

Approved: 1/19/94
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 1:30 p.m. on January 18, 1994 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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

1994 Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalists:

Nancy Costigan, Hays USD 489
Jo Ann Schuette, Wichita USD 259
Richard Luckert, Olathe USD 233
Mary Ellen Titus, Manhattan USD 383
Marli O'Brien, Blue Valley USD 229
Rex Babcock, Chanute USD 413
Beverly James, Beloit USD 273
Cynda Carr, Anthony-Harper USD 361

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Walker made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 12 and 13, 1994, meetings. Senator Oleen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The panel of 1994 Kansas Teacher of the Year Finalists: Nancy Costigan, Hays USD 489; Jo Ann Schuette, Wichita USD 259; Richard Luckert, Olathe USD 233; Mary Ellen Titus, Manhattan USD 383; Marli O'Brien, Blue Valley USD 229; Rex Babcock, Chanute USD 413; Beverly James, Beloit USD 273, and Cynda Carr, Anthony-Harper USD 361, responded to questions from Committee members. Ms. Costigan, the 1994 Kansas Teacher of the Year, identified challenges on which the group intends to focus as a team: meeting with business people to effect a better transition from school to business; working with the deans of education; working with high school students to interest them in education careers; working with leadership programs and working to increase the awareness of education. In discussing the math assessment program, Ms. Schuette described the dramatic change of test format for students in dealing with open-ended types of questions. She agreed that in order to score well on the tests, students must possess the underlying essential skills. Mr. Babcock said the tests would provide greater benefit if the results were returned to the schools within a time frame allowing for utilization of the results during the same school year.

In discussing issues related to Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA), Ms. Costigan suggested that it would be beneficial if there were greater communication and understanding of the student-centered philosophy on which QPA is based. There were several comments about the enormous amount of time the process entails. Some of the benefits mentioned were the participation of business representatives, parents and community representatives in the process, the unifying of staff and the creation of a data basis for decisions. There was discussion of the difficulties in finding the additional time for QPA-related activities.

Mr. Babcock feels that more emphasis is needed on early childhood education in order to accomplish meaningful change. Mr. Luckert noted that his profession is perhaps the most isolated from peer interaction, and Ms. O'Brien mentioned the networking opportunities related to the QPA process. In discussing higher education and teacher training, panel members stressed the importance of providing assistance, such as mentoring programs, in the transition from school to work -- "teachers teaching teachers" -- and the necessity of ensuring that teachers have necessary interpersonal skills. Panel members also discussed the harmful effects on students who are employed outside of school.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 1994.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 PLACE: 123-S DATE: 1/18/93

GUEST LIST

NAME

ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

J. Ann Schuette	1976 S. Longford St. ^{Wichita, KS}	KTOY
Richard Linkert	6742 E. Monte, P.O. KS 66208	KTOY
Mary Ellen Silas	151 S. Duane, Manhattan	KTOY
Margie Y. O'Brien	12105 Horton, O.P. KS 66209	KTOY
Mary J. Postigan	2225 Virginia Dr. ^(KTOY) Lawrence ^{Lawrence} KS	KTOY
Ray E. Balrock	624 S. Malcolm Chanute, KS 66720	KTOY
Beverly B. James	Rt 2 Box 7 Beloit, KS 67420	KTOY
Cynda Carr	401 S. Kansas, Anthony 67003	KTOY
Elaine Frisbie	Statehouse	Div. of Budget