

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:20 p.m. on January 30, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Sheila Frahm, Executive Director, KACCT
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Dr. Alexa Pochowski

Others attending: See attached list

Chairman Umbarger introduced Sheila Frahm, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (KACCT). Sheila distributed the "Black Book" which is a collection of materials from many different sources. The KACCT put the book together because there have been a number of new trustees and presidents coming into the state and for the legislators. It is a way to put everything together in one place so that they can refer to it quickly. The information answers some questions and raises others. Sheila pointed out pages that she felt would be of interest and assistance. Sheila also provided a brochure outlining future initiatives. The brochure points out initiatives that will be addressed during 2001-2003. These initiatives include partnerships, funding, statewide impact and support, legislation and policies and accountability.

Chairman Umbarger recognized and welcomed the many visitors from Farm Bureau visiting the committee today.

Chairman Umbarger introduced Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education, who gave a presentation on special education funding. The figures were put together by budget, research, and the State Board of Education. (Attachment 1)

Dale Dennis introduced Dr. Alexa Pochowski, who gave a presentation on the change in special education and why the cost continues to rise. She explained the charts in (Attachment 2) and her comments are summarized in (Attachment 3).

During committee discussion, it was asked about what options the districts have for what they provide. Alexa stated that the law states the school must provide an appropriate education for a child. The costs vary per child depending on the disability of the child. There are no options under the law. The education must be provided. Committee discussion showed that many of the special education students came from the state hospitals and the funding that they received there stayed with the hospitals and was not transferred to the school along with the student. The federal law provides educational opportunities to age 21 to special ed students and regular education to the age of 18. Alexa did not have the percentage of special education students that stay in the school system until 21, but it is mostly the profoundly challenged which is a higher cost.

Chairman Umbarger adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 31, 2001 at the regular time.