

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jean Schodorf at 1:30 p.m. on January 26, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – excused
Senator Bob Marshall – excused
Senator John Vratil – excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Laura Younker, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Eunice Peters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education
Dorothy Gerhardt, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Tom Witt, Kansas Quality Coalition
Malissa Martin-Wilke, President, Communities In Schools of Kansas
Colleen Riley, Director, Special Education Services, KSDE

Others attending:

See attached list.

Education Budget Funding

The meeting began with a short discussion, following a question from Senator King, regarding the original budgeted amount in the last legislative session of BSAPP, compared to the Governor's recommendation in the Recission Bill.

Introduction of Legislation

Tom Witt, Kansas Quality Coalition, appeared before the committee with requests for the introduction of two items of legislation. He stated the first request is essentially a comprehensive sex education bill which he is similar to a bill passed out of Committee and the full Senate in 2006 but hit some snags in the House. The second request is to amend the anti-bullying statute that was originally passed out of the Committee in 2007 and amended in 2008. This bill asks that school districts file their anti-bullying policies and implementation plans with the State Board of Education.

Senator Teichman moved to introduce legislation as proposed by Mr. Witt. The motion was seconded by Senator Umbarger. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Presentation: Communities In Schools of Kansas

Malissa Martin-Wilke, President of Communities in Schools of Kansas, (Attachment 1), next gave a brief presentation of the organization's goals and activities helping students to achieve success in the educational system. She stated Communities in Schools of Kansas believes that every student deserves every opportunity to succeed in school and to gain the tools they need not just to survive, but to thrive. Based on measurable results, their personal approach is proven to empower student achievement and reduce dropout rates.

During the 2009-2010 school year, services were provided to 86 schools, helping more than 18,500 students achieve goals and results. These successes included:

- 99% of students tracked as potential dropouts remained in school at the end of the year
- 98% of students tracked for promotion risk were promoted to the next grade
- 95% of students tracked as needing improvement in their behavior showed improvement
- 87% of students tracked for needing to improve their academic achievement successfully brought their grades up

Communities In Schools is the nation's leading organization serving at-risk youth both in and outside the classroom. A site coordinator supports students by delivering community resources requested by schools and parents whether that be a mentor, eyeglasses, help with homework, a meal, help with college applications or a safe place to be.

Frank Clepper, Chief Operating Officer, Delta Dental, and also a member of the Board of Communities In Schools of Wichita/Sedgwick County, also spoke in support of continued funding of the Communities In Schools of Kansas program.

A short question and answer session with committee members followed.

Overview of Special Education Services in the State

Colleen Riley, Director of Special Education Services with the Kansas Department of Education, provided a brief overview of special education services in the state ([Attachment 2](#)). With the passage of Public Law 94-142, children with disabilities were to be educated in public schools. With IDEA '97, children with disabilities were to have access to general curriculum. With IDEA (IDEIA) 2004-Accountability, results and outcomes improved for children with disabilities using the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report. Kansas State Special Education regulations require schools to have policies and procedures in effect to ensure that all children with exceptionalities (gifted) are located, identified, and evaluated. Passage of this legislation also provided for screening and general education intervention (Child Find) and development of an IEP-the Individualized Education Program for those students identified as in need. She stated the Department of Education has made a commitment to monitor every district every year to make sure there are no areas of non-compliance with regard to legislation in place.

A short question and answer session with committee members followed.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 02:30 p.m.