

## MINUTES of the JOINT HOUSE and SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEES

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

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department  
Mark Savoy, Legislative Research Department  
Erna Fabert, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant  
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Services, KSDE  
Shannon Ralph, Dodge City USD 443  
Beau T. Bragg, Bonner Springs-Edwardsville USD 204  
Abby M. Hedrick, Paola USD 368  
Jennifer Hofferber, Liberal USD 480  
Lisa Holt, Winfield USD 465  
Jamie McDaniel, Paola USD 368  
Dennis Munk, Haysville USD 261  
Kimberly A. Nelson, Bonner Springs-Edwardsville USD 204

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Introduction of members and staff**

Chairperson Abrams welcomed committee members to the joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees. He then asked Senate committee members and staff to briefly introduce themselves. Chairperson Abrams also introduced his intern who was seated in the audience.

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

### **Bill introductions**

Chairperson Abrams asked Senate members for bill introductions; there were none. Chairperson 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](#))

Beau Bragg used his experience in playing golf to point out that a repeated lack of success is made

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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

worthwhile when success is finally achieved. Students cannot make a successful shot without 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 Chairpersons 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 pm.

House members continued asking questions. Shannon Ralph expressed the team's desire to be available to answer questions from committee members as the session progresses. The House meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.

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