

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathe Decker at 9:00 on January 17, 2006 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Kathe Decker- excused

Committee staff present:
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Kansas Legislative Research
Art Griggs, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Deena Horst who introduced the two new members of the Committee, Ward Loyd and Dale Swenson.

Representative Tim Owens offered the introduction of a bill concerning school terms, holidays and in-service training. (Attachment 1).

Representative Loyd made the motion that was seconded by Representative Yonally to accept Representative Owens' bill to be introduced by the Committee. The motion carried on a voice vote. Representative Otto wished to be recorded as a "no" vote.

Representative Kelsey offered a conceptual bill concerning the modification of the charter school and to allow the appeal to the Kansas State School Board.

It was moved by Representative Loyd and seconded by Representative Holland to accept Representative Kelsey's bill. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Deputy Commissioner of the State Department of Education, Dale Dennis was called upon to introduce 2006 Kansas Teacher of the Year, Ronald Poplau of Shawnee Mission Northwest High who spoke briefly of his career in education. (Attachments 2 and 3).

Others to address the Committee were the 2006 Kansas Regional Teachers of the Year; Laurie Mercer, Betty Peterson, Betsy Leonard Wiens, Tana Priddy, Pamela Olson, Letitia Petitjean and Roxie Peterson.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2006.

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

By Representative Owens

AN ACT relating to school districts; concerning school terms, holidays and in-service training; amending K.S.A. 72-1106 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 72-1106 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-1106. (a) ~~Subject to the other provisions of this section, a school term during which public school shall be maintained in each school year by each school district organized under the laws of this state shall consist of not less than 186 school days for pupils attending kindergarten or any of the grades one through 11 and not less than 181 school days for pupils attending grade 12.~~ Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the state board of education shall prescribe by rule and regulation the term for each school year for school districts in this state, and the number of school days for each school year. A school year shall commence no sooner than the day after Labor day and shall end no later than the day before Memorial day.

(b) Subject to a policy developed and adopted by the board of any school district, the board may provide for a school term consisting of school hours. ~~A school term provided for in a policy adopted under this subsection shall consist of: (1) For pupils attending kindergarten, not less than 465 school hours in each school year; and (2) for pupils attending any of the grades one through 11, not less than 1,116 school hours in each school year; and (3) for pupils attending grade 12, not less than 1,086 school hours in each school year. Each board of education which develops and adopts a policy providing for a school term in accordance with this subsection shall notify the state board of education thereof on or before September 15 in each school year for which the policy is to be in effect.~~

(c) Subject to a plan developed and adopted by the board of any school district, the board may schedule the school days required for a school term provided for under subsection (a), or

the school hours required for a school term provided for in a policy adopted under subsection (b), on a trimestral or quarterly basis. Each board of education which develops and adopts a plan providing for the scheduling of the school days or school hours of the school term on a trimestral or quarterly basis shall submit the plan to the state board of education for approval prior to implementation. The plan shall be prepared in such form and manner as the state board shall require and shall be submitted at a time or times to be determined and specified by the state board.

(d) Subject to a policy developed and adopted by the board of any district as an adjunct to the district's disciplinary policy or as a part of the district's school improvement plan, the board may schedule school days in addition to the school days scheduled for a school term provided for under subsection (a), or school hours in addition to the school hours scheduled for a school term provided for in a policy adopted under subsection (b), or both such additional school days and school hours for pupils who are in need of remedial education or who are subject to disciplinary measures imposed under the district's disciplinary policy. Any school day or school hour scheduled for a pupil under a policy adopted under this subsection may be scheduled on weekends, before or after regular school hours, and during the summer months. Inexcusable absence from school on any school day or during any school hour by any pupil for whom additional school days or school hours have been scheduled under a policy adopted under this subsection shall be counted as an inexcusable absence from school for the purposes of K.S.A. 72-1113, and amendments thereto.

(e) If the board of any school district, or its designee, shall determine that inclement weather will cause hazardous driving conditions, the board, or its designee, may close any or all of the schools within the district. ~~The amount of time pupils have been in attendance when such determination is made shall be considered a school day of a school term or shall be considered~~

the--number--of--school--hours--for-pupils-to-be-in-attendance-at school-in-a-day,--whichever--is--applicable.--Consonant--with--the other-provisions-of-this-section,--a-board-may-schedule-any-number of-days-or-hours-in-excess-of-the-regularly-scheduled-school-days or--school--hours-which-the-board-determines-will-be-necessary-to compensate-for-those-school-days-or-school-hours-that-schools--of the--district--will--remain--closed-during-the-school-term-due-to hazardous-driving-conditions.--If-the--number--of--days--or--hours schools-remain-closed-due-to-hazardous-driving-conditions-exceeds the--number-of-days-or-hours-scheduled-by-the-board-to-compensate for-such-school-days-or-school-hours,--the-excess-number--of--days or-hours,--not-to-exceed-whichever-is-the-lesser-of-(1)-the-number of--compensatory-days-or-hours-scheduled-by-the-board-or-(2)-five days-or-the-number-of-school-hours-regularly--scheduled--in--five days,--that-schools-remain-closed-due-to-such-conditions-shall-be considered-school-days-or-school-hours.

(f) The state board of education may waive the requirements of law relating to the duration of the school term upon application for such waiver by a school district. Such waiver may be granted by the state board of education upon: (1) Certification by a board that, due to the persistence of inclement weather, hazardous driving conditions have existed in the school district for an inordinate period of time; and (2) a determination by the state board that the school district cannot reasonably adjust its schedule to comply with statutory requirements. Such waiver shall not exempt a school district from providing a school offering for each pupil which is substantially equivalent to that required by law.

(g) Time reserved for parent-teacher conferences for discussions on the progress of pupils may be considered part of the school term.

(h) Time--reserved--for--staff--development---or---inservice training--programs--for--the--purpose--of--improving-staff-skills, developing--competency--in--new--or--highly--specialized--fields, improving-instructional-techniques,--or--curriculum--planning--and

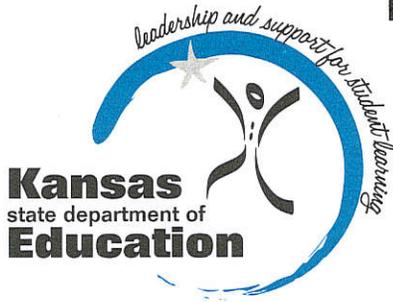
~~study--may-be-considered-part-of-the-school-term-for-an-aggregate amount-of-time-equal-to-the-amount--of--time--in--excess--of--the school--term--which--is--scheduled--by--a--board-of-education-for similar--activities.~~ Staff development or inservice training programs for the purpose of improving staff skills, developing competency in new or highly specialized fields, improving instructional techniques or curriculum planning and study shall not be conducted for any teacher at times during a school term in which pupils are usually scheduled for classroom instruction by such teacher. It is the intent of this subsection that staff development and in-service training be held at times that avoid a decrease in direct student instruction time of any teacher during a school term.

(i) Boards of education may employ noncertificated personnel to supervise pupils for noninstructional activities.

New Sec. 2. In order for school districts to have uniformity, the state board of education shall prescribe by rule and regulation the holidays on which school districts shall be closed in observance of such holidays.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-1106 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.



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January 9, 2006

The Honorable Kathe Decker
1415 Eighth Street
Clay Center, Kansas 67432

Dear Representative Decker:

We have two groups of educators which we would like to appear before the House Education Committee during the 2006 legislative session.

KANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM

As you are aware, the Kansas Teacher of the Year team has been given the opportunity to appear before the House Education Committee to discuss current education issues from a teacher's point of view. The 2006 Kansas Teacher of the Year is Ronald W. Poplau, Shawnee Mission Northwest High School, #512-Shawnee Mission. The other members of the team include the following.

Letitia Petitjean, Obee Elementary School, #313-Buhler
Betty A. Peterson, Nemaha Valley High School, #442-Nemaha Valley
Roxie Peterson, Central Elementary School, #320-Wamego
Betsy Leonard Wiens, Washburn Rural High School, #437-Auburn-Washburn
Tana Priddy, Starside Elementary School, #232-DeSoto
Laurie A. Mercer, Samuel E. Spaght Accelerated Magnet Academy, #259-Wichita
Pamela A. Olson, Campus High School, #261-Haysville

We would appreciate the opportunity to appear before the House Education Committee on Tuesday, January 17, 2006.

MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION NATIONAL EDUCATOR AWARDEES

The 2005 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awardees will be in Topeka on **Thursday, February 23, 2006. Would it be possible for the Milken Awardees to appear before your committee on that date?** The focus of the Milken Family Foundation is the improvement of teacher quality with an emphasis on teacher education. We realize this has been an important area to you as a legislator as well as the entire state. The Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awardees are as follows.

Matt Copeland, Washburn Rural High School, #437-Auburn-Washburn
Stanley Bergkamp, Maize High School, #266-Maize

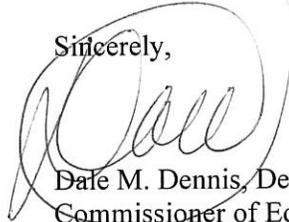
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In addition, you are cordially invited to attend the Milken awards dinner honoring the 2005 educators and 2005 National Board Certified Teachers on February 23, 2006. A reception is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m., Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.

We hope the information conveyed by these groups of educators will be helpful to your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dale M. Dennis", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dale M. Dennis, Deputy
Commissioner of Education

DMD:tjm

h:leg:TOY—HEC—2006 Session

Kansas Teacher of the Year Program

2006 Kansas Teacher of the Year



Ronald W. Poplau
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2006 Kansas Regional Teachers of the Year



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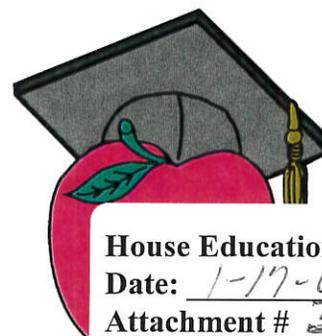
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House Education Committee
Date: 1-17-06
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