

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:30 p.m. on January 29, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:     Stacy Farmer, Kansas Assoc. of School Boards  
   William R. Docking, Kansas Board of Regents  
   Clay Blair, Chairman, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending:

Stacy Farmer, Kansas Association of School Boards, requested the introduction of six bills, HB2181 from 1999 as a new bill, to give school boards broader powers of local control, SB 155 from 1999 as a new bill, giving school boards authority to create local charter schools that are exempt from state laws and regulations, SB 225 from 1999 as a new bill, giving school boards authority to terminate tenured teachers for good cause, based on evidence and subject to review by the court system, HB 3092 from 1992 as a new bill, requiring school boards to receive a minimum number of hours of training as approved by State Board of Education. They also request new legislation to amend the student suspension/expulsion act to remove the requirement that the division of motor vehicles be notified in certain cases and new legislation to amend state law to require that any change in school district boundaries should be approved at least twelve months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year in which it is to take effect, unless otherwise agreed by the districts. Bill requests are listed in the attached letter from the Kansas Association of School Boards. (Attachment 1) Motion was made by Senator Teichman to introduce the bills. Seconded by Senator Vratil. Motion passed.

The committee wanted to know how costly it was to introduce the same bill in both Houses and why we draft the same bills in the House and the Senate. It was felt that the cost was not prohibitive. It is to expedite the process. If the bill does not move in the House, then it can be handled in the Senate.

Motion to approve minutes for January 17, January 18, and January 22, 2001 was made by Senator Vratil. Seconded by Senator Corbin. Motion passed.

Chairman Umbarger introduced Kim Wilcox, Board of Regents who in turn introduced several people from the Board of Regents staff. Bill Docking, past chairman of the Kansas Board of Regents, gave an overview on the accomplishments in the last year and a half and the direction the board sees themselves going in the next year or two. His testimony is in (Attachment 2).

Clay Blair, Chairman of the Board of Regents, began his comments stating that SB 345 created the opportunity to redefine a vision for what higher education should be in the state. The majority of the members of the board were new and brought fresh new attitudes. They defined 13 crucial items that they thought were essential in looking to the future for higher education and these were major steps, not the daily management type of things. His testimony is outlined in (Attachment 3).

After a short committee discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be January 30, at 1:00 p.m.