Attachment 6)

Staff requested an amendment to remove the word "federal" from page one, Line 29. (Attachment 7)

Senator Vratil made a motion to amend **SB120** as proposed by staff. Seconded by Senator Teichman. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Vratil for a second amendment to **SB120** to update the bid limitation by striking \$10,000 and increasing the amount to \$20,000 on line 15 of the bill. The bid limitation had not been updated since 1988. The motion was seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried. Senator Bunten abstained.

Senator Schodorf made a motion to recommend **SB120** favorable for passage as amended. Seconded by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123S.