

Approved: 1/31/94
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 26, 1994 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Sheila Frahm (Excused)

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Dr. Charles Himmelberg, University of Kansas
Dr. Jack Porter, University of Kansas

Others attending: See attached list

Senator Tiahrt made a motion that the minutes of the January 25, 1994 meeting be approved. Senator Emert seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

SB 444 - Regents early mathematics testing program

Dr. Charles Himmelberg and Dr. Jack Porter, University of Kansas, addressed a list of questions posed by Chairman Kerr, on behalf of the Committee as follows:

Students not bound for a university could also benefit from more math. How difficult would it be to provide the testing and results to the non-college bound?

This test seems to concentrate only on right answers. The math assessment developed by Dr. Poggio at KU focuses on "higher order thinking skills", estimation and other factors besides "right" answers. Why the difference?

Would it be possible to "fold" the REMT into the 10th grade math assessment?

Would the REMT have relevance to the Kansas Careers program?

Dr. Himmelberg said that they are interested in extending the program to include students who do not intend to attend college and have had discussions in that vein with members of the Math Coalition organization. He added that New Hampshire has in place such a program. He advised that the \$100,000 cost associated with SB 444 is the cost of the necessary computing equipment and the time spent by Dr. Porter and an assistant on the program. Dr. Himmelberg said that other states are very cooperative in sharing test instruments which keeps down any costs which are associated with test creation. He advised that they have met with Dr. Kim Gattis (of the State Department of Education) regarding the state assessments recommended curriculum standards. He said the test does include narrative types of questions and statistical questions but they are not sure how to work estimation questions into the test. He said that the REMT (Regents Early Mathematics Test) is given in the middle of the junior year so that students will have the results before enrolling for their senior year and so that students will have completed more subject matter needed for college. Dr. Himmelberg pointed out that the REMT results focus entirely on the individual student while the state assessment results are geared toward the building and district level.

Dr. Porter advised that during meetings with representatives of the Math Coalition, it was proposed that the first year of the REMT program include the six Regents institutions, to add all four-year colleges in the state during the second year, expand to include all the community colleges in the state in the third year and expand

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, Room 123-S Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on January 26, 1994.

to the area vocational technical schools in the fourth year, as well as those careers which can be entered directly out of high school. Dr. Porter said the number of career or program selections would remain at about 30. He noted that the national average of high school graduates who enter some type of higher education program immediately following high school is 63 percent. Dr. Himmelberg said that the University of Kansas has 2,000 students each year who enroll in Algebra I, which is 9th or 10th grade content level. He added that the REMT forces students to think about higher education and a major and the results provide very specific information about the student's readiness for college math courses.

Senator Oleen noted that when the 1994 Teachers of the Year candidates appeared before the Committee, two of them specifically mentioned the REMT and its worthiness.

In response to questions from Committee members, Dr. Himmelberg and Dr. Porter said they would have no objection to an amendment to the bill to broaden the program to include students who do not plan to enter a Regents institution.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 1994.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TIME: 1:30 PLACE: 123-S DATE: 1/26/94

GUEST LIST

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>
Mark Tallman	Topeka	KASB
Robin CLEMENTS	Wichita	Wichita Public Schools
Jim Yonally	Overland Park	UCD #512
Jack Porter	Lawrence	U of Kansas
Charles Himmelberg	Lawrence	U. of Kansas
Thelma Hunter Darden	Topeka	SRS
Janet Schalansky	Topeka	WD / SRS
Loreta Shelley	Topeka	KDHR
Bill Layos	"	"
Randy Williams	"	"
Dena McFarland	Overland Park	OP Chamber of Commerce
Jacqueline Dakes	Topeka	SQE
Susan Chase	Topeka	KUFA
Bruce Goeden	Topeka	KNEA
Sharon Brimfellow	Topeka	Concerned Women of America of Kansas
Jon Josselyn		
Ray Hauke	Topeka	K Board of Reg. & Staff