

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 02, 2016, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative John Barker – Excused

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:

Erin Gould for Judith Deedy, Game On for Kansas Schools  
Julie Ford, Superintendent, Topeka Public Schools  
Brian Koon, Kansas Families for Education  
Mary Sinclair, Kansas PTA  
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB)  
Representative John Bradford  
James Franko, Kansas Policy Institute (KPI)  
Becky Elder, Northfield School of the Liberal Arts, Wichita  
Bart Goering, Real Estate Professional  
Rodger Woods, Americans for Prosperity (AFP)  
Mike O'Neal, CEO, Kansas Chamber  
Wade Moore, Founder, Urban Preparatory Academy, Wichita

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Possible bill introductions**

Chairman Highland asked for bill introductions; there were none.

The Chairman asked members to note the Kansas Department of Education report providing information about students currently involved with the Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program which can be found in the Dropbox folder for the day's meeting. ([Attachment 1](#))

### **Hearing on: HB2457 — Amending the tax credit for low income students scholarship program act.**

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2457** and asked Nick to provide an overview of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#))

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The Chairman invited conferees to speak to the bill.

Erin Gould, speaking for Judith Deedy, opposed the changes **HB2457** would make in the tax credit scholarship program. ([Attachment 3](#))

Julie Ford spoke in opposition to **HB2457**, drawing comparisons between Hayden High School and Topeka Public Schools. ([Attachment 4](#)) ([Attachment 5](#))

Brian Koon opposed **HB2457** and provided information on counties where the program is being implemented. ([Attachment 6](#)) ([Attachment 7](#))

Mary Sinclair expressed opposition to **HB2457**, voicing the problems she has with the tax credit scholarship program. ([Attachment 8](#))

Mark Tallman voiced opposition to **HB2457**, expressing his concern about the lack of a reporting requirement. ([Attachment 9](#))

The Chairman asked committee members to note written opposition submitted by:

Patricia Welicky, Bonner Springs-Edwardsville Board of Education ([Attachment 10](#))

Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association (KNEA) ([Attachment 11](#))

Marvin Miller, concerned citizen ([Attachment 12](#))

Brandi Fisher, Mainstream Coalition ([Attachment 13](#))

David Hand, concerned citizen ([Attachment 14](#))

Gail Jamison, Goddard parent ([Attachment 15](#))

Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, NW Kansas Educational Service Center ([Attachment 16](#)).

Representative John Bradford spoke in favor of **HB2457** reviewing the history of the tax credit scholarship program and explaining the changes that would be made to the program by the bill. He also provided information on the 2016 federal poverty guidelines. ([Attachment 17](#)) ([Attachment 18](#))

James Franko made comments in favor of **HB2457**, encouraging the committee to trust parents to make the best choices for their children. ([Attachment 19](#)) ([Attachment 20](#))

Becky Elder recounted her personal experiences in education, supporting the place of parents in determining the best education for their children. She is in favor of **HB2457**. ([Attachment 21](#)) ([Attachment 22](#))

Bart Goering spoke in favor of **HB2457**, seeing it as a means of providing the opportunity for parents and students to determine what best fits a student's educational needs. ([Attachment 23](#))

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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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Rodger Woods supported **HB2457** commenting on the benefits of the changes it would make in the tax credit scholarship program. ([Attachment 24](#))

Mike O'Neal addressed the committee with support for **HB2457** while noting questions he has about the bill. Mr. O'Neal provided information on scholarship tax credits from the Cato Institute and the National Conference of State Legislators. ([Attachment 25](#)) ([Attachment 26](#)) ([Attachment 27](#))

Wade Moore gave support for **HB2457**, citing examples of the ways the program has benefited the students in his academy and their families. ([Attachment 28](#))

Chairman Highland asked the committee to review written testimony in support of **HB2457** submitted by Michael Schuttloffel of the Kansas Catholic Conference. ([Attachment 29](#))

The conferees answered questions from committee members. The hearing on **HB2457** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Wednesday, February 3, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.