

MINUTES of the JOINT HOUSE and SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative John Barker – Excused

Representative Valdenia Winn – Excused

Representative Tom Burroughs, appointed substitute member to the committee

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Randy Watson, Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairman Abrams opened the meeting and asked if Senate members had bill introductions.

Senator Arpke moved and Senator Fitzgerald seconded a motion that the Senate committee sponsor a bill regarding curriculum on winter celebrations. The motion passed.

Chairman Abrams made announcements affecting members of both the House and Senate committees.

Chairman Highland asked House Members if there were any bill introductions; there were none.

Presentation by Dr. Randy Watson, Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education

Chairman Abrams invited Dr. Randy Watson to the podium and asked him to introduce State Board of Education members seated in the audience. Dr. Watson introduced Jim McNiece, State Board Chairman, who introduced the following State Board members: Jim Porter, Kathy Busch, Janet Waugh, Deena Horst, Sally Cauble, and Ken Willard.

Mr. McNiece referred to the year-long effort made by Dr. Watson and Deputy Commissioner Brad Neuenswander in touring the state to gather information to be used in creating a new vision for education in Kansas. The State Board of Education has unanimously adopted this new vision. Mr. McNiece then asked Dr. Watson to share the new vision with the joint committees. ([Attachment 1](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

Following Dr. Watson's presentation, he and Mr. McNiece answered questions from House and Senate committee members. Question topics included teacher compensation and reward, accreditation, graduation requirements, assessment of outcomes, and the practical outworking of the new vision.

The Senate Committee adjourned at 2:26 p.m. House committee members continued to ask questions and adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

The House and Senate Education Committees will meet jointly again on Thursday, January 14, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.