

Approved: 2/9/93
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:30 p.m. on February 3, 1993 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Dr. John Poggio, School of Education, University of Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Frahm made a motion that the minutes of the February 1, 1993 meeting be approved. Senator Emert seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Dr. John Poggio, School of Education, University of Kansas, continued his presentation on the Kansas assessment program. He provided further details about the testing program and advised that the full array of tests in six subject areas are scheduled for completion in the spring of 1994. He stressed that the assessment program is designed for all Kansas students, including accredited schools, non-accredited schools, handicapped and special education students. Dr. Poggio discussed the validity of the tests and described the procedure for test development. Initial development of questions is done by teachers in the field, working independently. The Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation, at the University of Kansas, works with the data. It is then reviewed by higher ed specialists. The instruments are piloted after further editing and refinements are made. Dr. Poggio said that they work with groups of impacted populations for their review before the instruments go to press. He noted the involvement of the State Board of Education and the office of the Commissioner. He said that the Center engages in review and analysis of what is being learned from the results of testing.

Dr. Poggio talked about the development of standards and said standards are targets of what the instruments become and are developed as a direct outgrowth of the involvement of Kansas educators. He stated that the standards are under development and noted that educators, administrators, the public and national consultants and advisors will assist in the development. Dr. Poggio said that the test instruments will be reviewed in light of the standards. He explained that, rather than looking for a single reference point on a test, they recommend looking for multiple decision points.

Dr. Poggio responded to questions from Committee members. He discussed the selection of literature contained in reading assessments. Material is nominated by librarians and is reviewed by Kansas reading instructors. Dr. Poggio said an attempt is made to include representations of different types of reading material and most are award-winning selections. Dr. Poggio stressed that a single test should not be the basis of a decision about a student and that other indicators should also be considered, for instance, tests chosen by the local district, the professional judgment of educators, curriculum being offered, etc. Dr. Poggio emphasized that while copies of the tests cannot be mailed to parents, they are available for viewing at schools. He said that tests are built to provide a reasonable reflection of a child's skill, not constructed to make an independent decision about a person. He said that the test results are useful for school boards at the level of the student, at the level of the building and at the level of the district. Dr. Poggio stated that the assessment program has the ability to establish and monitor trends over time. He added that they are working toward being able to track an individual student. Referring to the issue of multiple answers, Dr. Poggio said that all of the questions (except the dispositional questions) have right and wrong answers. He noted some concern about the amount of time that is being demanded of children in testing. He stated that Kansas is ahead of the national testing program, and he does not recommend joining the national program but suggests watching and

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on February 3, 1993.

being aware of it. He pointed out that the national program only does a sample of 2,000 students and takes 16 months to provide results. He advised that Kansas is including some of the items in the national tests in the state tests.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 1993.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 PLACE: 123-5 DATE: 2/3/93

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Cheryl Mercer

Shreveville

ASBE

Chris Hamson

Topche

KSBE

Kathleen White

Pravie Village

KSBE

Submarine Co

Total

1532

Don Hennessy

10

DOB

Mark Telfman

1

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Robert Nichols

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