

Approved: 4/29/93
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 2:20 p.m. on April 5, 1993 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Anthony Hensley (Excused) and Senator Doug Walker (Excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Maxine Porter, Reading

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Emert made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 1993 meeting. Senator Tiaht seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Committee members discussed possible topics for interim study. A review of special education (including definitions, reasons for the rapid growth in teaching units and placement) was suggested. Mention was made of a study of the topics of teacher preparation and teacher due process. It was suggested that categorical aid programs be studied and also the length of the school term.

Chairman Kerr announced that the Committee would interview Maxine Porter, a recent appointee to the Kansas Board of Regents.

Maxine Porter, Reading, said that she received a B.S. in Education from Emporia State University and a M.S. in Education from the University of Kansas. She taught first grade in the Topeka Public Schools. She said she could contribute to the Board of Regents as a mature citizen who has spent a lifetime in education. Mrs. Porter noted that she helped pioneer the student teaching program in Topeka and mentioned her service on various educational committees, such as Delta Kappa Gamma and textbook selection committees. She stated that she believes that education is the most important commodity of the nation. She said that she married Walter Porter about ten years ago and, while they own a home in Topeka, their primary residence is in Lyon County. She said her husband is a semi-retired rancher.

Mrs. Porter responded to questions from Committee members. She said that members of the Board of Regents should be familiar with education, interested in youth, possess business acumen, have an awareness of national and international affairs and be well-rounded. Mrs. Porter stated that an educational advocate should try to be conservative and provide enlightenment on what is needed in education, both academically and financially. She would oppose unionization of university professors and said unions have no place among professionals. She favors additional language arts requirements in teacher preparation programs. Mrs. Porter referred to program duplication identified by the university mission statements and said she feels it is important to remain firm on decisions to eliminate programs. She was asked about the role of the Regents with community colleges and vocational-technical schools and replied she would need further exploration of the issue before she takes a position on the matter. Mrs. Porter advised that she is unclear of her position on qualified admissions. She said the role of a Regent is to listen to the issues, to learn, to have a commitment to higher education and to do the job of providing the best higher education process for students. She added that she would try to see that higher education offers the proper courses, has the proper financing and has the right teachers. Mrs. Porter said she is not a paid alumna of any institution but she and her husband have established three scholarships at Emporia State University. She stated that she spends most of her time at the ranch at Miller, Kansas. Mrs. Miller said that the three boards of directors on which she serves are Topeka organizations. She agreed to pursue the issue of banning remedial courses at universities.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. There are no further meetings of the Committee scheduled at this time.