

Approved: 3-15-94
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duane Goossen at 3:30 p.m. on March 8, 1994 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Lori Majure (excused)
Phill Kline (excused)
Ed McKechnie (excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Gerald Henderson, United School Administrators
Susan Chase, KNEA
Pat Baker, Associate Executive Director, KASB

Others attending: See attached list

Representative Empson moved and Representative Ballard seconded motion to pass out favorably **SB 443** relating to community college out-district tuition in Regents counties. Motion carried.

Hearing opened on **SB 574** relating to evaluation of certificated employees.

Gerald Henderson, representing United School Administrators of Kansas, supports the addition of improvement in the academic performance of pupils or students to the items considered in developing evaluation policies for school district. (Attachment 1)

Susan Chase, representing Kansas NEA supports the bill as amended. They believe all personnel in a district should be accountable for student achievement, but that any one person cannot be totally responsible for the performance of students. (Attachment 2)

Patricia E. Baker, testifying in behalf of the Kansas Association of School Boards, stated they would propose that the words "authority to cause" in the amendment passed by the Senate be changed to indicate that professional employees would be evaluated based upon their ability to influence or control student performance. (Attachment 3)

The floor was open to questions from the committee.

Hearing opened on **SB 602** relating to compulsory school attendance.

Gerald Henderson, representing United School Administrators of Kansas, appeared in support of **SB 602**. However, they feel this bill does not address the problem of enforcing truancy laws. (Attachment 4)

Patricia E. Baker, representing Kansas Association of School Boards, appeared in support of **SB 602**. Kansas school boards agree that the law should ensure regular attendance by students under the compulsory attendance law. They feel a more efficient, effective enforcement procedure for compulsory attendance should be addressed by the legislature. (Attachment 5)

The floor was open to questions from the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

The next meeting of the House Education Committee will be March 9, 1994 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 519-S.

GUEST LIST

Committee: Education

Date: 3.8.94

[illegible]



SB 574

Testimony presented before the House Committee on Education
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director
United School Administrators of Kansas
March 8, 1994

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas supports the addition of *improvement in the academic performance of pupils or students* to the items to be considered in developing evaluation policies for school districts. I would report to you that this concept is already being added to evaluation instruments in Kansas schools.

In each of the past seven years, USA has sponsored a workshop on teacher evaluation. Attendance at these workshops has averaged 50 people, including both administrators and teachers. A feature of USA seminars is the establishment of information networks so that conference participants can share both successes and concerns with seminar subject matter. In a network report recently received in our office, a principal reported that her building site council was in the process of developing a new evaluation instrument which would incorporate the improvement measures included in Quality Performance Accreditation. Change is occurring.

We would urge you to act favorably on **SB 574**.

LEG/SB574

House Education
March 8, 1994
Attachment 1



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

Susan Chase Testimony before
House Education Committee
Tuesday March 8, 1994

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am Susan Chase and I represent Kansas NEA. Thank you for allowing me to address the committee on SB 574, which concerns the evaluation of certificated personnel.

Kansas Nea supports the bill as amended. We believe that all personnel in a district should be accountable for student achievement, but that any one person cannot be totally responsible for the performance of students. The education of pupils is a multi-faceted process in which everyone in the educational community has a role. Therefore, we feel it is important for us to evaluate personnel on those aspects to which they have control.

We urge the committee to pass the bill as amended. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

House Education
March 8, 1994
Attachment 2



Testimony on S.B. 574
before the
House Committee on Education

by

Patricia E. Baker
Associate Executive Director/General Counsel
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 8, 1994

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear before the Committee on behalf of our member school boards.

The last several years have seen statewide attention paid to school improvement. Quality Performance and Accountability are the watchwords as we all seek to improve our state's educational programs. The legislature has adopted mechanisms for holding school districts accountable for improved learning environments and the public will hold elected leaders accountable.

In 1973 this legislature adopted a professional evaluation law for all certificated staff, including classroom teachers and administrators. The stated legislative intent is to "provide for a systematic method for improvement of school personnel in their jobs and to improve the educational system in this state." K.S.A. 72-9001. The law sets forth timelines, and procedures. It also, in K.S.A. 72-9004, sets forth the minimum criteria to be evaluated.

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Attachment 3

We believe all the laws affecting school improvement should consistently reflect the common theme of improving academic performance. Accountability must be clearly established throughout our schools and especially in the classroom. Since we have chosen in this state for twenty years to have minimum evaluation criteria listed in the law--that criteria should definitely include the most important issue.

The bill was amended on the Senate floor by the addition of the bracketed bold type on lines 21 and 22. While we do not object to limiting the scope of the language--we would propose that the words "authority to cause" be changed to indicate that professional employees would be evaluated based upon their ability to influence or control student performance.

We urge the Committee to recommend passage of S.B. 574. Thank you.



SB 602

Testimony presented before the House Committee on Education
by Gerald W. Henderson, Executive Director
United School Administrators of Kansas
March 8, 1994

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

United School Administrators of Kansas has no difficulty supporting the change outlined in this bill. Since the definition of unexcused absence is left to the discretion of local school districts, this bill would still allow for the flexibility needed to deal with unique circumstances. This bill does not, however, address the problem of enforcing truancy laws. Absent school children remain low priorities for both SRS people and District Attorney staffs.

On the other hand, changing the time period for truancy from a semester to a school year might well provide either the motivation needed to keep a student engaged in the educational process, or the legal basis for the school to initiate procedures to part company. The change proposed in this bill would stop some of the games played with the existing law.

We encourage committee support of **SB 602**.

LEG/SB602

House Education
March 8, 1994
Attachment 4



Testimony on S.B. 602
before the
House Committee on Education

by

Patricia E. Baker
Associate Executive Director/General Counsel
Kansas Association of School Boards

March 7, 1994

Mr. Chairman, Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to appear in support of S.B. 602. Kansas school boards agree that the law should ensure regular attendance by students under the compulsory attendance law. We would also like to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that a tighter definition of truancy will not, in and of itself, guarantee improved compliance. What is really needed is a more efficient, effective enforcement procedure. The current process is cumbersome, time consuming and too often just doesn't work. We urge the legislature, at some point, to address the whole issue of compulsory attendance.

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Attachment 5