

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:40 p.m. on February 4, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Hensley and Vratil (excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education
Stephanie Hirsh, Deputy Executive, Director National Staff
Development Council
Michelle Exstrom, Policy Specialist, Education Program
National Conference of State Legislatures

Others attending: See attached list

Education Technology Fair

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Board of Education briefed the Committee on the upcoming Annual Education Technology Fair at the Capitol on February 6th. Schools compete to attend. Fifteen schools were selected and they will be demonstrating learning through technology in many curricular areas. Dale urged Committee members to visit these students as they have much to offer.

Professional Development

Senator Oleen introduced Stephanie Hirsh, National Staff Development Council and Michelle Exstrom from the National Conference of State Legislatures. She thanked Christy Levings, KNEA for coordinating the meeting.

Stephanie Hirsh complemented Kansas educational organizations and the Legislature for their partnership in improving education and for all the standards Kansas has already put in place. Stephanie's presentation covered what is meant by high quality professional learning for all teachers. The Professional Development program would provide teachers an opportunity on a daily basis to participate in learning teams. In addition to individual planning time, teachers would also have collaborative learning time with daily conversations with their colleagues on study standards that their students are expected to master, plan lessons, critique together student work so that there are common definitions for how students are graded, and observe others teaching. This would contribute to daily improvement and the quality of teaching that occurs in classrooms.

Michelle Exstrom's focus is on education policies. Michelle commended Kansas on the many policies that are already in place. Her purpose is to give some ideas on how the Legislature can improve the quality of professional development in Kansas. Some of the recommended legislative strategies that can assist in achieving professional development are development of standards, planning and evaluation, resources,

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:30 p.m. on February 4, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

career development for teachers and external assistance providers. NCSL is available for assistance in research and technical matters. The attachment contains the key points of the presentation. (Attachment 1)

Stephanie and Michelle also provided a packet to all Committee members that contains a Professional Development Meeting Guide and booklets from the National Conference of State Legislatures titled, *“Professional Development Policies and Practices: Frequently Asked Questions;”* *“Policy Options for Improved Professional Development;”* and *“Quality Teaching, Professional Learning and the Legislative Agenda.”*

After discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2003 in Room 123-S.