

## MINUTES

### 2010 COMMISSION

July 10-11, 2008  
Room 123-S—Statehouse

#### Members Present

##### *July 10*

Rochelle Chronister, Chairperson  
Senator Jean Schodorf  
Representative Clay Aurand  
Representative Sue Storm  
Dr. Ray Daniels  
Dennis Jones  
Stephen Iliff  
Carolyn Campbell  
Emile McGill  
Barb Hinton

##### *July 11*

Rochelle Chronister, Chairperson  
Representative Clay Aurand  
Representative Sue Storm  
Dr. Ray Daniels  
Dennis Jones  
Stephen Iliff  
Carolyn Campbell  
Emile McGill  
Lee Urban  
Barb Hinton

#### Staff Present

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jennifer Horchem, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education  
Janet Henning, Legislative Educational Planning Committee Assistant

#### Others Present

*July 10*

Scott Frank, Legislative Division of Post Audit  
Ivan Williams, Legislative Division of Post Audit  
Laurel Murdie, Legislative Division of Post Audit  
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools  
Mike Reecht, K-12 Inc  
Becky Schwart, Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division  
Terry Forsyth, Kansas National Education Association  
Dodie Wellshear, United School Administrators/Kansas  
Lindsay Rousseau, Legislative Post Audit  
Brenda Heafey, Legislative Post Audit  
Tom Krebs, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Kelly Cure, Little Government Relations  
Bill Reardon, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools  
Val DeFever, Schools for Quality Education  
Stuart Little, Shawnee Mission School District

*July 11*

Scott Frank, Legislative Division of Post Audit  
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools  
Terry Forsyth, Kansas National Education Association  
Dodie Wellshear, United School Administrators/Kansas  
Lindsay Rousseau, Legislative Post Audit  
Harleish Benge  
Tom Krebs, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Callie Coco, Kearney & Associates, Inc.  
Bill Reardon, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools  
Val DeFever, Schools for Quality Education  
Ralph Beacham, Greenbush  
Bill Brady, Schools for Fair Funding

**July 10, 2008  
Morning Session**

The meeting of the 2010 Commission was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Rochelle Chronister, who also welcomed Commission members and guests.

Blake West, President, Kansas National Education Association gave a presentation to Commission members entitled "*Great Teachers for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools: A Realistic Plan to Address the Recruitment and Retention of Teachers.*" (On file, Kansas National Education Association, 715 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612.)

Mr. West told Commission members the retirement of a generation of educators is occurring when a range of policy decisions have made recruitment and retention into teaching particularly challenging. At times, shortages apply to particular subject areas (e.g., mathematics, science, special education). Sometimes it is the school with difficult working conditions that find their supply of applicants to be inadequate and increasingly, geography is a factor as rural schools struggle to fill positions when veteran teachers retire.

Mr. West further stated that numerous factors have led to the growing challenge of providing well-qualified teachers for every classroom, and it is essential to understand the cause if we hope to implement sound strategies to rectify the problem. Major factors that emerge from a careful analysis include:

- Opportunities and choices other than teaching;
- Teacher preparation;
- Respect for public education and educators;
- Salary and career earnings;
- Professional advancement;
- Workload and stress;
- Professional work environment; and
- School culture and leadership.

Achieving significant improvement in the supply of caring, competent teachers for our schools in coming years requires that we work strategically to address the underlying causes that have created the shortage in the first place.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Ivan Williams, Legislative Division of Post Audit, reported to Commission members the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the completed performance audit, *“K-12 Education: Assessing the Quality of English as a Second Language Preparation in Kansas Teacher Education Programs.”* (On file, Legislative Division of Post Audit.)

Mr. Williams stated the report included several recommendations for the State Board of Education to improve the English as a Second Language (ESL) training that the universities’ teacher education programs provide. The report also includes a recommendation that the Legislature consider creating financial incentives for teachers who obtain an ESL endorsement.

The report made the following points:

- Do teacher education programs in Kansas colleges and universities adequately prepare new teachers to teach ESL students?
  - In general, teacher education programs in Kansas do not appear to adequately prepare teachers to teach ESL students.
  - The responses also indicate that teachers felt far less prepared to teach ESL students than other groups of students, including those with disabilities.
- Teachers from academic programs that emphasize hands-on experience tended to feel the most prepared.
  - In response to a survey, teachers stated that requiring more dedicated coursework, hands-on training experience, and foreign language training could improve ESL training.
- Teachers with more literate ESL students and better support from their schools tended to feel more prepared to teach ESL students.

- The more proficient in English the ESL students already were, the better prepared teachers felt to teach them. And in general, teachers who rated their school district's support for teaching ESL students higher felt more prepared to teach those students.

The audit report recommends the following:

- To help ensure that all new teachers who complete Kansas teacher education programs are adequately prepared to teach ESL students, the State Board of Education should consider adding the following requirements for teacher education programs.
  - Have prospective teachers complete a dedicated course that covers the unique issues involved in teaching ESL students.
  - Have prospective teachers demonstrate their ability to adapt lesson plans to the needs of ESL students as part of a field experience.
  - Provide prospective teachers a minimum level of foreign language training focused on helping them teach ESL students and communicate with both ESL students and their parents.
- To help increase the number of teachers who pursue an ESL endorsement, the Legislature should consider creating financial incentives such as salary differentials or bonuses for teachers who obtain an ESL endorsement.

Laurel Murdie, Legislative Division of Post Audit, reported to Commission members the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the completed performance audit, "*K-12 Education: School Districts' Use of Additional State Funding.*" (On file, Legislative Division of Post Audit.)

Ms. Murdie told Commission members that in response to the question of how school districts have used the additional state funding they have received since 2005, the following was determined:

- Over the past three years, districts have received a cumulative total of more than \$1.5 billion in new funding because of changes to the school finance formula.
- More than 70 percent of school districts' increased spending between 2004-05 and 2006-07 was for student instruction.
- About 29 percent of districts' increased spending between 2004-05 and 2006-07 was for support services, administration, maintenance, and transportation.
- Overall, reading and math student outcomes continue to show improvement for all grade levels.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned until 1:30 p.m.

## Afternoon Session

The afternoon session of the 2010 Commission was called to order by Chairperson Rochelle Chronister.

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, reviewed the Kansas Supreme Court Decision, *Montoy, et al. v. State of Kansas, et al.* and the status of requirements (Attachment 1 and 2).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department, reviewed the 2010 Commission recommendations and their disposition for Commission members (Attachment 3).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Gary Sherrer, Kansas Regent, spoke to Commission members on concepts that could have some impact on children and how they are educated. Mr. Sherrer stated there has always been a tendency to “get comfortable” with the status quo and what we tend to do, in terms of improving, is to do more of what we have been doing rather than find new ways to do things. Mr. Sherrer gave Commission members three suggestions for improving education in the state:

- Need more integration in performance-based funding in the current funding formula. This new funding model could include:
  - Pay nationally certified teachers an extra \$5,000 a year for ten years;
  - Fund pilot programs in school districts based on student performance providing incentives for educators;
  - Provide financial rewards to buildings who performed and met the standards of the state tests.
  
- Interactive distance learning.
  - Kansas has not done what could be done with interactive distance learning. Retired teachers could be utilized for this program and rural communities would benefit from the program.
  
- Principals' Leadership Academy
  - One of the main reasons teachers leave the classroom is because of lack of support from administration. Develop a leadership academy, not an education seminar.

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Chairperson Chronister told Commission members the next meeting would be Friday, July 11, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**July 11, 2008  
Morning Session**

Chairperson Chronister called the meeting to order and told Commission members of tentative meeting dates for the interim session. Tentative dates are as follows:

August 14 - 15, 2008  
September 11 - 12, 2008  
October 10, 2008  
November 6 - 7, 2008  
Possible late November - early December - to be announced

Chairperson Chronister told Commission members there would be joint meetings with the Legislative Education Planning Committee (LEPC) regarding the following issues:

- Federal impact aid;
- Chase County; and
- Virtual schools.

Chairperson Chronister asked Commission members what they believed to be the most important contribution the 2010 Commission has made. A number of Commission members indicated the following issues were key to our state.

- Early childhood issues and education;
- Commission had been a “voice” for good education;
- Legislative Post Audit reports had been a valuable tool for issues to be identified and reviewed;
- Teacher shortage and retention issues.

Chairperson Chronister asked Commission members what parts of the Commission's charge have not been fulfilled. Commission members responded with the following:

- Commission has not examined school district consolidation.
- Commission has not examined voluntary activities, including extracurricular activities which affect education costs.
- Commission needs to show how to make the finance formula responsive to the needs of Kansas and then be able to back it up.
- Commission should be doing some variables for future funding of consolidation, vocational/technical education, and teacher retention.
- Commission should be taking a proactive approach instead of a reactionary approach.

Chairperson Chronister asked Commission members what other suggestions they might have on matters vital to education in Kansas. Commission members responded with the following:

**Finance-Specific**

- Research or statistical analysis over the next couple of years, attempting to determine the relationship between additional school funding and performance.
- Performance-based funding.
- Two-year budgets to enhance future planning.

**Teacher Issues**

- Teacher shortage;
- Issues surrounding teacher bargaining units;
- Expanding professional development opportunities;
- Review updated teacher working survey;
- Use and expansion of teacher loan cancellation programs;
- Alternative teacher pay plans to recruit or retain teachers.

**Restructuring Education**

- Review of hours required in a school year or day;
- Reforming high schools;
- Consolidation of school districts;
- Virtual Schools, Interactive Distance Learning, and KAN-ED;
- Alternative modes or methods of instruction.

**Other**

- Career Education and how it is funded;
- Development of an accounting system that connects performance data with "live" financial data available for comparison, school to school and district to district;
- Review information from the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force;
- Improving the leadership development opportunities for principals;
- Public/private incentives and various competitions to encourage students to excel;
- Staff development.

It was announced that Senator Schodorf had requested information on school district at-risk spending (Attachment 4).

Chairperson Chronister thanked Commission members for their input.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Prepared by Janet Henning  
Edited by Sharon Wenger

Approved by Commission on:

August 14, 2008  
(date)

