**Kansas legislature declare teachers unworthy of simple due process**

***Brownback takes credit***

Over the weekend, the Brownback school finance plan which includes several pieces of policy intended to undermine public schools and public school teachers was adopted by both the House and Senate.

The bill which should have been a simple response to the Supreme Court decision on equity in the school finance formula was turned into a vehicle for ALEC-inspired, anti-public education initiatives by the Senate in a floor debate.

Senators added amendments to the finance bill that would:

- Grant millions of dollars in property tax cuts to parents of homeschooled or private school students,
- Grant $10 million in tax credits to corporations who would provide vouchers to students to attend private schools - even unaccredited private schools,
- Effectively end all teacher licensure standards for CTE, math, and science teachers, and
- Strip K-12 teachers of the right to a due process hearing in the case of non-renewal, allowing administrators to fire teachers at will for no reason whatsoever.

Once this offensive bill passed the Senate, it went into conference committee with the House where an agreement was reached to keep all of this policy while funding the equity finance issues. When the bill hit the House floor it was rejected soundly.

The conference committee went back to work and then put together essentially the same bill but without the homeschooler property tax relief. The conference committee report went first to the Senate where it was passionately debated. Democratic Senators Hensley, Pettey, Hawk, and Francisco blasted the bill over the misguided policy pieces until Senator Pat Apple (R-Louisburg) moved to close debate.

The motion to close debate caused an uproar as both Democrats and conservatives were cut off and denied the opportunity to have their voices heard. But the motion prevailed and the report was adopted on a vote of 22 to 16, sending it to the House.

After rejecting a similar bill the night before, House leadership spent the day arm-twisting and late last night the report was adopted on a vote of 63 to 57. Governor Brownback, who was AWOL during the entire school finance discussion, immediately tweeted how please he was that the legislature passed HIS school finance bill.

And this is how vouchers, the end of licensure standards, and the end of due process rights for teachers became law in Kansas without any hearings. Without any public input. Without appearing in bill form. Just being shoved into a finance bill on the fly by anti-teacher, anti-education legislators.

**The vote count**

If a legislator voted YEA on Sen Sub for HB 2506, that legislator supports vouchers, opposes teacher licensure, and believes teachers should be fired for no reason whatsoever at the whim of management.

***HOUSE***

Yeas: Barker, Bradford, Bruchman, Brunk, Couture-Lovelady, Carlson, Carpenter, Cassidy, Christmann, Claeys, Corbet, Crum, E. Davis, DeGraaf, Dove, Edwards, Esau, Estes, Gandhi, Garber, Goico, Grosserode, Hawkins, Hedke, Highland, Hildabrand, Hoffman, Houser, Howell, Huebert, Hutton, Johnson, Jones, Kahrs, Kelley, Kiegerl, Kinzer, Kleeb, Lunn, Macheers, Mason, Mast, McPherson, Meigs, Merrick, O'Brien, Osterman, Peck, Powell, Read, Rhoades, Rothlisberg, Rubin, Ryckman Jr., Ryckman Sr., Schwab, Seiwert, Suellentrop, Thimesch, Thompson, Todd, Vickrey, Waymaster.

Nays: Alcala, Alford, Anthimides, Ballard, Becker, Boldra, Bollier, Bridges, Burroughs, Campbell, Carmichael, Clayton, Concannon, Curtis, P. Davis, Dierks, Doll, Edmonds, Ewy, Finch, Finney, Frownfelter, Gonzalez, Henderson, Henry, Hibbard, Hineman, Jennings, Kelly, Kuether, Lane, Lusk, Lusker, Meier, Menghini, Moxley, Pauls, Perry, Petty, Phillips, Proehl, Rooker, Ruiz, Sawyer, Schroeder, Sloan, Sloop, Swanson, Tietze, Trimmer, Victors, Ward, Weigel, Whipple, Wilson, Winn, Wolfe Moore.

Absent or not voting: Carlin, Hill, Houston, Schwartz, Sutton.

***SENATE***

Yeas: Apple, Arpke, Bruce, Denning, Fitzgerald, Holmes, King, Knox, LaTurner, Love,

Lynn, Melcher, O'Donnell, Olson, Ostmeyer, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, Powell, Shultz, Smith, Tyson, Wagle.

Nays: Abrams, Bowers, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Hawk, Hensley, Holland, Kelly, Kerschen, Longbine, McGinn, Pettey, Pyle, V. Schmidt, Wolf.

Absent or Not Voting: Donovan, Masterson.

**Irony?**

We find it ironic that a Senate that would pass a government transparency bill on a vote of 40 to 0 would subsequently pass a school finance bill containing three policy changes that were never heard publicly and added under cover of darkness in the wee hours of the night.

We also find it interesting that a Governor with television ads touting him as a supporter of our public schools would not weigh in on the bills being considered and disappear from public view during the entire school funding debate. Of course, he did claim credit via twitter after the bill passed.

**What happens next?**

This isn't law yet.

The bill still needs to be signed by the Governor. We assume since he claimed credit for it that he is planning on signing it. It will take a little time to get to his desk and then he will have ten days to sign it or veto it before it becomes law without his signature.

This is the time for all Kansans who value public education and respect teachers to weigh in with the Governor.

Send a message to Governor Brownback telling him to preserve public education by vetoing HB 2506 and directing the legislature to return to Topeka and pass a clean finance bill to address school equity.

Use the KNEA legislative email portal to send your message. Click here[1].

**Special thanks**

This is a personal note from your KNEA lobbyists, Mark Desetti and Terry Forsyth.

Over this weekend we were amazed by the teachers, parents, and school administrators who spent countless hours under the dome with us. Thank you for your words of encouragement to the two of us but really, we thank you more for your passion and commitment to the cause. Your enthusiasm, your red shirts, your smiles and even your tears give us more energy as we continue to fight for you and your students.

Thank you also to the other organizations that helped us - Game On for Kansas Schools, Kansas Families for Education, the Kansas PTA, the Mainstream Coalition, United School Administrators, and the individual lobbyists who stood with us.

And thank you especially to the Kansas Democratic and Republican Senators and Representatives who stand by Kansas teachers every day. Many of them stood with us at the end last night, mingling among the teachers. Some of you we saw and recognized; others we didn't see but we know now you were there. We apologize to anyone that we failed to recognize but please know that we know who the real legislative champions of public schools and public school teachers are. We will spread the word and we will never forget.

***Game on!***

1. http://click.email.nea.org/?qs=10a6f706fe1e8f941f0f79cef53ec51571cd43132d900d8ba4c428047bdded6b8db81b3aeb5af5f1