

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 a.m. On January 26, 2011, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Eunice C. Peters, Kansas Revisor of Statutes
Norm Furse, Kansas Revisor of Statutes
Jason Long, Kansas Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education
Jan Johnston, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, written testimony
Mark Crawford, Hugoton School District, USD 210, written testimony
Bill Reardon, USD 500, written testimony
Frank Harwood, USD 497, written testimony
Theresa Davidson, Superintendent USD 253, written testimony
Rob Scheib, Assistant Superintendent, USD 253, written testimony
Elton Argo, USD 483, Kismet/Plaines, written testimony
Diane Gjerstad, USD 259, written testimony

Chairman Aurand welcomed Malissa Martin-Wilke, President, Communities In Schools of Kansas as well as Frank Clepper, Chief Operating Officer, Delta Dental.

Frank Clepper told Committee members how well students are performing academically in our public school system, and how Communities in Schools is uniquely equipped to help both struggling students and struggling schools. A CIS National study shows the CIS Model results in a higher percentage of students reaching proficiency in fourth and eighth grade reading and math, and it also showed that students in high-implementing CIS schools consistently outperform students in the comparison non-CIS school. (Attachment 1)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

HB 2016 – School districts; finance; bilingual weighting based on program enrollment.

Chairman Aurand opened the hearing on **HB 2016**.

Eunice Peters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, gave an explanation of the bilingual education weighting in school finance formulas.

Chairman Aurand gave the Committee background explanation of the Bill. The Interim Committee on School Finance looked at a number of post audit recommendations or suggestions or things they have identified over the years that have not gone any where. We thought it would be good to look at some of these recommendations or suggestions.

Scott Frank, Legislative Division of Post Audit, told Committee members to look at the handout of the Cost Study Analysis. The State and federal laws require school districts to provide language-support services to students who are not proficient in English based on the results of standardized language assessment. (Attachment 2)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Education Committee at 9:00 a.m. On January 26, 2011, in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director for Advocacy, spoke to the Committee as a Opponent. He told the Committee **HB 2016** would change the bilingual weighting from one based on the full-time equivalent of students in classes with an approved bilingual teacher, to a weighting based on the headcount enrollment of such students. The weighting factor is adjusted so the bill is essentially revenue neutral to the state; however, it will cause substantial shifts in funding among school districts. Essentially, those districts with more students in courses taught by approved teachers would lose. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Aurand suggested due to the numbers of conferees, we would have a question and answer session after all the conferees addressed the Committee.

Mark Crawford, Superintendent, Hugoton USD 210, spoke to the committee as an Opponent regarding **HB 2016**. Many districts have spent significant dollars to train teachers to take college classes and/or special training in order to pass an ESL Praxis examination. English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers must have special preparation to teach English to non-native speakers; being a fluent speaker or an effective teacher of English to native speakers is not enough. The current law for awarding bilingual weighting involves a formula that factors in the amount of student contact time with an ESL endorsed teacher. (Attachment 4)

Bill Reardon, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, spoke to the Committee as an Opponent regarding changes in the bilingual weight for students in a class taught by an endorsed ESL teacher from the current .395 to a weight of .2 for the entire day for students receiving any bilingual services. The second concern with **HB 2016** is our standing opposition to changes in the school finance formula which result in winners and losers at a time when school funding is decreasing. (Attachment 5)

Frank Harwood, Chief Operations Officer, Lawrence Public Schools, spoke to the Committee as an Opponent on **HB 2016** that the current funding mechanism is not perfect, it does make sure that funding follows the students based on their instructional program. The current formula allows districts to only count time for funding that the students spend in instruction with an ESL endorsed teacher. (Attachment 6)

M. Theresa Davidson, Interim Superintendent and Robert Scheib, Assistant Superintendent of Business, spoke to the Committee as Opponents regarding **HB 2016**. The demographics makeup of the Emporia community has changed dramatically over the past 15 years. They have invested in the staff development necessary to assure that students in Emporia classrooms receive direct, explicit scientifically research based instruction from every teacher they encounter throughout the day. (Attachment 7)

Elton Argo, Superintendent of Schools, USD 483 Kismet/Plains, spoke to the Committee as an Opponent on **HB 2016** regarding the current formula for funding the necessary additional instruction for successfully meeting the education needs of ESOL students compared to the proposed revisions to the formula contained in **HB 2016**. The current formula provides additional funding when a certified teacher has actual contact time with ESOL students. (Attachment 8)

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, spoke to the committee as an Opponent on **HB 2016**. We oppose this bill which would appear to simply “rearrange” school funding by taking target dollars from districts with the largest populations of English language learners in the State. (Attachment 9)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Chairman Aurand closed the hearing on **HB 2016**.

HB 2017 – School districts; calculating adjusted enrollment if determined that pupils are ineligible for free meals.

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Chairman Aurand opened the hearing on **HB 2017**.

Scott Frank, Legislative Post Auditor, gave a background on **HB 2017**.

A question and answer session followed.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, spoke to the Committee as an opponent regarding **HB 2017**. They have several concerns about **HB 2017**, which stems from a 2006 Legislative Post Audit, and has been considered a number of times. The bill would eliminate at risk funding for the entire year when an audited application is found ineligible under the School Nutrition Program. (Attachment 10)

Bill Reardon, Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, spoke to the Committee as a Neutral regarding **HB 2017**. His district supports the current law that links at-risk funding to the number of students deemed to be not eligible for the at-risk weight. (Attachment 11)

Chairman Aurand closed the hearing on **HB 2017**.

Chairman Aurand informed the Committee to be prepared to work Bills tomorrow previously heard.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2011.