

## MINUTES of the JOINT HOUSE and SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department  
Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department  
Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education  
Shannon Ralph, Dodge City USD 443, High School Biology  
Beau Bragg, Bonner Springs-Edwardsville USD 204, Bonner Springs Elementary School, Physical Education  
Abby Hedrick, Paola USD 368 Middle School, Grade 7 Mathematics  
Jennifer Hofferber, Liberal USD 480, Sunflower Intermediate School, Special Education  
Lisa Holt, Winfield USD 465, Country View Elementary School, Special Education (Autism)  
Jamie McDaniel, Paola USD 368, Sunflower Elementary School, Grade 5  
Dennis Munk, Haysville USD 261, Campus High School, Physical Education  
Kimberly Nelson, Bonner Springs-Edwardsville USD 204, Robert E. Clark Middle School, Grade 6 English Language Arts

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Senate Chairman Steve Abrams asked Senate committee members and staff to briefly introduce themselves. Chairman Abrams also introduced his intern who was seated in the audience.

House Chairman Ron Highland asked House committee members and staff to briefly introduce themselves.

### **Bill introductions**

Chairman Abrams asked Senate members for bill introductions; there were none. Chairman Highland asked House members for bill introductions; there were none.

### **Presentations by the Teacher of the Year Team**

Chairman Abrams asked Dale Dennis to introduce the Teacher of the Year Team. Mr. Dennis gave a brief description of the application process and then invited the teachers to address committee members. ([Attachment 1](#))

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Beau Bragg used his experience in playing golf to point out that a repeated lack of success is made worthwhile when success is finally achieved. Students cannot make a successful shot without first having the opportunity to make the shot.

Jennifer Hofferber expressed the importance of hiring and retaining good paraprofessionals for the classroom, especially in special education classes where the students benefit from consistent, long-term relationships with the staff.

Shannon Ralph spoke to the importance of developing critical thinking skills.

Dennis Munk emphasized the need to provide opportunities for students to apply what they are learning.

Jamie McDaniel spoke of the need for teachers to establish an emotionally safe environment supported by instruction in character development to provide a climate where learning can take place.

Lisa Holt expressed her belief that there is fairly good support for younger autistic students and also voiced her concern about the lack of opportunity for older autistic students to enter the work force.

Abby Hedrick shared her personal experience of beginning to work with the Common Core mathematics standards.

Kimberly Nelson spoke to the need to focus on the child when making decisions about education.

The Chairmen opened the meeting for questions from committee members. In response to a question from Senator Hensley, Mr. Dennis acknowledged it is unusual to have two instructors from the same school district on the same Teacher of the Year Team.

Senate members were excused to the Senate floor at 2:24 p.m.

House members continue asking questions. Shannon Ralph expressed the team's desire to be available to answer questions from committee members as the session progresses.

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

The House and Senate Education Committees will again meet jointly on Wednesday, January 14, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.