

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Dwayne Umbarger at 1:40 p.m. on February 17, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Hensley and Downey (excused)

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statues
Judy Steinlicht, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Fred Kauffman, USD 489, Hays
Emery Hart, USD 301, Utica
Bill Frick, USD 512, Shawnee Mission
Brad Stauffer, USD 501, Topeka
Bob Vancrum, USD 229, Blue Valley
John Koepke, KASB
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes

Others attending: See Attached List

SB83–School districts; capital outlay fund; authorizing expenditures; duration of levy

Fred Kauffman, USD 489, Hays gave testimony in favor of **SB83** asking for greater flexibility in the use of capital outlay funds to help through a financially difficult time. (Attachment 1)

Emery Hart, USD 301, Utica gave testimony in favor of **SB83** from his experience as a public school administrator, a school district board member and a taxpayer. **SB83** will help local school districts with budgeting problems without raising additional local taxes or additional state funding. Mr. Hart asked that districts be allowed to use capital outlay funds and/or general funds for utilities, building and facilities insurance payments and software purchases. (Attachment 2)

Bill Frick, USD 512, Shawnee Mission gave testimony in favor of **SB83**. Due to the current financial situation of the district and the expectation of expenditures increasing, the district must find other revenue sources or make further program reductions. This bill will provide some means of satisfying the financial demands of the district on a short-term basis. (Attachment 3)

Brad Stauffer, USB 501, Topeka testified in favor of **SB83** with reservations. This bill will give school districts some flexibility in managing budgets with limited resources. USD 501 believes a better solution is better funding of the Base State Aid Per Pupil. If BSAPP had received adequate funding in past years, consideration of this bill would not be necessary. (Attachment 4)

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 1:40 p.m. on February 17, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

Bob Vancrum, USD 229, Blue Valley School District, spoke in favor of **SB83** and **SB84**. **SB83** would permit expenditure of capital outlay funds for utility services and property insurance. **SB84** enacts a new local enrichment fund of up to five percent of the general fund budget which may be levied by those school districts that have maxed out on their LOB and desire to levy additional property tax locally to supplement their general fund spending. Blue Valley supports adequate funding of the current school finance formula and supports any additional power granted to the board to raise, locally, funds over and above those provided by the formula. (Attachment 5)

John Koepke, Executive Director, KASB, spoke as an opponent of **SB83**. KASB understands the desire to allow school districts additional budget authority, but have concerns about the disequalizing effect of the Special Capital Outlay fund, since no state assistance is involved in the capital outlay levy. (Attachment 6)

SB84—School districts; enrichment fund

Bill Frick, USD 512, Shawnee Mission urged support of **SB84** which will allow districts the ability to provide local funds to support the district through an enrichment fund. Their support is based on the current financial situation of the district. **SB84** will provide some means of satisfying the financial demands of the district on a short-term basis. (Attachment 7)

John Koepke, Executive Director, KASB spoke in opposition of **SB84**. KASB believes this is another inappropriate way of trying to extend school district budget authority. **SB84** has an inequitable effect by increasing the spread between the highest and lowest spending school districts. (Attachment 8)

SB55—School boards; meeting schedules

Theresa Kiernan gave a brief overview of **SB55**. This bill takes out confusing language regarding the requirement for school districts to set up, for the entire year, the time and day of the week for required monthly meeting dates.

Senator Vratil made a motion to recommend **SB55** favorable for passage. Seconded by Senator Schodorf. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on **SB5** and **SB7**. Theresa Kiernan is working on an amendment for **SB5** and the Committee is waiting for information on **SB7** from Dick Carter, Board of Regents on an amendment. The Committee will study concerns on **SB83** and **SB84** and hold final action in a few days.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 123-S.