



Spring Hill
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Senate Select Committee on Education Finance

CONFEREE SUBMISSION FORM

PLEASE SUBMIT TO COMMITTEE ALL TESTIMONY AT LEAST

26 HOURS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED MEETING

BILL # (SUB HB2410)

Date of testimony: 5/25/2017

Print Contact Name (and/or person(s) who will be testifying): Dr. Wayne Burke

Agency/Organization Represented: USD 230 Spring Hill

Phone #: (913) 592-7200

Please check type and category applicable:

Oral Testimony (Speaking): _____

Written Only (Not Speaking): Written testimony (attached).

Category: Proponent with Reservations: **X** Opponent: _____ Neutral: _____

We support the vast majority of items listed in SUB HB2410. However, our reservations are based on three areas we feel need to be addressed.

1. Base aid for student excellence (BASE)
2. Enrollment based on current year attendance

Board of Education

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May 17, 2017

Written Testimony for Senate Select Committee on Education Finance

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts as a proponent of SUB HB2410 as a possible school funding formula Finance Bill. Spring Hill is a small, rapidly growing district with a local student population of about 2,800 students located in southern Johnson and northern Miami counties. Our growth projections show that we will gain approximately 1,500 more students over the next 4-5 years.

We appreciate the amount of work that went into this new formula. We appreciate the idea that you are working to address student growth for districts such as Spring Hill USD 230 that are growing rapidly and the foundation amount per pupil has increased. We are also encouraged that Virtual school funding remains as current law.

We support the vast majority of items listed in SUB HB2410 such as; ancillary facilities weighting continuing, funding all-day kindergarten, Career and Technical Education based on old law and the Local Foundation Budget (old LOB) can go to 33% with BOE approval and right of protest petition. We also know that formulas can change. With this in mind, we would ask that you consider the two following points:

- a) While we appreciate the increase in the base aid for student excellence (BASE), we are concerned it may fall short of the Kansas Supreme Court expectations. In earlier drafts of HB2410, there was a five-year \$750 million dollar commitment that has been reduced to a five-year \$450 million dollar commitment. We feel this may fall short of meeting all Kansas' students needs.
- b) Funding should be based on the current year's enrollment. The new enrollment calculation seems more complicated than the old formula. If given a choice, we believe the old enrollment calculation method worked well. Our district fully understands the consequences on student learning of funding which is a year or two old (see below). If funding cannot be based on the current year's enrollment, we would support an Extraordinary Growth fund to provide for growing districts. We ask that this fund be finite and protected in a locked box.

Block grant funding has had significant negative impact on our district the last two years. Under the old formula, our 2015-2016 general fund budget would have increased by more than \$500,000 to meet the needs of a student population that grew 143 students or 5.6%. We also would have increased our supplemental general fund budget by nearly \$500,000 but found it capped with block grant funding. We were grateful to receive \$317,164 in extraordinary need state aid to offset the cost of additional teachers and paraprofessionals that were hired. Instead of losing nearly \$1,000,000 in additional budget authority, we were down approximately \$700,000.

Our 2016-2017 general fund budget would have increased yet another \$500,000 under the old formula to meet the needs of a student population that grew by 132 students or 5%. When we went before the extraordinary needs committee in August 2016, we requested an amount of \$941,440 to help fund the additional 10.5 teachers and 9 paraprofessionals that were added to service an anticipated increase of 190 students. The KSDE Extraordinary Needs committee

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approved us for \$848,580. Kansas schools contributed .4% (\$11 million) of their general fund budget to the Extraordinary Needs fund. However, the 2016-2017 Extraordinary Needs funds were not used for the Extraordinary Needs Committee. The funding was contingent upon a successful sale of the Kansas BioScience Authority of over \$25 million. The sale failed to generate the needed funds. This left a significant gap between the monies our students deserved to receive for their educational needs and the funding that was provided the district.

Again, we appreciate the effort that went into this bill to adequately and equitably fund schools. Thank you for investing in the education of the next generation of Kansans.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Wayne Burke
Superintendent
USD 230 Spring Hill