

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30pm on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Carolyn Bridges – Excused
Representative Dennis Hedke – Excused
Representative Rob Bruchman – Absent
Representative Jarrod Ousley, appointed substitute member to the committee

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:

Chris Brown, concerned citizen
Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute
Dr. Kelli Mather, Chief Financial Officer, Kansas City Kansas Public Schools
Jim Freeman, Chief Financial Officer, Wichita Public Schools
Lew Faust, Director of Business Services, Manhattan-Ogden Public Schools
Mark Dick, Certified Public Accountant
Cheryl Semmel, United School Administrators of Kansas
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards
Rod Stewart, President, Kansas Association of School Boards
Lynn Rogers, Vice-President, Wichita Board of Education
Dr. George Griffith, Superintendent, Trego County Schools
Steve Bowser, board member, Holton Schools
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2393 — Requiring school districts to use generally accepted accounting principles; financial publication requirements.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2393** and asked Nick Myers to give a briefing on the bill. ([Attachment 1](#))

The Chairman asked conferees to limit their comments to five minutes.

Chris Brown supported **HB2393** as a means of providing Kansas taxpayers with a clear and transparent way of following how their money is being spent on public education. ([Attachment 2](#))

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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Dave Trabert presented testimony from Steve Anderson, Kansas Policy Institute, in favor of **HB2393** discussing differences in accounting methods used by Kansas school districts and indicating the benefits for school districts in developing the transparency provided by the bill. ([Attachment 3](#))

Written testimony in support of **HB2393** was submitted by concerned citizens Craig Gabel ([Attachment 4](#)) and Larry Alley ([Attachment 5](#)).

Dr. Kelli Mather opposed **HB2393** stating she is in favor of efficiency and transparency but believes this bill would have an adverse affect on school districts by requiring them to focus large amounts of time and money on the adoption of a new accounting system. ([Attachment 6](#))

Jim Freeman spoke against **HB2393** indicating it would drive up administrative costs and tie up resources intended for the classroom by requiring districts to purchase and implement new software. He encouraged members to consider privacy issues when requiring posting of employee pay and benefits. ([Attachment 7](#))

Lew Faust opposed **HB2393** stating compliance with the bill would significantly increase costs for the smaller school districts across the state. ([Attachment 8](#))

Mark Dick spoke against **HB2393** expressing his belief that confusion exists regarding accounting approaches and indicating the same chart of accounts will provide the same information in whatever accounting system a district uses. ([Attachment 9](#))

Cheryl Semmel opposed **HB2393** indicating it is possible the information needed is already available and stating it may be necessary to better identify the problem in order to determine how best to solve it. ([Attachment 10](#))

Mark Tallman spoke against **HB2393** explaining his points of concern with the bill. ([Attachment 11](#))

Written testimony was submitted in opposition to **HB2393** by:

Doug Schwinn, Director of Business, Spring Hill Public Schools ([Attachment 12](#))

Kathy Johnson, Director of Finance, Lawrence Public Schools ([Attachment 13](#))

Lisa Peters, Executive Director of Business and Board Treasurer, Salina Public Schools ([Attachment 14](#))

Randall Ford, accountant ([Attachment 15](#))

Dr. Russell Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Newton Public Schools ([Attachment 16](#))

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2393**.

Hearing on: HB2345 — Prohibiting school board members from having a conflict of interest.

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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2345** and announced the hearing would be for informational purposes only. Tamera Lawrence gave an overview of the bill and answered questions from committee members.

Chris Brown provided support for **HB2345** citing examples of conflicts of interest involving school board members and citing statutes already in place that are not being enforced. ([Attachment 17](#))

Written testimony in favor of **HB2345** was submitted by Larry Alley, concerned citizen. ([Attachment 18](#))

Rod Stewart objected to **HB2345** stating he believes it is unnecessary due to existing statutes, it would not allow qualified individuals to serve in small communities, and it is unfair to single out school board members while not requiring the same of other positions. ([Attachment 19](#))

Lynn Rogers spoke against **HB2345** speaking of the far-reaching effects of the exclusions required by the bill and citing recusal as an appropriate way for a school board member to deal with conflicts of interest. ([Attachment 20](#))

Dr. George Griffith opposed **HB2345** informing the committee of his difficulty in finding people who are willing to serve as school board members in a rural setting. Dr. Griffith suggested the possibility of changing the bill's language to require recusal by board members when a conflict of interest occurs. ([Attachment 21](#))

Steve Bowser spoke against **HB2345** stating school boards have their own code of ethics which they apply in their meetings. He believes it is desirable to have business leaders involved in local school boards and feels the limitations effected by the bill are too extreme. ([Attachment 22](#))

Mark Desetti opposed **HB2345** encouraging the committee to honor the ethics of local school boards and allow the boards to apply those ethics when needed. ([Attachment 23](#))

Conferees answered questions from the committee.

Written testimony opposing **HB2345** was submitted by:

Amy Futhey, board member, Caldwell Schools ([Attachment 24](#))

Senator Anthony Hensley ([Attachment 25](#))

Amy Martin, board member, Olathe Schools ([Attachment 26](#))

Bryce Matteson, board member, Haven Schools ([Attachment 27](#))

David Hand, board member, Ellsworth-Kanopolis-Geneseo Schools ([Attachment 28](#))

Gail Billman, board member, Labette County Schools ([Attachment 29](#))

Jackie Chandler, board member, Neodesha Schools ([Attachment 30](#))

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.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Thursday, March 05, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Dr. Julie Ford, Superintendent, Topeka Public Schools ([Attachment 31](#))

Dr. Jeffrey Quirin, board member, Parsons Schools ([Attachment 32](#))

James Wiens, Vice-President, Goessel Schools ([Attachment 33](#))

Laura Meyer Dick, Board President, Buhler Schools ([Attachment 34](#))

Larry Lysell, Superintendent, Palco Schools ([Attachment 35](#))

Mark Buck, Superintendent, Medicine Lodge ([Attachment 36](#))

Marcel Harmon, board member, Lawrence Schools ([Attachment 37](#))

Mary Lynn Baxter, board member, Hutchinson Schools ([Attachment 38](#))

Richard Weixelman, board member, Wamego Schools ([Attachment 39](#))

Sarah Blake, board member, Hutchinson Schools ([Attachment 40](#))

Shelly Kiblinger, Superintendent, Hutchinson Schools ([Attachment 41](#))

Shannon Kimball, President, Lawrence Schools ([Attachment 42](#))

Tad Dower, board member, Hutchinson Schools ([Attachment 43](#))

Conferees answered questions from the committee.

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2345**.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

The House Education Committee will next meet on Monday, March 9, at 1:30 p.m. in 112-N of the Capitol.