

Approved: 03/30/12

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 in 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Reagan Cussimano-KLRD

Eunice Peters-Revosor

Edw. Balda-Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Proponents:

Representative Clay Aurand

Bob Voboril-Superintendent of Catholic Schools of Wichita

Written Proponent:

Dave Trabert-Kansas Policy Institute

Opponent:

Mark Tallman-KASB

Vickie Sandell Stangel-Great Plains Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Written Opposition:

Holly Weatherford-ACLU

Others in attendance: see attached list

HB 2767–Schools; authorizing a tax credit to be used for educational scholarships

Chairman Gordon greeted the Members of the Committee and the audience. Eunice Peters of Research then gave a review of **HB-2767**. Comments were made in regards to the current definition of “eligible student”. Also addressed were the scholarships to qualified schools. Section three refers to various points in the **HB 2767** bill book. Representative Spalding made comments on the eligible student discussion. Representative Aurand presented his testimonies (Attachment 1) and (Attachment 2). Discussion was made regarding his second handout, and how scholastic funds could be carried over from one year to the next. Members commented on the variety of valid points from Representative Aurand’s information. There were no questions.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE EDUCATION BUDGET Committee at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, March 6, in 159-S of the Capitol.

Proponent Bob Voboril read his testimony to the Committee ([Attachment 3](#)) and gave additional data regarding educational tax credits. Questions were asked by Representatives Feuerborn and Representative Landwehr regarding Catholic students and private school students integrating into public schools. There was one further question about bus service.

Written testimony ([Attachment 4](#)) by proponent Dave Trabert was addressed, and there were no questions.

Opponent Mark Tallman presented his testimony ([Attachment 5](#)) and proceeded to review its highlights. He believes the bill could be modified or amended to satisfy the KASB. He also cautioned the members that if the bill is passed as is that they would basically be “paying for prayer” by funding that eventually gets directed to Catholic schools. Representative Feuerborn inquired as to the percentages of low income Catholic families as compared to the low income status of public school families. Representative Landwehr commented that regardless of one’s religion, all students are entitled to a “quality education.” She also comments that Mr. Tallman is only the middle man in this hearing and that perhaps those he works for at KASB should come to Committee some time. Bob Voboril commented on free speech in public schools.

Opponent Vicki Sandell Stangl presented her testimony ([Attachment 6](#)) against **HB 2767**. She suggested to the members that they must address the constitution with this bill and to remember that there could be conflict between the church and state. Representative Landwehe asks the conferee as to her stand on the issues of contraception and abortion. She challenges her credentials. Chairman Gordon reminds both parties to say on the current topic of the bill being heard. Representative Aurand asked as to whether the discussed funds are public or state.

Mention was made of the written opposition by Holly Weatherford of the ACLU ([Attachment 7](#)). There were no questions.

There were no further comments or questions and the hearing was close on **HB 2767**. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:05

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