

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:40 p.m. on January 26, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Pat Apple- excused

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Barbara Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor

Senator Schodorf called attention to a memorandum which was prepared at her request by Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department. The memorandum regarded Dr. Art Hall's testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee on January 12, 2006, concerning the requirements placed on K-12 education between 1972 and the present. ([Attachment 1](#))

Reginald L. Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, outlined the Board's reaction to the Governor's proposed budget for higher education for FY 2007. In addition, he gave a brief overview of the Board's recent actions on education issues, and he reviewed the bills requested by the Board in 2006 which related to the Senate Education Committee. ([Attachment 2](#)) As he discussed the Board's Adult Education Program, he referred to a November 1, 2005, press release in which the Board of Regents announced that the program was selected by the U.S. Department of Education as a "Best Practice" state. ([Attachment 3](#)) He went on to call attention to an outline of the Governor's recommendations for FY 2007 which included a table comparing the Board's budget request with the Governor's recommendations. ([Attachment 4](#)) As he discussed nursing student admissions and the Board's concern over the nursing shortage in Kansas, he called attention to a report which the Board of Regents prepared in consultation with the Kansas Board of Nursing, the Kansas State Nurses Association, and deans and directors from the state's postsecondary nursing education programs. ([Attachment 5](#)) He also pointed out that his handout included a copy of a resolution opposing the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) which the Board of Regents adopted in October 2005. ([Attachment 6](#))

Barbara Hinton, Legislative Post Auditor, distributed memorandums which she prepared in response to questions raised by Committee members at previous meetings as they discussed the Legislative Post Audit cost study analysis of K-12 education in Kansas using two approaches. The first memorandum was in response to a question raised by Senator Apple regarding what the total amount of state and local funding would be under the different cost study scenarios and how those amounts compared to the current funding formula. Ms. Hinton noted that the tables attached to the memorandum showed estimated funding with and without the hold harmless provision. ([Attachment 7](#)) The second memorandum was in response to a concern expressed by Senator Vratil about over-identifying bilingual students if state funding for bilingual education was based on headcount as was done in the cost study. Ms. Hinton discussed the process established by the Department of Education to identify bilingual students. She explained that the use of a standardized assessment test to identify bilingual students reduces over-identification regardless of whether the program is funded on the basis of headcount or FTE. ([Attachment 8](#)) The third memorandum corrected the hold harmless information provided on January 17, 2006, regarding the percentages for the number of districts that would be held harmless and those affected by the new formula for 2006-07. ([Attachment 9](#)) The fourth memorandum regarded a correction to the table showing the impact of the estimated costs of meeting future performance standards provided on January 18, 2006. ([Attachment 10](#))

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2006.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:40 P.M. on January 26, 2006, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.