

MINUTES of the JOINT SENATE and HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 112-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Steven Wu, Legislative Research Department  
Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department  
Erna Fabert, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education (KSDE)  
Justin Coffey, Dodge City, high school mathematics instructor  
Kristoffer Barikmo, Blue Valley, high school social studies instructor  
Lucinda Crenshaw, Lawrence, Grade 7 science instructor  
Shelly Jennings, Maize, Grade 2 instructor  
Sheila Koup, Eureka, high school English instructor  
Nona Mason, Goodland, Kindergarten instructor  
GB. Jolene Pennington, Paola, Grade 5 instructor  
Anna Sahadeo, DeSoto, Grade 2 instructor

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Possible bill introductions**

Chairperson Highland opened the meeting and asked for bill introductions from House committee members; there were none.

Chairperson Abrams asked for bill introductions from Senate committee members; there were none.

**Joint Meeting with House Education Committee, Room 112-N**

Chairperson Abrams invited Dale Dennis to the podium to provide a brief explanation of the Teacher of the Year program selection process and to introduce the Teacher of the Year Team. ([Attachment 1](#)) ([Attachment 2](#))

Justin Coffey, 2016 Teacher of the Year, spoke of his use of project-based instruction and integrating technology in his classroom. He also recognized the importance of helping low-income students develop the skills needed to be successful.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

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Shelly Jennings commented on the importance of Kindergarten preparedness and its effect on her second-grade classroom.

Nona Mason shared experiences from her Kindergarten classroom which includes a large percentage of students who are learning English as a second language.

Anna Sahadeo spoke of the research done by her second grade class and the learning that took place during their student-selected project on how toilets work. She seeks to individualize her instruction to facilitate student learning.

Jolene Pennington spoke with enthusiasm about the new Department of Education vision for KansansCan and provided information about learning projects used for instruction in her elementary classroom.

Lucinda Crenshaw gave personal background and spoke of ways she encourages her students to be engaged in their learning process and of ways she provides support to those students who learn English as a second language.

Sheila Koup expressed her desire to help students who have experienced little success in their education process. She works to develop relationships with these students that can free them from past failures and open the opportunity for them to experience academic success.

Kristoffer Barikmo seeks to make government and history relevant to his students and to prepare them for adulthood.

The Teacher of the Year Teams answered questions from committee members.

The House and Senate Committees adjourned at 2:16 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be on January 28, 2016 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.