

Approved

March 5, 1991
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The meeting was called to order by Representative Diane Gjerstad at
Chairperson

3:35 ~~a.m.~~ p.m. on February 14, 1991 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representatives Brown, Dean, Wagnon and Wisdom. Excused.

Committee staff present:

Lynne Holt, Research
Jim Wilson, Revisor
Betty Manning, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Edward Hammond, President, Fort Hays State University
John W. Koepke, Executive Director, KS Assn. of School Boards
Dr. Tom Hawk, Director, Secondary Curriculum, Manhattan/Ogden Schools
Dr. James C. Thompson, Superintendent, Blue Valley Schools
Dr. Raj Chopra, Superintendent, Shawnee Mission Schools

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Chairperson Gjerstad.

The Chair recognized Rep. Bishop who made a motion the committee consider a bill addressing the function of the Kansas housing policy program and financing in the state. The bill would consolidate the services of housing that are presently conducted in the Department of Commerce into the Kansas Development Finance Authority. Rep. Weimer seconded the motion. Motion carried. The bill will be introduced.

Dr. Hammond was first conferee in support of H.B. 2179. He stated he was pleased the committee was undertaking the issue of technology and the concept of the technology education fund. He felt it is important that all students be computer literate flexible. Technology, as defined in this bill, not only provides the opportunity to purchase computer technology but also enables school districts to purchase equipment which uses compressed video as well as full motion video transmitted on fiber. Dr. Hammond expressed concern with the two mill levy. He encouraged the committee to examine a more equitable approach.

The Chair then recognized Lynne Holt who presented the staff explanation of H.B. 2179. It authorizes school district boards of education to levy up to two mills for a period of not more than six years for the purpose of developing, implementing or enhancing technology education programs and for acquiring equipment necessary to implement. This tax levying authority is renewable within limitations consistent with such authority. School districts are authorized to issue general obligation bonds to secure the funds for technology education programs and equipment. Bonds issued under this authority are not subject to any bonded debt limit of law nor do they count toward computing the bonded debt of such school district. The resolution to impose a levy must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper having general circulation in the school district. The cost levying authority is subject to a ten percent protest petition filed within 30 days after the last publication of the resolution. The bill establishes in every school district of the state a new technology education fund which consists of all money deposited in accordance with law including the proceeds of the tax levy imposed under this legislation.

Lynne Holt responded to questions from the committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

room 423-S, Statehouse, at 3:35 ~~am~~/p.m. on February 14, 1991.

John Koepke, executive director of Kansas Association of School Boards, was the second conferee to testify in support of H.B. 2179. Mr. Koepke stated that on behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards, they applaud the efforts of the committee to expand the availability of technology-education programs in Kansas school districts. He also suggested that the thrust of H.B. 2179 be changed to an expansion of the general budget authority of Kansas school districts. The approach presently contained in the bill would produce an uneven effect based on widely varying property wealth of the school districts across the state. Attachment 1.

The third conferee in support of H.B. 2179 was Dr. Tom Hawk, director, secondary curriculum, Manhattan/Ogden schools. He recently attended two meetings on technology stressing the urgency of restructuring education with the inclusion of technology giving students the tools to be productive in a global economy. He stressed that we can no longer afford to turn out young people without sophisticated skills with the hope society will find a job where they can mature with hard work and discipline. There simply will not be jobs for the unskilled. Technology brings the disciplines of history, mathematics and science alive for students and provides immediate feedback on learning. The bill will provide an immediate avenue for acquisition of the technology needed to make giant leaps in education. Dr. Hawk's believes that this bill has the potential to start a significant transformation of education in Kansas. Attachment 2.

The Chair recognized James C. Thompson, Superintendent of Schools, Blue Valley Schools. He stated that in order for our school districts to provide top quality educational experiences for students and prepare them for the twenty-first century, we must be able to integrate technology and the classroom. Technology can transform the classroom into a learning laboratory. Dr. Thompson did suggest that the two mill levy be studied further and that alternatives be sought due to the inequity of district valuation. He suggested providing additional operating budget authority earmarked for technology. Attachment 3.

Dr. Raj Chopra, Superintendent of Shawnee Mission Schools, was final conferee in support of H.B. 2179. He stated the radical changes we now witness demand new skills for our leaders of tomorrow. These new skills will be a prerequisite for success in a more complex and mentally demanding workplace. Dr. Chopra stated the bill represents the vehicle to make these visions a reality and provides the opportunity for all school districts to expand technology in education. Making the funds available in the capital outlay portion of the budget is a clean mechanism to encourage school districts to implement technology. Passage of H.B. 2179 by this committee will pave the way for all schools in the state to develop new initiatives for technology in education to meet their needs and priorities. Attachment 4. Dr. Chopra responded to questions from the committee.

Chairperson Gjerstad closed the hearings on H.B. 2179.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.



Testimony on H.B. 2179
before the
House Committee on Economic Development

by

John W. Koepke, Executive Director
Kansas Association of School Boards

February 14, 1991

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, we appreciate the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the member boards of education of the Kansas Association of School Boards with regard to H.B. 2179. We applaud the effort of the Committee to expand the availability of technology education programs in Kansas school districts.

Kansas school districts have long been aware of the enhancement of their educational programs that can be gained through the utilization of technology and they have been in the forefront nationally in seeking to bring these benefits to their students. Several years ago, the National School Boards Association created the Institute for the Transfer of Technology to Education within its service structure. Of the first 100 school districts in the nation to sign up for this information and sharing service, 22 were from Kansas.

Kansas efforts in technology education have ranged from the use of computer instruction to the offering of classes by satellite and interactive video. An example of the use of the interactive video technology is being used today by the House and Senate Education Committees to conduct their hearings in cooperation with participating school districts. Kansas State University, through the federal Star Schools Grant Program, has created a state of the art Education Communications Center on the Manhattan campus. This Center is producing foreign language classes that are being utilized by schools throughout the nation via satellite.

Kansas school districts are eager to expand their utilization of the new education technologies which are readily available. Their chief restriction, particularly in recent years, has been a lack of resources. We would suggest, therefore, that the thrust of H.B. 2179 be changed to an expansion of the general budget authority of Kansas school districts. The approach presently contained in H.B. 2179 would produce an uneven effect, since a two mill levy would produce widely varying amounts of assistance based on the property wealth of the school districts involved.

Again, we appreciate the interest of the Committee in seeking to expand the availability of educational technology in Kansas school districts and we pledge our assistance to achieving this desirable goal. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views to the Committee and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions.

TESTIMONY HB 2179

Dr. Tom Hawk
Director Secondary Curriculum
Manhattan/Ogden USD #383

It is my pleasure to support HB 2179 and to applaud the House Economic Development Committee for their leadership in bringing the issue of funding technology for schools to the attention of the legislature.

As the committee well knows, our most valuable resource is the young people in our state and their education and development is the key component to economic development.

I just returned yesterday from two important technology meetings--one sponsored by IBM in Florida and the other by Apple in Chicago. The theme for both meetings was the urgency of restructuring education with technology so that our students can become productive participants in our society as adults and so that our country can compete in a global economy.

We hear frequently about the rapid and pervasive onset of the information age. No longer are we in an industrial era where we can afford to have a huge pool of unskilled labor to run the industries and fill the jobs that existed in our previous world. The phrase I often heard was that in that bygone era the worker was to check his brain at the factory door. Even today, that is no longer the case. We can no longer afford to turn out young people without sophisticated skills and hope as a society that they will somehow find a job where they can mature and with hard work and discipline rise to our american ideal of middle class life! There will simply not be many jobs in the future for the uneducated.

What then is the challenge for education? Our task in the public schools is indeed enormous. Our students are becoming more and more difficult to teach as the traditional family erodes and the sense of belonging and community, often stabilizers in our past, become more disconnected. In addition, our students are also more sophisticated. They have grown up in the television/media/MTV age. They demand and expect excitement and entertainment.

Technology is one answer for the many issues we face in this state and nation as we deal with this immediate crisis and anticipate an economic disaster for our country. Technology in education provides one of the key ingrediants for reaching students--motivation. The evolving computer and multi-media programs can bring the disciplines of history, mathematics, and science alive for students and provide immediate feedback

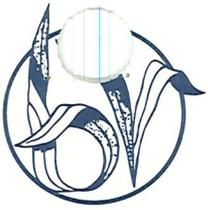
*Eco-Devo
Attachment #2
02-14-91*

on their learning. It can show them relationships and provide facts right at their fingertips. It can become their window on the world and make the future, a bright future, seem possible. The technology now available can help us reach the goal of every student learning, any topic, any time, any where. The attainment of that goal through technology is our salvation in Kansas--both economically and as a democracy.

The idea of providing discretionary funding authority for two mills at the district level is so progressive and logical, it would seem hard to me to find anyone who would not agree. Lest there be someone who is not convinced of the need, or who would see some other more complicated solutions, I would like to add some additional thoughts derived from my 22 years working in the public schools of Kansas.

The two mills provides an immediate avenue for the acquisition of the technology needed to make the giant leaps needed in restructuring education--a restructuring that needs to occur in the classrooms. Many districts across the state, especially mine which is in the fourth enrollment category and has had the second lowest cost per pupil in the state, are strapped in both their general fund and capital outlay funds. The costs of personnel and the costs for maintaining buildings and existing equipment eats up nearly all resources. There is no extra money to buy the kinds of technology to reach all students to the degree that we can really restructure the classroom and make a difference in the outcome performance and knowledge levels of the students. There is no question for me that teachers are working hard, very hard, but that they do not have the tools to make the changes necessary. Well meaning and progressive boards of education do not have the funding capability to offer the support of the community for these critical changes.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that it is my belief that this bill has the potential to start a significant transformation of education in Kansas. We cannot make the key changes in the way we instruct children without the tools of technology. That technology is not the only piece necessary for job ahead, but it is such an important piece that without it our efforts for significant improvement and restructuring will fall short.



Blue Valley
Schools
"growing with pride"

Testimony on H.B. 2179
before the
House Committee on Economic Development

by

Dr. James C. Thompson
Superintendent of Schools
Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

February 14, 1991

Madame Chair and Committee Members:

I am Jim Thompson and I'm superintendent of the Blue Valley Unified School District #229. I am here in support of H.B. 2179 and I urge your support of this bill.

In order for our school districts in Kansas to provide top quality educational experiences for our youngsters which will, in fact, prepare them for the 21st Century, we must be able to integrate technology into the classroom. Technology can transform the classroom into a learning laboratory in which relevant, real-life skills and knowledge can be achieved by our students. Technology can be a key component to real school reform because it can provide learning tools which enable children to extend well beyond the classroom walls.

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Eco-Devo
Attachment #3
02-14-91

The school's mission is to enable people to become life-long learners. Technology can enhance information literacy which is the basis of life-long learning. Being able to find, use, evaluate, organize, and present information is a "new basic" of the 21st Century. Technology helps to make that information literacy possible.

In addition to being a tool for learning, technology is also part of the subject matter of tomorrow's schools. Our Kansas citizens must be able to utilize the latest in technology if they are to succeed in tomorrow's jobs. This is truly an economic development issue in that we must have a trained workforce in our state to bring and keep businesses in Kansas.

I realize that a question has been raised by a previous conferee about possible inequity in the amount of revenue which can be raised by various school districts through a two-mill levy. I would, therefore, suggest that the budgeting provision be studied further and that alternatives be sought. I suggest that one such alternative would be to provide additional operating budget authority beyond the current budget limit, that the additional budget authority be earmarked for technology, and that the revenue to support that additional budget authority to strictly from local sources. Thus, the technology program would be funded out of the operating budget but would not directly impact the school equalization formula.

What I do support regarding the financing of the technology plan is that it be locally initiated (local Board of Education approved with a protest petition provision) and locally funded (either a local tax increase to fund an operating budget increase or a two-mill levy as originally proposed). Regardless, unless there is some new provision made for technology implementation in our schools, we will not be able to integrate technology into our schools as needed. We need some new financing authority in order to make this leap forward.

Quality education has been proven to be a major factor in quality of life. Quality of life contributes to economic development and vitality in our state. This proposal for technology is an economic development issue which should be pursued. I urge your support of H.B. 2179.

TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ON HB 2179

by Dr. Raj K. Chopra
Superintendent, U.S.D. 512

February 14, 1991

Madam Chairman:

I am honored and consider it a privilege to have this opportunity to share my thoughts along with those of many educators and patrons in the Shawnee Mission School District regarding the use of technology to enhance our teachers' capacity to teach and our students' capacity to learn. Before I do that, I would be remiss if I did not mention the blessings of liberty which all of us enjoy in this great nation of ours. The opportunity to speak before you is one of those many blessings for which I am grateful.

By holding a hearing on HB 2179, the Committee on Economic Development is leading the way in creating a vision for the future of our young people. The dreams of tomorrow which we nurture today will one day be transformed into reality. Madam Chairman, these future needs and changing times necessitate unprecedented preparedness. Let me illustrate my point by the following facts:

In 1990, 4% of the people worked in agriculture, 23% in manufacturing and 73% in services. By the year 2000, it is predicted that 2% will work in agriculture, 5% in manufacturing and 93% in services. By the year 2000, we will have the capacity to produce a 250 page book in six minutes. Technology utilizing computers, fiber optics, integrated software and interactive television is bound to revolutionize education. The winds of change can best be exemplified by the experts discussing the possibility of the introduction of optical computing technologies using photons of light instead of electrons. Optical computers are expected to run at a faster speed than electronic computers and light can carry a lot more information than electricity. The radical changes that we are now witnessing demand new skills for today's young people--our leaders of tomorrow. These new skills will be a prerequisite for success in a constantly changing, more complex and mentally demanding workplace.

As Sue Berryman, Director of the Institute on Education and Economy, Teachers College, Columbia University, points out, "Computers have the potential of creating dynamic environments and helping children really be able to deal with 'ifs/thens' and be able to model things."

*Eco-Devo
Attachment #4
02-14-91*

A computer expert was quoted in the February 9, 1990 edition of The Wall Street Journal as saying, "Providing the schools with the latest technology could well require a type of central management vision that is familiar to business but almost completely alien to a 'fragmented, locally-financed educational system'."

Madam Chairman, this committee represents that vision...the vehicle to make it a reality is HB 2179 which will provide an opportunity for all school districts in the State of Kansas to expand the use of technology in education. Making the funds available in the capital outlay portion of the budget is a clean mechanism to encourage school districts to implement technology on the basis of their needs. Under the current law each school district is authorized to levy up to four mills for capital improvement including the purchase of equipment. The new bill follows the existing practice.

Lewis Perelman of the Hudson Institute and author of Technology and Restructuring of Schools addressing Excellence in Education underlines the danger in failing to implement technology in education. Perelman said, "A technological revolution is sweeping the United States and the world that will leave conventional classrooms as obsolete as livery stables and blacksmith shops."

Madam Chairman, this great country of ours was built upon the risk takers of yesterday who envisioned immense possibilities that weren't as obvious to those blinded by the problems of the day. It is therefore no surprise that, like the visionaries of the past, this committee sees a clear linkage between education and economic development. You have shown the foresight and courage to bring the vision of technology in education to the forefront of the action agenda. It is quite appropriate that the Kansas State Department of Education is holding its Second Annual Education Technology Fair today here at the State Capitol. The passage of HB 2179 by this committee will pave the way for all schools in the state to develop new initiatives for technology in education to meet their needs and priorities.