

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 1:10 p.m. on March 31, 2004 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Janis Lee (excused)

Committee staff present:
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Judy Steinlicht, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Representative Clay Aurand
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Mark Tallman, Kansas State Association of School Boards
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association
Sue Gamble, Kansas State Board of Education
Stuart Little, Shawnee Mission, USD 512
Bob Vancrum, Blue Valley, USD 229
Kent Hurn, United School Administrators

Others attending:
See Attached List

HB2937–School Finance; certain property tax exemption **HB2940–Schools and school districts; suitable education; areas of instruction**

Representative Clay Aurand gave the committee an overview of **HB2937**, the House Leadership Plan. ([Attachment 1](#))

Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research, provided a handout comparing five school finance plans, **SB403**, Governor’s Original Proposal; **SB550**, Governor’s Revised Proposal; **Senate Sub. for HB2004**; **HB2937** and **HB2940**. ([Attachment 2](#)) Carolyn acknowledged that a few revisions were needed in the attachment and these would be available tomorrow.

Mark Tallman, Kansas State Association of School Boards (KASB) testified in favor of **HB2940**. KASB believes the revenue components of **HB2940** are balanced and straightforward. The 4.5% income tax surcharge and the .2 percent increase in sales tax are taxes that everyone will share in paying for educational funding. KASB is concerned about the increase in the local option budget because they believe it continues to inequitably shift funding responsibility from the state to local school districts. KASB is opposed to Representative O’Neal’s expansion of the list of subjects that each public school is required to offer and the list of programs and services that would be “optional”.

KASB supports the provisions in **HB2937** that increase at-risk and bilingual weightings. KASB opposes the provision that creates a “cost of living” levy and the provision that creates a “Center for Innovative School Leadership”. ([Attachment 3](#))

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association (KNEA) testified in opposition to **HB2937** because they believe it will leave the vast majority of school districts faced with budget cuts and provide the 16 wealthiest school districts with an opportunity to raise money by raising local property taxes.

KNEA believes **HB2940** will provide all school districts with needed resources. They do believe that efforts to raise the LOB is disequalizing, but believe it is a part of a carefully balanced package and would not object to it as a compromise. KNEA believes that the language in sections 14 through 16 of the bill should be stricken. ([Attachment 4](#))

Sue Gamble, Kansas State Board of Education, testified in support of **HB2940**, but would request that

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 14. (a) 1-17 and Section 15. a-i be amended to the list already in regulation as adopted by the State Board of Education. They also do not believe that Section 16 is necessary. (Attachment 5)

Stuart Little, Shawnee Mission, USD 512, testified in favor of **HB2940**. He believes the various components of increased funding will provide school districts with needed funding this year. The revenue will not be used for extras or luxuries, but will be used to offset three years of funding cuts and to shift funding to other areas such as salaries, benefits and utilities. (Attachment 6)

Bob Vancrum, Blue Valley, USD 229, testified in favor of both **HB2937** and **HB2940**. **HB2937** contains the cost of living differential and **HB2940** sets the LOB at 30%. He believes that school finance components included in **HB2940** have the right mix. (Attachment 7)

Kent Hurn, United School Administrators (USA), testified in support of **HB2940**. USA believes the increased funding in this bill will help the schools of Kansas maintain the quality of education that the citizens want and that the children deserve. USA believes the school district constituents support a modest increase in taxes for education. (Attachment 8)

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education, provided printouts for **HB2937**; **HB2940**; **SB550**; **Senate Substitute for HB2004** which provided details of the proposed plans with the estimated costs. (Attachment 9)

Meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.