

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on February 14, 2002 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Hensley (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Amy M Murphy, USD229, Blue Valley
Michiel N. Ford, USD336, Holton
Jada L. Kohlmeier, USD232, Desoto
Joyce Cussimano, Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet

Others attending: See Attached List

Milken Foundation Teacher Awards

Dale Dennis offered some background about the Milken awards. The foundation is sponsored by private funds with their primary interest in education and cancer research. The recipients do not know yet who nominated them and they will go to Los Angeles to receive their award. They will have two days of staff development training, a banquet and entertainment and receive a \$25,000 personal award. The three Milken Award winners for this year will share challenges they see facing education today and then answer questions.

Before recognizing the Milken award winners, Senator Vratil was recognized for bill introduction. Senator Vratil made a motion to introduce a bill involving truancy. The main purpose of the bill is to give judges more alternatives to deal with truant students. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion passed.

The three Milken Foundation Award winners are: Amy Murphy, USD 229, Blue Valley School District; Michiel N. Ford, USD 336, Holton; and Jada L. Kohlmeier, USD 232, Desoto School District.

Amy is an assistant principal at Blue Valley North High School. Prior to being an administrator, Amy had teaching experience in mathematics in Virginia, North Carolina and Kansas. At Blue Valley North, their mission is to empower all students to achieve their potential. She sees the biggest challenge in Kansas schools as teacher quality. Amy thanked the legislators for the law and funding provided for teacher mentoring. Blue Valley has begun to see the impact of mentoring in their classrooms.

Michiel Ford, Holton High School, teaches science and journalism. A challenge he sees is the ever changing technology. He remembers the time when the school had one computer and now the kids cannot live without them and another challenge is to motivate the kids and get to get the message across every day.

Jada L. Kohlmeier, has been teaching for nine years, the last two at the new high school at Desoto. She teaches World and American history. Her biggest challenge is how fast the teaching field is changing. The only source for information used to be the libraries, now there is so much information on the internet and much of her time is spent on research. It is difficult to plan her curriculum for the year because of constant changes across the world, not knowing what will be important later in the year.

During discussion, the teachers were asked what their worst problem in the classroom is and the thing that helps them the most to do their job. Jada stated that the worst is too many students and not enough time to know their personal needs and the best is being surrounded by other quality teachers that she can learn from and share with. Michiel thinks the best is the commitment from the superintendent and local board to see where they want to be in the future and the worst is having a student tell him he doesn't care. Amy

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sees the biggest problem as not having enough time to do all that she would like and the best is the kids. She gets her energy from the kids and they remind her why she comes to work every day.

Briefing on the Children's Cabinet

Joyce Cussimano, Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet, briefed the Committee on what the responsibilities of the cabinet were as created by Substitute for **HB2558** in 1999. One of the key responsibilities is to review, assess and evaluate expenditures from the Children's Initiatives Fund. The cabinet completed an extensive review of funded programs and provided recommendations. The recommendations are based on three elements: Data-driven, outcome-based approaches; best practices proven by research; and evaluation of funded programs. Funding recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year are in three categories, increased spending, level funding, or programs that they do not feel should be funded with Children's Initiative Fund dollars.

The Cabinet recommends an increase for the Four-Year-Old At-Risk program and the Vision Research program. They recommend level funding for the Parent Education program and the School Violence Prevention program. The Cabinet did not include \$7.4 million in programs that were considered inappropriate for the Children's Initiatives Fund expenditures. The last page of the attachment has a budget summary by agency and program. The programs with a recommendation of '0' for FY2003 are the programs they found inappropriate to fund. These programs total the \$7.4 million that the cabinet did not include in their budget. Joyce is bringing this to the attention of the Legislature and will budget these dollars if the Legislature recommends it.

The Children's Cabinet is supporting program accountability. They are making an effort to define school readiness and identify specific data measures that will assist educators and others in maximizing state resources that contribute to school readiness. In addition to child indicators, other indicators occur within the family, community and school. The next step will be to select possible assessment tools to help determine a child's readiness. A complete copy of the recommendations are attached. (Attachment 1)

Chairman Umbarger thanked Joyce for the information and adjourned at 2:30 p.m.