

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 28, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Committee staff present:
Steven Wu, Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Lauren Douglass, Legislative Research Department
Erna Fabert, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Mark D. Ellis
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association (KNEA)
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) SB324
John Federico, representing Microsoft
Walt Chappell, Ph.D., President, Educational Management Consultants
Lisa Heusers
Mark Tallman, KASB SB342

Others in attendance:
[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Abrams asked if there were any new bills to be introduced. There were none.

Hearing on: SB324 — Winter celebration curriculum.

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB324**. He asked Revisor Long to summarize the bill for the Committee. ([Attachment 1](#)) The chairperson then asked if there were any questions on the content of the bill. There were none.

He then called Mark D. Ellis to the podium, who presented his testimony in support of the bill expressing his concern over schools replacing traditional holiday celebrations. ([Attachment 2](#))

There were no questions and no other proponents who wished to speak.

The chairperson then called Mark Desetti to the podium who gave testimony in opposition stating the KNEA believes the bill will restrict instruction on the history of traditional winter celebrations. ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 28, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Desetti responded to questions asked by committee members.

Chairperson Abrams stated that there is also written testimony in opposition by the ACLU of Kansas that had been provided electronically to the Committee. ([Attachment 4](#))

Mark Tallman then presented testimony stating that KASB appears as neutral on this bill because their legal staff believes it essentially reflects what is currently allowed under relevant case law and they do not believe the bill is necessary. ([Attachment 5](#))

There were no questions for Mr. Tallman and there was no further neutral testimony.

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB324** was closed.

Hearing on: SB342 — Creating the student online personal protection act.

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB342**. He asked Revisor Long to summarize the bill for the Committee. ([Attachment 6](#))

Revisor Long answered questions mostly dealing with clarification of liability issues, definitions, possible penalties and collection of information used for marketing purposes.

Chairperson Abrams then called John Federico to the podium who testified in support, stating that with the implementation of **SB342** technology companies would be required to safeguard personal information collected on students by setting parameters for storage and deletion of personal information and placing restrictions on using this information for targeted advertising or other commercial purposes. ([Attachment 7](#))

Questions followed concerning if there are ways this bill might benefit technology companies and also addressed was the subject of lack of oversight regarding promised protections.

Dr. Walt Chappell presented testimony in opposition expressing his concerns about lack of parental notification prior to disclosure of student data and proposed an amendment to K.S.A.72-6214 included in his testimony. ([Attachment 8](#)) ([Attachment 9](#)) ([Attachment 10](#)) ([Attachment 11](#))

Chairperson Abrams apologized to the two remaining conferees for running out of time but informed them he intends to continue the hearing at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.

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