

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:05 A.M. on February 12, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Benjamin Hodge- absent

Marti Crow- excused

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:

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Audit

Representative Pat Colloton

Colleen Riley, Director-Special Education Services, Kansas State Department of Education

Bill Reardon, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

Kathy Cook, Executive Director, Kansas Families for Education

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Bill Brady, Schools for Fair Funding

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools

Dr. Ron Sarnacki, Director, Special Education for Cowley County

Dr. Ron Ballard, USD 470, Arkansas City

Marvin Estes, Superintendent, USD 365, Winfield

Linda Aldridge, Executive Director of NE Kansas Education Service Center, Oskaloosa

Terry Collins, Director, Doniphan County Education Cooperative

Dr. David Sheppard, TriCounty Services, Ft. Larned School District - written testimony

Dr. Gary George, Asst Superintendent, Olathe School District - written testimony

Stuart Little, Shawnee Mission School District

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Audit, gave a report to Committee members on the "K-12 Education: Reviewing Issues Related to Special Education Funding - Summary of Findings". (Attachment #1)

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Audit, gave a response to Representative Trimmer's request regarding redistributing special education categorical aid based on an equal percent of excess costs covered. (Attachment #2)

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Audit, gave a response to Representative Aurand's request for a comparison of the special education excess costs and categorical aid received by school districts and cooperatives. (Attachment #3)

HB 2754: School districts; medicaid replacement state aid

HB 2753: School districts; distribution of state aid for special education and related services

HB 2790: School districts; special education state aid, distribution

Bill Reardon, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HB 2754**. (Attachment #4)

Kathy Cook, Executive Director, Kansas Families for Education, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HB 2754** and **HB 2790**. (Attachment #5)

Bill Brady, Schools for Fair Funding, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HB 2754**. (Attachment #6)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:05 A.M. on February 12, 2008 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HB 2753** and **HB 2790**. (Attachment #7)

Representative Pat Colloton addressed Committee members in support of **HB 2790**. Representative Colloton stated the bill fixes the formula so that all school districts will eventually get 92% of excess cost funding from the state without any district losing current funding. (Attachment #8)

Colleen Riley, Director, Special Education Services, Kansas State Department of Education, spoke to Committee members regarding **HB 2790**. Director Riley stated determining eligibility and developing Individualized Education Plans for students is a complex process. She further stated this legislation is premature in light of the fact that educators have already determined that changes need to be made, but only after careful consideration of the impact to children with disabilities. Director Riley encouraged the House Education committee to allow educators and KSDE staff to continue research in order to determine the most equitable way to fund special education services in Kansas. (Attachment #9)

Bob Vancrum, Blue Valley, USD 229, testified before Committee members in support of **HB 2790**. (Attachment #10)

Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy, Kansas Association of School Boards, spoke to Committee members as proponents of **HB 2754** and **HB 2790** and stated that KASB supports the concept of linking special education reimbursement more closely to actual costs, but encouraged the Legislature to move with caution. (Attachment #11)

Doug Mays, Topeka Public Schools, spoke to Committee members in support of **HB 2790**.

Written testimony was received from Dr. Gary George, Assistant Superintendent, Olathe District Schools, as a proponent of **HB 2790**. (Attachment #12)

Written testimony was received from Stuart Little, Shawnee Mission School District, as a proponent of **HB 2790**. (Attachment #13)

Linda Aldridge, Executive Director, Special Education Director, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center, spoke to Committee in opposition of **HB 2790** and **HB 2753**. (Attachment #14)

Marvin Estes, Superintendent, USD 365, Winfield, spoke to Committee members in opposition of **HB 2753**. (Attachments #15 and #16)

Dr. Ron Sarnacki, Director of Special Education for Cowley County, spoke to Committee members in opposition of **HB 2753**. (Attachments #17, #18, and #19)

Terry Collins, Director, Doniphan County Education Cooperative, spoke to Committee members in opposition of **HB 2753**. (Attachment #20)

Written testimony was received from David Sheppard, Director, TriCounty Special Services, Ft. Larned School District as an opponent of **HB 2753**. (Attachment #21)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Chairman Aurand closed the hearings on **HB 2753**, **HB 2754**, and **HB 2790**.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2008.