

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Abrams at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 03, 2016, 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Anthony Hensley – Excused

Senator Dan Kerschen – 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:

Jeff T. Hines, Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, Paola High School

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

**Hearing on: SB464 — Amending the school classification system of the Kansas state high school activities association.**

Chairperson Abrams opened the hearing on **SB464**. Revisor Long summarized the bill by stating the system of classification of high schools would be changed by striking the words "*according to student attendance*" on page 1, line 29. If enacted, the provisions of the bill would become effective on July 1, 2016.

The chairperson asked if there were any questions on the content of the bill. Questions included whether the term student attendance is defined and whether the current law would remain intact if the classification system is expanded.

Jeff T. Hines testified in support emphasizing that the primary function of a classification system should be to provide competitive post season play and he feels that if the only factor used is student attendance that goal is not always achieved. ([Attachment 1](#))

Questions included whether the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) and a majority of the schools are in favor of changing the statute, whether primarily athletic departments or administration officials were contacted about the proposed change, and whether the same result could be achieved without changing the law.

Discussion followed about athletic funding for public versus private schools and why private schools seem to achieve better results in postseason, with much less funding. Senator Pettey suggested that free

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Thursday, March 03, 2016 in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

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lunch percentages might come into play.

Written testimony in opposition was electronically provided by Michael A. Hubka, Associate Principal, Athletic Director, Bishop Miege High School. ([Attachment 2](#))

Neutral written testimony was provided electronically by Gary Musselman, Executive Director, KSHSAA. ([Attachment 3](#)) ([Attachment 4](#))

There being no further conferees, the hearing on **SB464** was closed.

The chairperson reminded committee members that on March 7 and 8 there will be hearings on **SB444**, the bill that would create a language assessment program for children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Since there will be many conferees and sign language interpreters involved, members are encouraged to arrive on time as the hearings will start on time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm.

The next meeting of the Senate Education Committee will be held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 1:30 pm in Room 144-S of the State Capitol.