

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Hutton at 1:30pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Louis Ruiz – Excused

Committee staff present:

Linda Herrick, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department

Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Randy Watson, Commissioner of Education

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Hutton asked if there were any bills to be introduced. There were none.

Subcommittee Appointed on Facilities Conservation Improvement Program

Chairperson Hutton appointed this subcommittee to review current performance of FCIP and return with recommendations for changes. Members are: Vice Chairperson Representative Les Mason, Chairperson; Representative Stan Frownfelter; Representative Will Carpenter; and Representative Rick Billinger.

Presentation on: Kansas Education Vision, Partnering with Business, Community and Schools

Randy Watson, Commissioner of Education, gave a presentation ([Attachment 1](#)) on Kansas education vision, partnering with business, community, and schools to prepare students to be successful in the workforce. Talking points were also included ([Attachment 2](#)).

Mr. Watson said he wanted to share the vision the Kansas State Board of Education has developed. The belief is Kansas is incrementally losing the middle class. Mr. Watson said education plays a big role in moving that forward.

A study from the Georgetown Policy Institute, Georgetown University, indicates in Kansas for kids in high school today, 71% will require some education past high school for the job market they will face. Currently, only 52% of Kansans have some post secondary education. Mr. Watson added students who seek four-year degrees should still be encouraged.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development at 1:30pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Watson also reported on seven meetings held across the state sponsored by local chambers. The participants represented all sizes of businesses. When asked what makes a successful 24-year old Kansan, the answers were: showing up for work, pass a drug test, persist, good days effort for good days work, and realize they will not be CEO today.

The vision of the Board of Education is for Kansas to lead the world in the success of each student. Schools, parents, communities and business need to work collectively to make sure all students are well prepared for the workforce.

To achieve this vision for Kansas education:

- Kansas children need quality preschool, including all-day kindergarten.
- Change school culture. Value and support the student who chooses to pursue a technical education or a two-year college as much as the student pursuing a four-year college degree.
- School counselors should focus on helping students develop individual plans for study.
- Find ways to get businesses into the classroom and the classroom into the businesses through internships and job shadowing.
- Schools need to be reorganized around the student, not the systems.
- Community service should play a bigger role in education.

After his presentation, Mr. Watson answered questions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.