



Under the Dome Today

Jan. 14, 2015

Education Committees hear from Efficiency Commission



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Sam Williams, Chairman of the K-12 Student Performance and Efficiency Commission, presented the Commission's report to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees.

Notable was the attachment of a "minority report" authored by Williams, Dave Trabert, Mike O'Neal, and Dennis DePew. The minority report took issue with a number of the findings and recommendations of the majority of the Commission.

While the Commission's report calls for elimination of the 65% on instruction goal currently in law, the minority report calls for it to continue. And while the Commission's report calls for no changes to the professional negotiations act other than to encourage KNEA, KASB, USA, and KSSA to continue discussing ways to improve the act, the minority report recommends that the legislature introduce a bill that was rejected by the full Commission which would require districts to negotiate only salaries and hours.

When it came time to act upon the Commission's recommended legislation (two bills establishing study commissions), there was an attempt to characterize the anti-PNA bill as part of the Commission's report. After much discussion, it was agreed that the PNA recommendation was not coming from the Commission but only from a minority of the Commission members. The bill was not introduced however, it was pointed out that any legislator can ask

to have any bill introduced at his/her pleasure.

We expect that the bill will be introduced by individual members of both committees. Senators Melcher, Arpke, and Pyle all expressed great interest in introducing such a bill.

State of the State tomorrow

After ignoring the budget crisis in his inaugural address, the Governor is expected to take it up tomorrow night in his State of the State address scheduled for 6:30 pm.

We can't imagine that he'll go into great detail about his solution to the ongoing budget crisis created by his tax cuts but we hope to get some idea of what direction he will be taking in his proposed budget that will be released afterwards.

The Governor's staff will be briefing a joint meeting of the House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means Committees on Friday morning.

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