

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on January 23, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes  
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas  
Department of Education

Diane Gjerstad, representing the Wichita Public Schools, introduced Colonel Hester, Commander of the Wichita JROTC Leadership Corps, who presented students belonging to the corps who spoke to the Committee of their experiences as members.

**HB 2605 - concerning school district finance; providing for declining enrollment weighting.**

Appearing before the Committee in support of **HB 2605** were school superintendents: Ken Jones, USD 493, Columbus; Duane Steele, USD 294, Oberlin; Lee Tarrant, USD 318, Atwood; Robert Scheib, USD 208, WaKeeney; and Jay Smith, USD 447, Cherryvale. (Attachments 3 through 7). Presenting written testimony but not appearing before the Committee was Superintendent Larry Wittmer, USD 479, Crest. (Attachment 8).

Craig Grant of the Kansas National Education Association, spoke to the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2605** (Attachment 9).

In opposition of **HB 2605** was Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy of the Kansas Association of School Boards. (Attachment 10). He explained that he would not be opposed to the concept of the bill if there was sufficient funding.

A Legislative Research Department report offering information regarding school finance was distributed. (Attachment 11). This included a table on the decreasing enrollment provisions from 1992-93 to the present.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2002.