

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 144-S 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:

Jason Long, Staff Revisor

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Abrams drew the committee's attention to several forms included in their packets: a list of Senate Education Committee members, with two new members listed; a seating chart; 2015 Committee Rules; and 2015 Rules for Conferees.

He then invited all Senate Education Committee members to a dinner on February 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Country Club, sponsored by Microsoft and Federico Consulting. House Education Committee members and Kansas State Board of Education members will also be in attendance at this dinner.

Senator Fitzgerald introduced the intern that is working in his office.

Chairman Abrams then asked if there were any bills to be introduced to the Committee. There were none.

Presentation on: Gannon v. State of Kansas

Chairman Abrams then introduced Jason Long, staff revisor, who presented an update on the *Gannon v. State of Kansas* lawsuit based on the findings of the three judge panel.

Mr. Long presented a timeline to committee members which highlighted court proceedings beginning in January, 2010 and culminating in the three-judge panel decision issued on December 30, 2014. ([Attachment 1](#))

Mr. Long then briefly reviewed the decision handed down by the three-judge panel. The panel was to determine if the legislature was adequately meeting it's financial obligations under Article 6, Section 6(b) of the State Constitution. The panel was instructed by the State Supreme Court to establish a test for the adequacy component using the *Rose* standards.

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 1:30 pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 144-S of the Capitol.

The decision of the panel held that the Kansas public education financing system provided by the legislature for grades K-12, through structure and implementation, is not presently reasonably calculated to have all Kansas public education students meet or exceed the *Rose* factors. Mr. Long emphasized that the panel issued only a declaratory judgment on the adequacy of school finance. It did not issue any orders with respect to either party, however, the District Court retained jurisdiction of the case and may take further action at a later date upon proper application by either party. The panel did provide suggestions as to how the current school formula may be altered to bring it into compliance with constitutional requirements. ([Attachment 2](#))

A comprehensive analysis of the decision was also provided by the staff revisor. This report provides a detailed history of the litigation and all the court findings. ([Attachment 3](#))

When asked if the State would be appealing the three judge panel decision, Mr. Long said he was not certain whether the Attorney General's office would appeal, but the State would have thirty days from the date of the panel's decision to do so.

Other questions dealt with inconsistencies or conflicts between the Kansas Supreme Court decision and the panel; discussion about the *Rose* standards; and references to the Augenblick and Meyers study.

There being no other business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.