

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:00pm on Monday, February 23, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Walt Chappell, Educational Management Consultants
Dr. Mary Byrne, Co-Founder, Missouri Coalition against Common Core
Ze'ev Wurman, former Senior Adviser, Office of Planning, Evaluation & Policy Development, U.S. Department of Education
Frank Clark, former instructor and administrator
Jeffrey Locke, teacher
David Dorsey, Kansas Policy Institute
Hosanna Myers, concerned citizen
John Axtell, concerned citizen
Lisa Huesers, concerned citizen
Deena Horst, Kansas State Board of Education
Brad Neuenswander, Interim Commissioner of Education
Ken Weaver, Dean, Teachers College at Emporia State University
David Barnes, teacher, Topeka Public Schools
Dr. Marty Stessman, Superintendent, Shawnee Heights Public Schools
Fred Hollingshead, Instructional Coach, Shawnee Heights Public Schools
Rick Doll, Superintendent, Lawrence Public Schools
Tammy Bartels, President Kansas PTA
Harry McDonald, MainStream Coalition
Dr. Teresa San Martin, Kansas Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Representative Barker moved and Representative Bradford seconded the minutes for February 2 through 13 be accepted by the committee. The motion passed.

Hearing on: HB2292 — Development and establishment of K-12 curriculum standards.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2292** and explained each conferee would be allowed three minutes to speak with no time allowed for questions.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:00pm on Monday, February 23, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Walt Chappell spoke in favor of **HB2292** expressing concern about the way Kansas education has been taken over by the federal government. ([Attachment 1](#)) ([Attachment 2](#)) ([Attachment 3](#))

Dr. Mary Byrne supported **HB2292** emphasizing the Kansas constitution clearly states the legislature has the right to disapprove standards adopted by the State Board of Education and referring to the recent Oklahoma Supreme Court opinion supporting this stance in that state. Dr. Byrne also provided information related to the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and its involvement with standards issues. ([Attachment 4](#)) ([Attachment 5](#))

Ze'ev Wurman gave support for **HB2292** referring to the national ranking score drop as indicators of the lack of success of Common Core standards in Kansas. Mr. Wurman referred to the cost of making a change in standards now and said it should be done because the standards provide a poor education. In his opinion, former Kansas standards showed better outcomes and the legislature should not be afraid to fall back to them. ([Attachment 6](#)) ([Attachment 7](#))

Frank Clark spoke in favor of **HB2292** giving his concerns about Common Core standards and related issues. ([Attachment 8](#))

Jeffrey Locke spoke as a public school teacher in favor of **HB2292** stating Common Core goes against the meta-cognitive learning of students. ([Attachment 9](#))

David Dorsey supported **HB2292** stating he believes in strong standards but believes that, because the Common Core standards are not written to be age appropriate, there will be a drop in outcomes overall and a widening of the gap that already exists in outcomes for at-risk students. ([Attachment 10](#))

Hosanna Myers appeared as a proponent of **HB2292** referring to her grandmother's experience in the German education system under Adolf Hitler and expressing her grandmother's concern that the same is being repeated in the United States today in the way the Common Core standards have been established. ([Attachment 11](#))

John Axtell supported **HB2292** speaking of his success in working with an individualized teaching approach that would not be allowed under Common Core standards and giving his opinion the bill will put parents back in charge of curriculum and student privacy. ([Attachment 12](#))

Lisa Huesers spoke in favor of **HB2292** noting Common Core standards are supported by entities which find it difficult to provide substantive reasons for their support. Ms. Huesers also expressed her concern that those representing the best interest of the students, the parents, are not given full access to information about data collected on those students and that the data being collected is not properly secured. ([Attachment 13](#))

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MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:00pm on Monday, February 23, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Written testimony in favor of **HB2292** was submitted by:

Blake Branson, concerned citizen ([Attachment 14](#))
Courtney Rankin, concerned citizen ([Attachment 15](#))
Janet Hartmann, concerned citizen ([Attachment 16](#))
Richard Wood, concerned citizen ([Attachment 17](#))
Angela Stiens, concerned citizen ([Attachment 18](#))
Blake Matousek, concerned citizen ([Attachment 19](#))
Bradley Menze, concerned citizen ([Attachment 20](#))
Barbara Saldivar, State Director, Concerned Women for America ([Attachment 21](#))
Chris Beemer, concerned citizen ([Attachment 22](#))
Carol Brent, concerned citizen ([Attachment 23](#))
Craig Campbell, concerned citizen ([Attachment 24](#))
Carolyn Kuhn, concerned citizen ([Attachment 25](#))
Carolyn Lunsford, concerned citizen ([Attachment 26](#))
Dennis Batliner, concerned citizen ([Attachment 27](#))
Donald Cotter, concerned citizen ([Attachment 28](#))
Dawnelle Priest, concerned citizen ([Attachment 29](#))
David Rine, professor, George Mason University ([Attachment 30](#)) ([Attachment 31](#))
Darrel Wilson, concerned citizen ([Attachment 32](#))
Henry Burke, civil engineer ([Attachment 33](#)) ([Attachment 34](#)) ([Attachment 35](#))
Irma Lightner-Reimer, concerned citizen ([Attachment 36](#))
Brenda and Jason Menges, concerned citizens ([Attachment 37](#))
John Drew, concerned citizen ([Attachment 38](#))
Jennifer McCoy, concerned citizen ([Attachment 39](#))
Jana Rea, concerned citizen ([Attachment 40](#))
Jeffrey Richardson, concerned citizen ([Attachment 41](#))
Jeremy Weber, concerned citizen ([Attachment 42](#))
Kristin George, concerned citizen ([Attachment 43](#)) ([Attachment 44](#))
Karen Herpak, concerned citizen ([Attachment 45](#))
Karla Parsons, concerned citizen ([Attachment 46](#))
Kara Thomason, concerned citizen ([Attachment 47](#))
Lucy Clark, concerned citizen ([Attachment 48](#))
Lanell Griffith, concerned citizen ([Attachment 49](#))
Melanie Hamilton, concerned citizen ([Attachment 50](#))
Megan King, concerned citizen ([Attachment 51](#))
Mary Martin, concerned citizen ([Attachment 52](#))
Patricia Jackson, concerned citizen ([Attachment 53](#))
Peggy McLoughlin, concerned citizen ([Attachment 54](#))
Phillis Setchell, concerned citizen ([Attachment 55](#)) ([Attachment 56](#)) ([Attachment 57](#))
Paul Stout, concerned citizen ([Attachment 58](#))

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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Roberta Bretz, concerned citizen ([Attachment 59](#))
Craig and Rainey Dugan, concerned citizens ([Attachment 60](#))
Rosy Schmidt, concerned citizens ([Attachment 61](#))
Robert Wood, concerned citizen ([Attachment 62](#))
Roger Wood, concerned citizen ([Attachment 63](#))
Sandra Connary, concerned citizen ([Attachment 64](#))
Shannon Crouch, concerned citizen ([Attachment 65](#))
Sarah Jurak, concerned citizen ([Attachment 66](#))
Scott Kaye, concerned citizen ([Attachment 67](#))
Shirley Koehn, concerned citizen ([Attachment 68](#))
Stephanie Kupper, concerned citizen ([Attachment 69](#))
Sharon Shobney, concerned citizen ([Attachment 70](#))
Scott Smith, concerned citizen ([Attachment 71](#))
Tracy Clarkson, concerned citizen ([Attachment 72](#))
Terri Fleming, concerned citizen ([Attachment 73](#))
Trista Fox, concerned citizen ([Attachment 74](#))
Tina Jenkins, concerned citizen ([Attachment 75](#))
Todd Johnson, Chairman, Sedgwick County Republican Party ([Attachment 76](#)) ([Attachment 77](#)) ([Attachment 78](#))
Teresa Selensky, concerned citizen ([Attachment 79](#))
Wade Jacobs, concerned citizen ([Attachment 80](#))
Chad Perry, concerned citizen ([Attachment 81](#))

Deena Horst opposed **HB2292** pointing out the bill requires Kansas schools to fall back to standards written in 2003, requires a test that no longer exists and could negatively affect innovative school districts which have moved toward using alternate tests. Ms. Horst encouraged a partnership between the State Board of Education and legislators in working together to find the best standards for Kansas. ([Attachment 82](#))

Brad Neuenswander spoke in opposition to **HB2292** referring to the Department of Education effort to draw from the public input on what standards should be and indicating the annual cost for professional development, materials and curriculum of approximately fifty million dollars would have been for naught for the past four to five years. He encouraged dialogue between the legislature and the Department of Education regarding standards. ([Attachment 83](#))

Ken Weaver expressed concerns about **HB2292** referring to the gap between the view of high school teachers regarding how ready their students are for college-level studies and the view of college faculties on the students' college-readiness. Mr. Weaver supports the current standards as providing the rigor need to eliminate this gap and asked the committee to allow education to continue on the course already set. ([Attachment 84](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:00pm on Monday, February 23, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

David Barnes spoke as a teacher and parent against **HB2292** referencing his experience in helping to write the standards for math and science and speaking of his confidence that the standards will help his children for college. ([Attachment 85](#)) ([Attachment 86](#))

Dr. Marty Stessman referred to the differences in the world today and how that relates to students. He emphasized that standards are just standards, not curriculum. What the teacher does and teaches in the classroom is the curriculum. He encouraged opposition to **HB2292**. ([Attachment 87](#))

Fred Hollingshead spoke of his experience in being present when the national standards were first seen and in being involved in writing the current standards. During this process, he did not perceive any expectation from the Department of Education that the Common Core standards be adopted. He is opposed to **HB2292**. ([Attachment 88](#))

Rick Doll spoke of unintended consequences which could happen with the passage of **HB2292** and expressed his opposition of the bill as a shotgun approach that would be contrary to the law. ([Attachment 89](#))

Tammy Bartels felt passage of **HB2292** would make the state vulnerable to litigation because she does not believe the legislature has the authority to effect standards. She urged committee members to vote 'no' on the bill. ([Attachment 90](#))

Harry McDonald agreed with other opponents to **HB2292** that not being able to teach to current standards would be detrimental to Kansas students. ([Attachment 91](#))

Dr. Teresa San Martin opposed **HB2292** urging the committee to wait for possible developments at the federal level that could return more flexibility to the states and expressing her concern that education in Kansas needs the stability of a long-term vision that could be lost by the changes required under this bill. ([Attachment 92](#))

Mark Desetti spoke in opposition to **HB2292** stating it is too broad and would require a complete re-tooling of the educational approach in Kansas. ([Attachment 93](#))

Written testimony in opposition to **HB2292** was submitted by:

Abby Hedrick, teacher, Paola Schools ([Attachment 94](#))

Cory Gibson, Superintendent, Valley Center Schools ([Attachment 95](#))

Dr. Corbin Witt, Superintendent, Geary County Schools ([Attachment 96](#))

David Hendershot, educator ([Attachment 97](#))

Dennis Lauver, concerned citizen ([Attachment 98](#))

Dr. Ferrell Miller, Board Member, Geary County Schools ([Attachment 99](#))

Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent, Trego County Schools ([Attachment 100](#))

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Jeff Baxter, teacher, Leavenworth Schools ([Attachment 101](#))
Dr. James Ellis, Science Teacher Educator, University of Kansas ([Attachment 102](#))
Kindra Rowley, elementary teacher ([Attachment 103](#))
Lara Bors, Garden City Schools Board of Education ([Attachment 104](#))
Larry Lysell, Superintendent, Palco Schools ([Attachment 105](#))
Lori Stockstill, concerned citizen ([Attachment 106](#))
Marcel Harmon, Board Member, Lawrence Schools ([Attachment 107](#))
Marsha Ratzel, teacher, Prairie Village Schools ([Attachment 108](#))
Dr. Melissa Reed, educator ([Attachment 109](#))
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards ([Attachment 110](#))
Stacey Bell, President, Kansas Association of Teacher of Mathematics ([Attachment 111](#))
Tom Robinett, Vice-President of Government Affairs, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce ([Attachment 112](#))
Tom Trigg, Superintendent, Blue Valley Schools ([Attachment 113](#))
Susan Dringenberg, concerned citizen ([Attachment 114](#))
William Hall, Superintendent, Salina Schools ([Attachment 115](#))

The hearing on **HB2292** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Tuesday, February 24, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.