

Approved: 2-9-2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Barbara Lawrence at 9:00 a.m. on January 26, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Hensley and Jones - Excused

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Keith Spencer, Corp. Commander, JROTC
Tim Heath, Wilbur Middle School, JROTC
Clint McBroom, Pleasant Valley Middle School, JROTC
Jeff Pollard, Northwest High School, JROTC
Melody Ferguson, Parents in Control
Angela Ferguson, Knollwood Baptist School
Mark Tallman, KASB

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lawrence, who welcomed members of the Junior ROTC members from Wichita, who were present to share their experiences with the committee. She called on Lieutenant Trager, Army Instructor, to introduce the cadets.

Cadets Keith Spencer, Tim Heath, Clint McBroom and Jeff Pollard gave a brief summary of what the program has contributed to them in terms of leadership skills, self-esteem, better grades, community service and an understanding of what it takes to participate in the day-to-day activities that support the corps, school and community life.

Chairperson Lawrence stated to those present that they could see why she is so sold on this program that gives such a great opportunity for leadership and character building skills.

One of the committee members asked how many programs there were like this around Kansas. The reply was that there are several communities including Wichita, Derby, Junction City, Topeka and Kansas City. Dodge City has expressed an interest in starting a program and visited Wichita to view the program. It was also stated that no cadets knew of any dropouts at either the high school or middle school level.

The Chairperson thanked the cadets and continued with proponent conferees on:

SB 295 Kansas education opportunities certificate pilot program

Melody Ferguson, Parents In Control, told the story of her daughter, Angela, and her struggles in public school. Angela earned the money to attend Knollwood Baptist School and has had a productive student life. ([Attachment 1](#))

Angela Ferguson distributed her testimony ([Attachment 2](#)) and spoke her quest for a job that would allow her to pay tuition and have time off for school activities. Since leaving public school, she has been very happy with her two years at Knollwood Baptist School.

The Chairperson thanked the proponents and called on opponents of the bill.

Mark Tallman, KASB, spoke in opposition to the bill, ([Attachment 3](#)) and summed up his testimony by stating, "Let private schools continue to be what they should be: a privately funded and independently governed alternative . . ."

As there was no further meeting time, the Chairperson stated that the remaining conferees would have a chance to testify sometime next week

Testimony on the bill was submitted by Chris LeBlanc ([Attachment 4](#)), Andy Bias ([Attachment 5](#)) and Ann Heberger ([Attachment 6](#)).

The meeting was adjourned.