

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on January 23, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Corbin and Oleen (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: Brilla Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas
Dr. Craig Elliott, Superintendent Maize USD 266
G. A. Buie, Anderson County Jr./Sr. High Principal USD 365
Becky Greer, Eisenhower Elementary Principal, McPherson
Dr. Ray Daniels, Superintendent of Kansas City USD 500

Others attending: See attached list

Introduction of Bills

Senator Vratil introduced four bills, the first, a conceptual bill regarding student counselor privilege to preclude school counselors from disclosing information given them by a student; a second bill providing a Kansas exemplary recognition program; the third bill authorizing establishment and maintenance of alternative teacher compensation programs, providing for grants of state moneys; the fourth concerning school districts local control act. These bills were introduced by a motion made by Senator Teichman, a second by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried.

Senator Umbarger introduced a bill regarding the re-employment of school retirants. The bill was introduced by a motion made by Senator Schodorf, a second by Senator Emler. Motion carried.

No Child Left Behind Act

Brillas Scott, Executive Director, United School Administrators of Kansas thanked the Committee for allowing members to appear. Brilla introduced the first conferee, Dr. Craig Elliott, Superintendent of Maize, USD 266.

Dr. Elliott believes that implementation of the Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) gave Kansas a head start on implementing No Child Left Behind. Kansas public schools already have laid the groundwork to move all students toward higher levels of performance. Comparisons with other states could be misinterpreted as Kansas already has high standards and has consistently been ranked in the top

CONTINUATION SHEET

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ten nationally. It may also be difficult to keep fully licensed teachers as required in the new act as there is now a shortage of students in teacher preparation courses. Dr. Elliott urged funding for early childhood programs and a long term commitment for school funding. (Attachment 1)

G. A. Buie, Principal at Anderson County Jr./Sr. High School believes the components of No Child Left Behind are similar to QPA. Mr. Buie states they see no great changes in their testing and see no big challenges in keeping qualified teachers and paras. His staff was supportive in putting a program together to achieve the goals put before them. (Attachment 2)

Becky Greer, an elementary principal in McPherson, believes that QPA brought about a focus on school improvement for the children in the State of Kansas and she believes that the No Child Left Behind Act has the potential to bring about more positive changes. She knows there will be challenges, but believes the message is clear. (Attachment 3)

Ray Daniels, Superintendent of Kansas City, Kansas schools says they see promise and potential in the new law, but there are still grave concerns about the reality of the implementation and the funding of the law. (Attachment 4)

A motion was made by Senator Emler to approve the minutes of January 21. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123-S.