

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:05 A.M. on January 24, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Dianne Rosell, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rochelle Chronister, Chairman, 2010 Commission  
Joe Glassman, Chairman, Post Secondary Vocational Technical Authority

Rochelle Chronister told Committee members the 2010 Commission had spent the 2007 interim visiting school districts in central and northwestern Kansas, rounding out its tour of a number of school districts begun in 2006. These visits along with hours of testimony during the summer of 2007 can be grouped in two areas that appear to be of utmost importance to Kansas regarding public education.

Sharon Wenger, Research Analyst, Legislative Research Department, gave a detailed overview of the recommendations of the 2010 Commission.

### **Teacher Shortages, Retention, and Recruitment Issues**

- Increase the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BASAPP) by \$100 in SFY 2009 to \$4,474 per pupil which would add nearly \$16.0 million in additional funding to the 2008-09 budgets of school districts. This \$26 million would be in addition to the \$34 million increase already appropriated for SFY 2009.

The 2010 Commission further recommends that this funding focus on increasing teacher salaries so that Kansas can become more competitive with surrounding states and states currently employing Kansas teachers.

- Add \$2.250 million to the Professional Development Program, bringing the total funding to \$4.0 million in SFY 2009.
- Add \$400,000 to the Mentor Teacher Program bringing the total funding to \$2.0 million in SFY 2009. These additional funds would fund the second year of mentoring for 500 new teachers.
- Fund leadership academies for principals and other administrators with \$400,000.
- Provide \$2.5 million to create a Teacher Retention Incentive Program. These funds would be used to encourage math, science, and special education teachers who are eligible to retire to remain in teaching by matching local school district funds up to \$2,500 per teacher placed into a savings plan for the teacher, outside of the current Kansas Public Employees Retirement Plan.

### **Early Childhood Recommendation Package**

- The 2010 Commission recommended retaining current Department of Education early childhood programs in the Department and shifting the Infant-Toddler special education program (*tiny-k*) from the Department of Health and Environment to the Department of

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Education. In addition, the recommendation included shifting the Early Head Start Program from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to the Department of Education and the Pre-Kindergarten Pilot Program in the Children's Cabinet to the Department of Education

- The 2010 Commission recommended that the Children's Cabinet move forward over the next year leading the Early Learning Coordinating Council (ELCC) in improving coordination and expanding services in early childhood programs not included in the Department of Education. The Commission expressed the desire that these programs "cover all corners of the state".
- The 2010 Commission recommended providing \$15.0 million in SFY 2009 to fund all-day kindergarten.

### **Other Recommendations:**

- The 2010 Commission reviewed the various weightings in the School District Finance and Quality Performance Act (SDFQPA) and recommends that the second level of funding for at-risk students, the high density formula, be based on the prior year's data and be determined using a linear transition calculation.
- The Commission also recommends that the bilingual weighting in the school finance formula be changed from a full-time equivalent weighting with contact hours to headcount and adjusted to 0.2 from the present 0.395.
- The Commission recommends that the threshold amount per student of the Special Education Catastrophic State Aid Program for school year 2008-09 be increased from \$25,000 per student to \$26,000 and in years thereafter the base be increased by an amount equal to the percentage increase of the CPI (urban).
- The Commission also recommends the following:

The State Department of Education require every school district use the Kansas Accounting Handbook and require newly hired school district clerks be trained in a course using the Kansas Accounting Handbook, returning clerks should be required to complete a refresher course.

The State Board of Education should review annually the financial reporting system to determine if any alterations or additions are needed based on requests for accounting information.

Regarding vocational education, the Legislature through the House and Senate Education Commission requests an update of the State Department of Education's vocational education transition plan which will implement the changes taking place at the national level in this program. (Attachments 1 and 2)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Joe Glassman, Chairman, Kansas Post Secondary Technical Education Authority, spoke to Committee members of the organization. Mr. Glassman told Committee members of the initial objectives and priorities which include developing Standards of Excellence through the Education system, Industry, Commerce, and recommendations from employers. (Attachment #3)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2008.