

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Lee Tafanelli in the absence of Chair Schwartz at 9:00 A.M. on January 31, 2008, in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department
Cody Gorges, Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department
Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Dr. Andy Tompkins, Dean of School of Education, Pittsburg State University (PSU)
Dr. Tes Mehring, Dean of the Teachers College, Emporia State University (ESU)
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Overview of Postsecondary Educational Institutions Unified Operating Grant by Dr. Reginald Robinson
- Attachment 2 Testimony on Teacher Shortage by Dr. Reginald Robinson
- Attachment 3 Testimony on Teacher Shortage by Dr. Andy Tompkins and Dr. Tes Mehring
- Attachment 4 Testimony on Teacher Shortage by Dale Dennis
- Attachment 5 2008 House Budget Committee Schedule, Revision #2

Introduction of Legislation

Representative Williams moved to introduce legislation regarding annual training requirements for corrections officers. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Representative George moved to introduce legislation to establish a multi-year pay plan for state employees. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.

Postsecondary Educational Institutions Unified Operating Grant

Dr. Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, presented an overview of the Postsecondary Education Institutions Unified Operating Grant (Attachment 1). After the funding is appropriated, the grant is administrated by the Board of Regents to the 36 public postsecondary institutions based on the Board's determination of needs and priorities, as well as institutional accountability and performance. Dr. Robinson explained that the Governor has included a recommendation in the FY 2009 Budget for an additional \$35.0 million from the State General Fund (SGF) for the Unified Operating Grant over the approved FY 2008 Budget.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Dr. Robinson stated that Washburn University is the only postsecondary institution who is not included in the allocation from the Unified Operating Grant for FY 2009. Dr. Robinson noted that the Board felt that the application from Washburn University did not meet the goals and accountability performance as outlined by the Board. Dr. Robinson indicated that part of the requested additional FY 2009 funding will be used for incentives for math and science faculty salaries at the institutions.

- ◆ The Committee requested a breakdown of how the \$20.1 million requested by the Board of

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Regents in their FY 2009 budget requests would be allocated in the various field of education and which institutions receive funding.

Teacher Shortages Across the State

Dr. Reginald Robinson presented testimony on the teacher shortages across the State (Attachment 2). Dr. Robinson noted that the teacher shortage challenge is national and not limited to the state of Kansas. Dr. Robinson felt that there were three critical dimensions to be addressed: (1) teacher recruitment, (2) teacher preparation, and (3) teacher retention.

Dr. Andy Thompkins, Dean of School of Education, Pittsburg State University, and Dr. Tes Mehring, Dean of the Teachers College, Emporia State University, appeared before the Committee and jointly presented testimony on the teacher shortage in Kansas (Attachment 3). Highlights from their testimony included:

- Main areas of the state that are affected by the teacher shortage are western part of the state and urban areas.
- There is an over supply of teachers in some areas, particularly elementary teachers.
- Teaching is not perceived as a career resulting in a need to market teaching as a profession.
- Provide for financial incentives, such as a hiring bonus, for those areas where the shortage is most prevalent.
- Provide incentives for retirees to return to teaching.
- Average teacher salary in Kansas is 38th in the nation.
- A need to provide benefits, particularly health insurance.
- Encourage a "Grow Your Own" concept to encourage students to become fully licensed teachers and teach within the State.
- Identify those who are interested in a second career and provide incentives to entice them to work in the teaching field.
- Improve working conditions within the classroom.
- Address providing incentives for teachers to encourage a move to rural areas of the State.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Education, presented testimony on a survey conducted by the Department of Education on the number of retired teachers employed by the school districts during the 2007-2008 school year with a salary over \$20,000 and the results of a survey addressing the number of retired teachers who are employed through private contractors (Attachment 4). Mr. Dennis stated that the Department of Education is concerned about the employment of teachers through a private contractor. Also noted is the fact that there is competition for the recruitment of teachers from other states as well as other countries.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. Dennis indicated that there is a question about who has authority over teachers who are provided by a private contractor. Mr. Dennis indicated that there is a need for more funding to improve teacher salaries. The negotiated agreement between the school district and its teachers specifies what college credit is required to teach in the various areas of the curriculum and how those teachers are placed on the salary schedule.

- ◆ The Committee requested a list of names of private contractors who are contracting for teachers with the school districts.

Other Topics

A revised copy of the 2008 House Budget Committee calendar, Revision #2, for submitting agency budget recommendations for final Appropriations Committee action was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 5).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 1, 2008.

Sharon Schwartz, Chair

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