

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND FISCAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 3:30 p.m. on February 3, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Brenda Landwehr- excused
Representative Judy Loganbill- excused
Representative Melvin Neufeld- excused
Representative Louis Ruiz- excused
Representative Tom Sloan- excused

Committee staff present:

Rena Jefferies, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Sharon Zoellner, Superintendent, DeSoto Public Schools

Others attending:

See attached list.

The committee minutes for January 28 and 29 were approved. (Motion by Representative Roth, seconded by Representative Trimmer)

The Chairman introduced Dr. Sharon Zoellner, Superintendent, DeSoto Public Schools, who provided a list of reports and other mandates that are considered by many school districts to be duplicative, redundant, or unnecessary (Attachment 1). She commented on various items on the list, noting that the requirement to retire buses after 20 years was arbitrary, that the May 1 deadline to notify a teacher about the following year's contract adds unnecessary complexity to a district's plans, that some federal requirements are needlessly repeated at the state level, and that some isolated incidents are used to create statewide policy.

Dr. Zoellner responded to a variety of members' questions:

- Requiring a district to purchase from the state catalogue rather than from local vendors is not only more expensive, but sometimes forces a district to accept poorer quality products.
- Gifted students are not included in federal regulations; however, Kansas children benefit from the state's gifted designation.
- National tests are a satisfactory indicator of a student's progress.
- Decisions about moving funds to different categories should be left to local school boards.
- Quarterly reports could be streamlined so that the basic information is entered only once. For

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Government Efficiency And Fiscal Oversight Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 3, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

example, the at-risk report uses much of the same information as the school lunch report.

Mark Tallman, Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards, was asked to enter the discussion. He noted the disparity between federal and state requirements and the concomitant complexity of reporting requirements. He commented that statutory requirements often add further complexity for school boards.

The Chairman observed that committee discussion served to open the process and promote transparency in dealing with some of the issues. Dr. Zoellner said she was available for further legislative input. Staff Mary Galligan noted that if a legislative interim study is recommended, the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) could deal with the issues raised by the committee. After further discussion the Chairman declared a consensus for making a final report on the issues discussed, a report that could recommend further study by the LEPC.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2009.