

Board of Education mixed on governor's school finance plan

TOPEKA (AP) — Some State Board of Education members have misgivings about Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' school finance plan, even though it embraces the board's own proposal for a \$100-per-pupil spending increase.

The plan would raise aid to school districts by \$304 million over the next three years through higher taxes on sales, property and personal income.

In August, the board proposed spending \$58 million to raise state aid per pupil by \$100 in the fiscal

year that starts July 1.

Sebelius' plan includes that provision as well as additional increases in the following two years that would add a total \$250 to the current figure of \$3,863.

Board member Sue Gamble, a Shawnee Republican, said Tuesday she wished other agencies would also benefit from the proposed tax increases so that they would be partners in advocating them. The board discussed the Sebelius plan during its monthly meeting.

"It leaves us hanging out there

dangling in the wind," Gamble said. "We're the problem."

Gamble and Board member Bruce Wyatt of Salina felt the governor should have attached the tax increase to other programs as well, including transportation, higher education or social services.

But member Connie Morris, a St. Francis Republican, did not like the idea of raising taxes.

"Raising taxes is not brave," she said. "It's cowardice."

The governor's plan, called "Education First," also has new

dollars for all-day kindergarten and for programs aimed at helping poor and minority students do better on standardized tests.

"I'm almost a little embarrassed that the governor is asking for more than we've been asking for," said member Carol Rupe, a Wichita Republican. "It took a lot of guts to have this proposal."

Sebelius' proposal would provide an additional \$137 million during the state's 2005 fiscal year, which begins July 1, while the board's plan called for an additional

\$105 million. Board members also learned the details of the governor's plan to change the way the state finances special education.

Traditionally, Kansas has funded special education separately, based on the excess cost of providing services. Those costs — currently about \$250 million — are based on the number of teachers and paraprofessionals.

Sebelius wants to tie the dollars to students, putting the entire \$250 million into the general aid formula, raising the per-pupil figure by \$434.

The effect would be to set the base aid figure at \$4,397 per pupil for fiscal 2005, said Dale Dennis, deputy commissioner of education.

Dennis said the board had recommended changing special education funding on a limited basis to see the effects. Legislators also have discussed the idea in recent years, but have worried about how the money would be redistributed.

School boards have balked at the idea for years, said Mark Tallman, lobbyist for the Kansas Association of School Boards.

He said they worry that the change Sebelius seeks separates funding from students' needs.

"If a district has an unusually high number of special ed students or high-cost students, it doesn't take that into account," Tallman said.

Also, Tallman said, the Sebelius plan also does not take into account future increases in special education costs. Districts could be forced to take money from other programs, he said.

Secretary says KDOT needs funds to finish 10-year program

TOPEKA (AP) — Some projects promised under the state's 10-year highway improvement program will not be completed unless legislators provide additional revenue, Transportation Secretary Deb Miller said Tuesday.

Miller said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' proposal to issue \$465 million in bonds would make up for the diversion in recent years of revenue intended for road projects into other operations.

"Absent that replacement revenue, we simply could not complete this program as planned," Miller said during an interview after a joint meeting the House and Senate Transportation committees.

For the fiscal year that starts July 1, Sebelius has called for spending \$202 million earmarked on other government functions.

Her bond plan calls for issuing \$100 million in highway bonds next year, \$150 million in 2006 and \$215 million in 2007.

Miller began lobbying Tuesday for Sebelius' plan, showing the committees a video featuring interviews with officials and residents in communities where KDOT has projects.

She said the presentation was intended to remind legislators of why the state embarked on the program five years ago.

The committee plans to review Sebelius' proposal in detail next week.

"We want to get people up to date," Miller said.

House Transportation Committee Chairman Gary Hayzlett said such presentations might make some legislators more inclined to support issuing more bonds.

Five years ago, lawmakers approved nearly \$1 billion in bonds for the transportation program.

As for Sebelius' plan, Hayzlett,

R-Lakin, said, "It sounds like it could be very workable."

As envisioned, the transportation program was to spend \$13 billion through fiscal 2009 on road, airport and public transit improvements, with much of the financing coming from gasoline and diesel fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees.

Panel studies funding for 911 systems

TOPEKA (AP) — Wireless telephone users would pay additional charges to help improve 911 emergency service across the state under legislation reviewed Tuesday by the House Utilities Committee.

Four bills before the committee would raise monthly fees and taxes by 50 cents or 75 cents per wireless phone to finance the system and let wireless service providers recover costs associated with routing 911 calls to emergency dispatch centers.

Chairman Carl Dean Holmes, R-Liberal, said the committee would take more testimony this week and could finish work next week on a bill to forward to the House.

The goal is to provide emergency 911 operators with the location from which a call is made on a cell phone — information that is automatically provided when a call is made on a traditional landline phone.

Currently, emergency personnel in most Kansas counties' dispatch centers are shown only the number of the cell phone from which a 911 call is made.

Judy Moler, lobbyist for the Kansas Association of Counties, said local governments for years have charged conventional telephone customers a fee to provide 911 service.

With the growth of wireless use, she said, users of wired telephones have borne the brunt of costs.

Moler also said any legislation should provide funding to rural counties that don't have enough wireless phone users to generate sufficient revenue to build their own 911 systems.

Legislators have proposed establishing a revolving loan program, similar to those for public works projects, to help rural areas.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

BANKWEST OF KANSAS, f/k/a BANKWEST, a Kansas banking corporation
Plaintiff
VS.

Alan D. Sager and Tonya G. Sager, husband and wife, Thomas County, Kansas, Case Credit Corporation, Case Corporation, D. Michael Case as trustee in United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas Case No. 03-13626-7, Fred A. Sager, Dorothy Sager, L. J. O'Neal and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, creditors, trustees and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are in any way under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased.
Defendants

CASE NO. 03 C 38

NOTICE: THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT INVOLVING REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE

NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS AND TO ALL PERSONS WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED OR INTERESTED:

By virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me out of the said district court in the above entitled action, I will, on the 5th day of February, 2004, at 10:00 of said day, at the front door of the Thomas County Courthouse in Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, offer at public sale and sell, to the highest and best bidder for cash in hand, the following described real estate situated in Thomas County, Kansas, to-wit:

The Northwest quarter (NW1/4) of section one (1), township seven (7) South, range thirty-five (35) West of the sixth (6th) P.M., all improvements thereon and the fixtures thereon consisting of seven (7) metal grain bins with drying and monitoring equipment.

The above described real estate is taken as the property of the defendants Alan D. Sager and Tonya G. Sager and is directed by said order of sale to be sold, and will be sold without appraisal, to satisfy the judgment in rem entered in said case, pursuant to the Order of Sale.

Thomas W. Jones, Sheriff of Thomas County, Kansas

Michael V. Foust #07507
126 W. 11th
P.O. Box 778
Goodland, KS 67735
(785) 899-5687
Attorney for plaintiff

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