

Approved: 2-3-94
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duane Goossen at 3:30 p.m. on January 24, 1994 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Samuelson (excused)

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Lois Thompson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Bob Runnels, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference
Maureen Williams,
Mark Tallman, KASB and Schools for Quality Education
Sue Chase, KNEA
Onan Burnett, USD 501
Mary Haydn, parent

Others attending: See attached list

Representative Wooten moved and Representative Empson seconded the motion the minutes of January 11, 12 and 13, 1994 be approved. Motion carried.

Representative Reardon moved and Representative Empson seconded the motion that the following bills be reported adversely: **HB 2080, 2081, 2082, 2308, 2502, SB 67, 101, 102, 140 and 388.** Motion carried.

Hearings were opened on **HB 2514.**

Bob Runnels, first proponent asked that children attending non-government schools be given the same opportunity to obtain books from their local public school district as children attending the public school in that district (these would be books currently being used in the district schools). He stated Kansas Catholic Conference parents are required to pay a price as much as twice as high as public school children pay for the same books. The Parish School in Liberal which had been in operation since 1964 with 74 students was forced to close. Attendance in Catholic schools nationally has dropped from 5.5 million students in the 1950's to something over two million today. Book costs are a major expense because of the small quantities in which they are purchased. This bill is patterned after the Transportation Act where Catholic children are picked up along the normal bus routes and dropped off near their schools. (Attachment 1)

Upon questioning, he reiterated, they are asking for the same thing that public school get -- whatever is done in each district. No books which teach religion would be involved. He state he had checked with the Attorney General who said the bill would be legal. He was asked if anyone had gone to the public school to work out an accommodation to purchase books for them. He responded, "no, he had not and was not aware the public schools had been asked."

Maureen Williams, Catholic School Administrator and parent, was spokesperson for eight parents in support of this bill. She stated there is a definite inequality between public and non-public education. Parents face the financial responsibility of supporting public education, but also that of supporting non-public education. As cost of textbooks rises the educational opportunities of non-public school children is greatly inhibited. She read statements from Sarah Gigous, parent, Joe Sutcliffe, Nancy Walker, teacher and parent, Madelene Noller, parent, Gary Walker, parent, Mary Langer, teacher and parent, Edward Becker, parent, and Rosalie Smith, non-Catholic. (Attachment 2)

A question was raised to staff as to whether a school at present would be allowed to purchase books for a private school. Avis Swartzman stated existing law does not give them that authority.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 519-S, Statehouse, at 3:30 p.m. on January 24, 1994.

A committee member pointed out that parents elect to send their children to private rather than public schools.

The question was raised, "Do the parochial schools within the dioceses join together to make book purchases?" The answer was "no."

The chair read a portion of the fiscal note on this bill which states cost at \$375,000.

Mark Tallman, appearing in opposition for the KASB stated that the bill would require public school districts to purchase textbooks for sale or rental to students attending accredited non-public schools in the district, and that the district would have to provide free textbooks to families from non-public schools who cannot afford them. The bill is opposed for two reasons: (1) it would provide public support for non-public schools and (2) it would likely force school districts to increase expenditures with no additional funding being made available. (Attachment 3)

Upon questions from the Committee, it was pointed out the transportation and driver's education accommodations had been passed for non-public schools. If there was no additional cost to public schools on the bill in question, would the KASB be concerned about this bill? Mark Tallman was asked to check on this.

Susan Chase representing KNEA spoke in opposition to this bill. The concern was public tax dollars being used to support children in non-public schools. If a student attending a non-public school is not able to afford textbooks, the responsibility for providing that child with the textbooks should reside with the school the child is attending. (Attachment 4) Susan Chase was asked to check if there was no additional cost to public schools on the bill in question, would KNEA have objection to this bill.

Other parents supporting the bill were Mary Haydn (Attachment 5), Doug and Mary Gardner (Attachment 6) and Mary Enneking (Attachment 7) adding their personal oral or written testimony in support of the bill.

Mr. Onan Burnett of USD 501 shared the district's concern. USD 501 spent for indigent children last year \$375,000, if you put that on a prorated basis with approximately 4,000 non-public school students in the 501 attendance center area, then you can begin to see this would be picked up by the school district for they are furnished textbooks.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for January 25, 1994 in Room 519-S.

GUEST LIST

Committee: Education

Date: 1-24

[illegible]

TESTIMONY

Education Committee - H.B. 2514

Monday, January 24, 1994, 3:30 p.m.
519-S

By Bob Runnels, Executive Director
KANSAS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Thank you Chairman Goossen and members of the Education Committee. I come before you today asking that you give proper consideration to my request that you favorably consider legislation that would allow children attending non-government schools the same opportunity to obtain books from their local public school district as children attending the public school in that district (these would be books currently being used in the district schools).

Parents of children attending non-government schools are continuing to find ever increasing costs, as the schools of their choice, attempt to keep pace with escalating salaries of teachers and the cost of books. Our children are required to pay a price as much as twice as high as public school children pay for the same books.

The great fear is that unless some recognition be given to the contributions that non-government schools make to our free competitive system that more and more school closings will occur.

House Education
Jan. 24, 1994
Attachment 1

I call your attention to a newspaper story that ran recently in our Dodge City Diocesan Newspaper titled "Parish School to Close in Liberal". This school has operated since 1964 with 74 students enrolled. At around \$6000 per student this community will face a cost of at least \$444,000 this year.

Perhaps the availability of books on the same basis as other students are receiving would not have kept this school from closing, but I do feel that some incentive and recognition by the state will help keep others in operation.

I do know that attendance in our schools nationally has dropped from 5.5 million students in the 1950's to something over 2 million today.

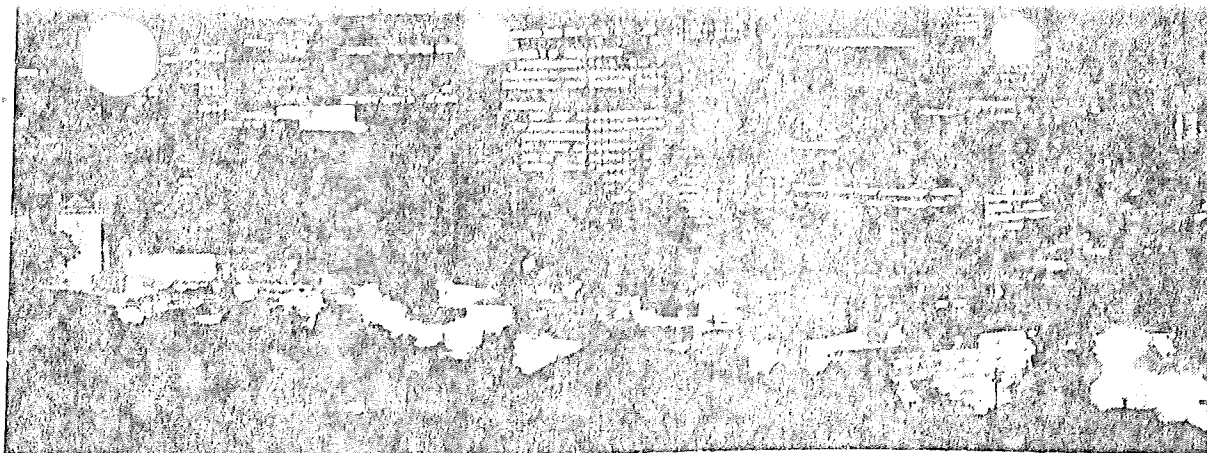
Our great concern is for the non-government schools in rural areas and small towns and the central city.

Again I want to reiterate I have found that book costs are a major expense because of the small quantities in which they are purchased by our schools.

Most public school districts charge for the use of books ... but it is considerably less than what non-government schools pay.

I am asking you to report favorably this bill from your committee which is patterned after the Transportation Act where our children are picked up along the normal bus routes and dropped off near their schools.

I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee might have.



Denver, the modern Mile High City at the base of the Rockies, will host tens of thousands of young persons August 11-15, during World Youth Day '93. Photo credit: Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Parish School to Close in Liberal

St. Anthony School in Liberal will close after the current school year, according to Sister Sylvana Schulte, ASC., Superintendent of Schools. The Diocesan School Board approved the recommendation from Father Henry Hildebrandt, pastor of St. Anthony Parish, at a meeting held on Jan. 26 at the Chancery. Bishop Stanley G. Schlarman approved the recommendation from the Diocesan School Board with regret.

The recommendation from the pastor came after a Jan. 18 meeting with Sister Sylvana, Daniel Stremel, diocesan financial officer, and the St. Anthony Parish pastoral, school, and finance councils, and concerned parents. A consensus was reached at the meeting that the school would close for economic reasons.

St. Anthony School has operated since 1964. There are currently 74 students enrolled in grades K-5. The school was subsidized with 67 percent of the parish contributions.

"Basically this has been coming since 1985," said Father Hildebrandt. "For the last nine

years the parish has been spending more than it is taking in. This was tolerated because there was money in savings. Last year those savings were virtually exhausted and the situation became critical. It is no longer possible for the parish to sustain the ministry of St. Anthony School given the economy and the financial condition of the parish.

"The meeting on Jan. 18 was a very sad time. Yet I believe when a door closes, another one opens up. I was so proud of those people that night who immediately looked ahead and were asking 'what are we going to do for our kids in the way of youth ministry and religious education?'"

Father Hildebrandt and Julia Thompson, principal, visited each classroom to inform the students that the school would close. "The fifth graders were very inquisitive about the reasons that the school had to close," said Father Hildebrandt. "They wanted to know about the way public schools were financed. The discussion

led to talk about tuition tax credits for parochial schools."

U.S.D. 443 Continues Interest in Wright School

The school at Wright may once again be utilized by USD 443 to handle the overflow in Dodge City schools come fall, according to Father David Kraus, chancellor of the Diocese of Dodge City and pastor of St. Andrew Parish, Wright.

USD 443 closed the elementary school in Wright last summer after using the former St. Andrew School building as a public school since 1973. The building had been used as a parochial school from 1929 to 1971 before it closed.

"There was some concern on the part of the diocese and the Wright parish over future uses of the property," stated Father Kraus. "The contract, signed in 1973, states that the property shall revert back to the previous owners in the event it ceases to be used for school classes. Since the school building is located between the church and the parish center it is only natural that we should be concerned."

Representatives of the dio-

coming fall.

Scholarships totalling proximate 25,000 were transferred to the St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation. These were nursing scholarships or scholarships that had been established for or members of the Sisters of Joseph of Wichita or families

CATHOLIC

members as memorials. Persons wanting information about these scholarship funds should write: Sister Barbara Baer, 1130 S. Clifton, Wichita, KS 67218.

cese and the school district on Jan. 18 to discuss the future of the school building. "The school district wants to utilize the building for overflow from the schools in Dodge City. We will have our attorney draw up another legal instrument that will call for a review every few years. We are happy that the school district will continue to use and maintain the building for classes," said Father Kraus.

SMPC Class of '93

Despite reports that St. Mary's 38th and "last" commencement one more. Commencement held on May 29 at 2 p.m. in

After the college closed, creditation was extended to finish up their course work and transfer their credits back if they wanted to receive the

According to Jean Demuth, students have worked out academic requirements for their and universities throughout that she expects that between participate in the traditional ca-

Catholic Schools Week
January 31 - February 6

KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE

RE: House Bill #2514

Mr. Chairman and Members of This Committee:

This country was founded on the premise of equality for all. At various times throughout our history, the idea of equality has surfaced to great heights, abolition, women suffrage, civil rights, and today choice in education.

Through our present system of education, not all children are on an equal level. There is a definite inequality between public and non-public education. As a parent and administrator of a Catholic School I see parents sacrificing a great deal when they choose a non-public education for their children.

They not only must face the financial responsibility of supporting public education, but also that of supporting non-public education. As the cost of textbooks rises the educational opportunities of non-public school children is greatly inhibited. Many non-public schools today are having difficulty absorbing these costs. They must pass these on to their parents.

Children, our future leaders, suffer when new or revised textbooks cannot be obtained.

Bill #2514 promotes equality in education and would guarantee that the tomorrow's future leaders would have equal opportunities in today's world.

Maureen Williams

I would like to present various testimonies from parents:

I support the book voucher bill. This voucher will give the taxpayers who choose a non-public education some assistance in financing their child's education.

I accept the fiscal responsibility that goes along with the choice of non-public education. I

House Education
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Attachment 2

feel that because of the lack of quality education that my children received in the public system we had no choice than to return to the non-public system.

However, because of an increasing amount of money needed to fund our children's education we are needing some help.

If you feel this is too much to ask think of the alternative, the public education system being forced to educate the non-public students.

Sarah Gigous

I feel competition is very important in all aspects of our life. For most people there is no choice as long as our tax dollars are used for public schools only.

The freedom of choice is one of our great freedoms and has been denied because our taxes go only to public education. We then must pay again for education in a non-public school.

Thank you.

Joe Sutcliffe

** Chose Catholic School for my children because God and our faith are able to be part of the total classroom environment.

** Have taught for eighteen years in Topeka Catholic Schools and know that we provide as good or better education than public schools.

** Catholic Schools are not just for the wealthy. Studies would probably show the same economic levels percentage-wise as public schools.

** As a Kansas taxpayer I am already paying for public education for my children. They should be able to receive books on the same basis as all other children.

Nancy Walker

I support voucher bill #2514 for two reasons, my son and daughter. We transferred my son to a private high school his sophomore year to begin receiving an education that would better prepare him for college, which we felt he was not receiving in the school district we were living in.

My daughter was transferred in the seventh grade because she has A.D.D. (attention deficit disorder) and the school district she was in was doing more damage than good. They were unprepared to handle her situation. Private school not only has helped her academically but also her self confidence and self esteem.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill which would allow the private schools to procure textbooks on the same level as public schools.

Madelene Noller

I have made a huge financial commitment to send my children to private primary and secondary schools. This is a totally voluntary action on my part. I know that I also support public education, the same as parents who send their children to public schools. I am not asking for a gift or even special consideration by my request to participate in the Book Program for Private Schools. My request is simply for something I already pay for. It doesn't seem to be to be a big problem to implant since private schools could check out books just like District Schools do.

This is a program I already pay for, and a program I should be allowed to participate in.

Gary Walker

As a teacher and a parent I support Kansas House Bill \$#2514 which would allow students attending non-government schools to obtain books on the basis as students attending public schools.

The ever increasing high costs of textbooks inhibits the educational opportunities of all children attending non-government schools.

Schools cannot absorb these high textbook costs.

We need an educational environment based on students need without financial penalty.

Bill #2514 promotes equality in educational opportunities for all children.

Mary Langer

As a parent and a taxpayer in Topeka, Kansas I support the concept of choice in education. I would like to see House Bill #2514 become law so that tax dollars allocated for education of students in a district be used to provide the same educational materials to all students regardless of whether it is a government or a non-government sponsored educational facility. The goal of our community should be the best education for our children. By providing the same textbooks and educational materials to all of our students in a district we would achieve a higher level of education and a more cohesive educational system for the community.

I currently feel as though I am supporting two educational systems, one by choice and one by taxes. To be able to combine these into one would be a terrific asset.

Edward Becker

As a non-Catholic I support the Textbook Voucher Bill #2514 which would encourage educational excellence and establish a bond between parent and school. The current finance monopoly is contrary to our democratic traditions.

Rosalie Smith



Testimony on H.B. 2514

Before the House Committee on Education

**By Mark Tallman, Director of Governmental Relations
Kansas Association of School Boards**

Also Representing Schools for Quality Education

January 24, 1994

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

We appear today in opposition to H.B. 2415. We understand the bill would require that public school districts purchase textbooks for sale or rental to students attending accredited non-public schools in the district, and that the district would have to provide free textbooks to families from non-public schools who cannot afford them.

We oppose this bill for two reasons. First, it would provide public support for non-public schools. KASB is strongly opposed to providing public funding for schools that are outside of public control. It seems to us that private educational institutions should not be funded at public expense. If this is done, the distinction between public and private schools is immediately threatened. The basic question is this: should members of the public be forced to support, through tax dollars, schools that are under no obligation to educate their children, and are not under the management of democratically-elected officials? We believe the answer must be no.

The second reason we oppose this bill is that it would likely force school districts to increase expenditures with no additional funding being made available. This means that districts' funds would be shifted from public school students to private school students. Moreover, the impact of this shift would almost certainly be disequalizing. Districts with a large number of lower-income students attending private schools will have greater obligations under this bill, yet these are likely the districts with greater numbers of their own at-risk students to educate.

For these reasons, we urge you to reject H.B. 2514.

*House Education
Jan. 24, 1994*

Attachment 3



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 W. 10TH STREET / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Susan Chase Testimony before
House Education Committee
Monday, January 24, 1994

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am Susan Chase and I represent Kansas NEA. I appreciate this opportunity to visit with the committee today regarding HB 2514 concerning textbook purchase and rental plans maintained by school districts which provides for participation by pupils of accredited nonpublic schools.

I am concerned about what I see as public tax dollars being used to support children in nonpublic schools. If a student attending a nonpublic school is not able to afford textbooks, the responsibility for providing that child with the textbooks should reside with the school the child is attending.

Our school districts have limited resources and to burden them with another expense is not the proper policy.

For this reason, Kansas NEA does not support HB 2514 and asks that you not pass this measure.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

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Attachment 4

January 24, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

I was ask to speak on behalf of The Kansas Voucher Act, HB #2514.

Double-Dipping has become the norm in city, state, federal government and the private business world as well. What will the market bear. This "market" is tapped out. Will our elected officials please hear the people. Old government as well as old market ideas are dead. The business writer, Peters has attested to that fact repeatedly. American government as well as American business must remember to put the customer first. Regardless what promising economic indicators offer in hope for the future, the day-to-day existence of many citio~~ns~~s(particular families) is poor to bleak. Today we are here to talk about the family - that unit we have depended upon for the last 200 years to rear the kind of people that keep this country on an upward - onward course.

This particular family representative chooses private education for our three children. It is important to us that our family values are reienforced in our children's school setting. In a world where conflicting values (or lack of the same) stream through our lives via television, radio, video games, video tapes, etc., the competition for the minds and souls of our youth are vied for each day. Our country insures that we, as parents, may choose the degree (within specific legal limits) that we accept public solutions

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Attachment 5

to our children's educations. Through "choosing" a school which adheres to a mission and a stated set of values we are able to off-set the prevailing negativity that currently dominates our world. Our children see and hear our principles and have those principles valadated in a consistent maner in their school. This has been our remedy to the complexity that persists in raising competent value- driven Kansan citizens today for the prosperity and safety of that same state and country tomorrow.

In order to have this privledge, our family has at times held down five jobs between my husband and myself at one time. My husband is currently seeking a second job solution again while I am investing in a Masters at Washburn to improve our situation. Our income has dropped in the last two years but the cost to educate our children continues to rise along with dental care, health care, as well as a host of other expenses. Never in our combined working histories has either my husband or myself asked for any public assistance or made any job claims against any employer. We have fully accepted our dues as the price of belonging to the greatest country in the world.

It is time our representatives stood up for this fast dieing breed. Those kind of families in many ways have been the fools of the last twenty five years - working three to five jobs to make their "free" choices while others lobby our elected officials for legislation that backs special group interests.

At the same time, we are required to support public education while we support private education. Our bookfees run \$70.00 per student for

a total of \$210.00 last year. Public education parents suffer as well. One year for our family (prior to moving to private school) paid \$150.00 in textbook fees for three students in primary public school. In addition to paying taxes to support public education, we pay taxes to support Washburn University. Then we pay a graduate tuition equal to a private school college tuition.

There are many more examples of double-dipping from our desecrated pockets but the above ones will serve to illustrate the fact that bureaucracy- be it governmental or as it similarly manifests itself in big business- today fails the customer it professes to serve.

Bureaucracy begets more bureaucracy. (Or as in business - big business serves big business). Each entity lobbies to further its own survival and importance. The result is taxation upon taxation. The courage to forge onward; abiding our laws, taking little from society, striving to add to the human condition has been whittled away bit by bit by bureaucratic bit.

This bill is not a huge investment by government measure. It, however, would by a symbolic tipping of the state scales to affirm families committed to educating the next generation to uphold and protect our great country and state. Affirming those last surviving units that give and give and strive not to take, becomes a crazy idea whose time has come. These family units need their government to affirm their decision to rear another generation dedicated to upholding the values of giving and serving.

Please stand for and vote for families and make support of those families a real Kansas Government Value. Affirm us in our choice. Affirm

public school parents in their choice. But please stand up for families who are passing on the values that have been the fiber of our great nation. Support The Kansas Voucher Act, HB #2514 Please do so quickly before the American/Kansan citizen-making machine called the traditional family breaks down completely and disappears from existence....To whom will we turn then to remember and to pass on our culture and traditions?

4549SE Oak Bend Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66609
January 24, 1994

Dear Representative,

As parents of two children in private, Catholic school, we would encourage you to support Kansas **House Bill 2514** to provide free text books for non-public schools.

We are taxpayers and support public education. However, we reap none of the benefits of our education tax money. We chose to send our children to Catholic school because the public school was not, in our opinion, the best environment for one of them. Because of this choice, we pay twice to educate our children.

We are not asking for "extra" money from the state, nor are we asking for the price of a full education to which, because of our taxes, we are entitled. Please do not penalize the education of our children because of a choice we have made to provide for them an educational setting we feel is best for them. We are only asking for your support of Bill 2514 to provide our children with the textbooks they deserve to obtain an education like everyone else.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Doug Gardner
Mary Gardner

Doug and Mary Gardner

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Attachment 6

My name is Mary Enneking. I live in Topeka and I am here today to speak in support of House Bill 2514. My husband and I are the parents of four children. Our 19 year old son is a Freshman at Kansas State University. Our 14 year old daughter is a Freshman at Hayden High School. Our 10 year old daughter is in the 5th grade at Assumption Grade School. Our 4 year old daughter attends preschool at Topeka Lutheran School.

I have never testified at a committee hearing before, but I'm here today to support the idea of providing textbooks to non-public schools.

I know my children are entitled to a free, public school education and yet I choose to send them to parochial schools. I believe my children could get a good education in our public schools. I'm a firm believer that you get out of a school what you're willing to put into it. So why do I pay taxes and opt not to benefit from them? I support our parochial schools because they mirror my religious and moral beliefs. I believe my children benefit from the prayer, discipline, and values they experience every day at school.

The math, science, reading and social studies books that my children study are the same as those used in public schools. The subjects are taught in the same manner as the public schools. But our teachers teach other subjects as well, for less money than their public school counterparts. I've volunteered for seven years at Assumption Grade School as both a teacher's aide and a tutor. I've seen how the school works from the inside. I would encourage you to visit the school -- it's just across the street -- and see for yourself.

When the books are the same for both types of schools, I support free textbooks for non-public schools. Obviously, I would not expect the government to provide our religious textbooks or materials.

I urge you to allow our children to obtain textbooks on the same basis as those attending public schools. Please give House Bill 2514 your support. Thank you.

Mary Enneking

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Jan. 24, 1994
Attachment 7