

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:35 p.m. on January 24, 2005 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Senator Schodorf distributed a worksheet to committee members concerning possible questions to consider and discuss with regard to school finance. She requested that members answer the questions as soon as possible and return the worksheet to her. (Attachment 1)

Senator Schodorf called upon Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research Department, to present background information on the 2005 Kansas Supreme Court decision in the school finance case, *Montoy v. Kansas*. Ms. Rampey began by noting that the Court said that the issue of suitability is not stagnant and that the issue must be closely monitored. She followed with background information on *Montoy I* and *Montoy II*, focusing on the Augenblick and Myers (A&M) study, which features prominently in opinions and memoranda issued by the courts that considered the litigation. She also discussed the fiscal impact of the A&M recommendations and the changes which took place in the interval between the two Supreme Court school finance decisions (1994 and 2005) and the changes which have taken place since *Montoy* was filed in 1999 and since the Legislature commissioned the A&M study in 2001. During her presentation, she referred to the following attachments to her written report: an itemization of quality performance accreditation guidelines contained in the 1992 Act, a copy of K.S.A 2004 Supp. 46-1225 concerning quality performance guidelines contained in the original version of the current school finance act, and a list of components of a "suitable education" for purposes of the contract entered into with A&M. (Attachment 2) In addition, she referred to a copy of the Supreme Court opinion, with particular emphasis on pages 4, 5, and 9. (Attachment 3)

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, State Department of Education, distributed copies of a memorandum concerning the calculation of the cost of a suitable education in Kansas in 2000-01 using two different analytic approaches. (Attachment 4)

Senator Schodorf reminded the Committee that the Agenda for Wednesday, January 26, allows 45 minutes for committee discussion regarding the definition of a "suitable education."

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2005.