

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 9:00 A.M. on April 25, 2006 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

The Chair informed the Committee they would be working from **SB 584**.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Education, addressed the Committee in regard to Local Option Budget. (Attachments 1 and 2).

Following a brief question and answer session, Theresa Kiernan offered a comparison of 2006 school finance plans. (Attachment 3).

Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research, explained the additional provisions contained in **HB 2986**. (Attachment 4). She also referred to a copy of the Legislative Research Department's April Consensus Revenue Estimates that was previously distributed to the Committee. (Attachment 5).

Alan Conroy spoke to the Committee of the of the April consensus revenue estimates for FY 2008 and FY 2009, depicting both percent growth, (Attachment 6), and a 5.0 percent growth, (Attachment 7). Questions and answers followed.

A copy of the proposed school finance plan, **SB 584**, was distributed. (Attachment 8).

A motion was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Senator Vratil to adopt a three-year 50-50-50 increase in the base state aid per pupil. The motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Teichman moved that a three-year plan be adopted. Senator Ostemeyer seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

Senator Vratil moved and Senator Goodwin seconded the motion that there be a goal for the three-year plan to total 450 million dollars. The motion passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Senator Steineger and seconded by Senator Teichman to meet with Legislative Post Audit to determine how money is spent. The motion failed.

Senator Teichman moved that they return to the Senate plan of .268/.318/.368 making a total of 101.25 to increase funding for programs for student at-risk of failure in school and Senator Vratil seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Senator Allen and seconded by Senator McGinn that would give an additional \$446 for each student at risk of failure who doesn't qualify for free lunches, at a cost of \$15.4 million. The motion carried on a show of hands.

Senator Vratil made the motion that was seconded by Representative Steineger that would convert the at-risk, non-proficient to a weighting factor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Senator Vratil moved to adopt the number one high-density/at-risk pupil weighting plan of Senator Umbarger. If the enrollment of the district is 50% or more at-risk pupils, the weighting of the district is .08; .09; .10. The motion was seconded by Senator Steineger and passed on a voice vote.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Education Committee at 1:30 P.M. on April 25, 2006 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

A copy of a list of amendments adopted by the Senate Committee of the Whole to **Senate Bill 584** was distributed by Theresa Kiernan. (Attachment 9).

A motion was made by Senator Teichman and seconded by Senator McGinn that no changes be made in the bi-lingual weighting section of the school finance plan. The motion passed on a voice vote

Senator Vratil made the motion to increase high-enrollment weighting by decreasing the number of students by 25, the first year; 50 students, the second year and 50 students the third year. Senator Allen seconded the motion which carried on a show of hands.

It was moved by Senator Vratil and seconded by Senator Allen that for school facilities weighting and ancillary facilities weighting, for school districts to qualify they would have to be levying at least a 25% LOB. The motion passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Senator Goodwin that would increase funding for special education to cover 95% of the excess cost of providing services, at a cost of \$93 million. The motion passed on a voice vote.

The Committee recessed at 12:00 noon.

The meeting resumed at 1:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Senator Vratil and seconded by Senator Allen to leave the LOB at current law with an increase in 2007 of 29% and 30% in the year 2008. The motion passed on a voice vote.

No amendments were made to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Grants or the Mandatory Student Performance Improvement Budget (MSPiB).

Senator Teichman made the motion that was seconded by Senator Vratil to allow flexibility in spending at-risk, preschool-aged at-risk and bilingual programs. The motion passed on a voice vote.

A motion was made by Senator Vratil and seconded by Senator Allen to implement all-day kindergarten at .65 in 2008-2009 at a cost of 16.4 million and to allow charging of fees for that portion not paid by the state. The motion carried on a voice vote.

It was moved by Senator Teichman and seconded by Senator Steineger to allow flexibility in spending in all at-risk students for the first two years. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Senator Vratil moved that the cap on the contingency reserve fund be raised to 6% indefinitely. The motion was seconded by Senator Steineger and passed on a voice vote.

A copy of the State Department of Education's effects of cost-of-living increase was distributed. (Attachment 10).

An updated copy of the Comparison of 2006 School Finance Plans was distributed. (Attachment 11). This showed the total amount of state aid to be \$181,750,000 for the first year, 143,200,000 for the second year and \$141,300,000 for the third year with a three-year total of \$466,250,000.

A motion was made by Senator Vratil and seconded by Senator Allen that would equalize the cost of living levy that is in current law, to 81.2% at a cost to the state of 2.9 million dollars.

A substitute motion was made by Senator McGinn and seconded by Senator Steineger to go up 1% on the local option budget in the third year and remove the cost of living equalization. The substitute motion failed on a show of hands.

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Senator Vratil's motion regarding the equalization of the cost of living levy failed on a show of hands.

Copies of a School Finance Plan draft were distributed. (Attachment 12).

A motion was made by Senator Vratil and seconded by Senator Pine to cut at-risk, non-proficient pupil and high-density weighting each by 10% and the remainder by 15% for an overall saving of \$10 million.

A substitute motion was made by Senator Lee and seconded by Senator Teichman to subtract \$5 million for the regular at-risk weighting and \$5 million from the non-proficient pupil weighting.

Both the Senator Vratil's motion and Senator Lee's substitute motion were withdrawn.

A motion was made by Senator Vratil and seconded by Senator Goodwin to gut **SB 584** and place into it the Committee's newly developed plan that totals 466.25 million total new dollars. This would also give the Revisor the authority to make technical changes, resolve conflict, and to put in a non-severability. The motion was seconded by Senator Goodwin.

Following a brief discussion, Senator Vratil's motion was withdrawn.

Senator Pine made the motion that the House of Legislation's statement regarding LOB be included in the new Senate plan. Senator Vratil seconded the motion which passed on a voice vote.

Alan Conroy addressed the Committee in regard to copies being distributed showing the incorporation of the School Finance Plan with an additional \$466.3 million over three years from 2007 to 2009 as approved by the Legislature at first adjournment. (Attachments 13, 14 and 15).

An updated version of the comparison of 2006 School Finance Plans were distributed. (Attachment 16)

It was moved by Senator Vratil and seconded by Senator Goodwin to use **SB 584** as the vehicle and to prepare a substitute bill incorporating the aspects of the plans that are reflected in the spread sheet (Attachment 11) distributed to the Committee and to pass favorably out of Committee. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.