

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 02, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dr. Donald H. Fast, Educational Design Solutions
Riley Scott, representing Istation

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

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

Hearing on: SB357 — Requiring a longitudinal reading program study by the department of education.

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB 357**. He called Revisor Tamera Lawrence to the podium to give a brief summary of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)) The chairperson asked if there were any questions concerning the content of the summary. There were none.

Don Fast then presented testimony in support which included a 2014-2015 Progress Report and results from an on-line survey of Kansas schools. ([Attachment 2](#)) ([Attachment 3](#)) ([Attachment 4](#))

Mr. Fast answered various questions and indicated he will provide a more extensive report to the Committee in response to a request from Senator Schmidt regarding information in the 2015 proviso.

Discussion then centered around funding for the Kansas Reading Initiative program, potential vendors and their selection, signing multi-year contracts when funds may not be available and a technical change of dates listed in the bill.

There were no additional proponents and no written testimony was provided.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 02, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Riley Scott presented neutral testimony outlining the success of Istation's Reading Success Program since its launch on October 5, 2015. His main concern and that of many of the schools using this reading program is whether continued funding will be available. ([Attachment 5](#))

Since Istation is such a new program and committee members are not familiar with it, Chairperson Abrams asked Mr. Scott if he would forward additional data to the committee assistant for distribution to members.

There being no further conferees, Chairperson Abrams closed the hearing on **SB357**.

Possible action on bills previously heard SB312 — Extending the school district efficiency audit sunset and exemption time frame.

Chairperson Abrams then called for discussion and possible final action on **SB312**.

Tamera Lawrence reviewed the bill for the Committee noting that there are only minor technical changes on lines 19 and 26 of the bill.

Chairperson Abrams asked the Committee if there are questions on the bill and how they would wish to proceed with this legislation.

*Senator Hensley moved, Senator Baumgardner seconded, to recommend **SB312** favorably for passage and that it be placed on the Senate consent agenda. Motion carried.*

Chairperson Abrams then reminded members that there are many items yet to be considered by the Committee and there are likely to be more bills sent to Education. Some of those items included discussion and possible final action on: Student online personal protection act; Jason Flatt Act (suicide prevention training); and Winter celebration curriculum. There will also be hearings on: Nurse educator service scholarship and Awarding credit hours for CLEP tests.

He further reminded members that February 18 is the last date to work the bills before turnaround.

Senator Hensley reported that he is working with the Revisor on an amendment to **SB323**, the Jason Flatt act. He will forward the amendment to the Committee Assistant to place in dropbox.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the Capitol.