

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on January, 18, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present.

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor
Renae Jefferies, Revisor
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research
Linda Taylor, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Susan Rippe, USD 259, Wichita; Teacher of the Year
Tammy R. Lalicker, USD 457
Crystal Cross, USD 428, Great Bend
Nancy Bradley, USD 303, Manhattan
Julie Bervert, USD 345, Topeka
Gayle Newman, USD 229, Kansas City
Karen Wall, USD 232, DeSoto
Beverly McWilliams, USD 375, Towanda

Others attending: See Attached List

The joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees was called to order by Representative Ralph Tanner, House Education Committee Chairman. He introduced Blanche Parks, State Treasurer's Office, who spoke to the committee regarding a bill request. The legislation was introduced. Representative Tanner turned the meeting over to Senator Barbara Lawrence, Chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee who conducted the meeting.

Chairwoman Lawrence greeted the conferees and called on Dale Dennis, Deputy Education Commissioner, to make the introductions. He stated that the teacher of the year and finalists would each speak for a few minutes.

Sue Rippe, Teacher of the Year, stated she felt honored and excited to be present at today's meeting. The teachers present today are the ambassadors for over 32,000 plus teachers across the state and represent a total of more than 200 hundred years of teaching experience. They represent a diverse group areas of teaching expertise and also a variety of geographic locations. Because of this, Ms. Rippe asked the legislators to utilize her group as a resource/liaison source. She adamantly believes that all children can learn.

Each finalist gave her area of expertise and related anecdotes to show their enthusiasm for and success of the programs and processes involved in a commitment to education.

Chairwoman Lawrence expressed appreciation to all of the conferees and complimented them on being exemplary teachers and positive role models for both their students and other educators.

Questions were asked of the teachers concerning some of the problems they face, such as the lack of teachers in specific areas of expertise. As a group, the teachers responded that more recruitment should be a top priority. Other problems include classroom size, dealing with students with learning disabilities, and the small amount of time parents spend inter-acting with their children. They feel that parents should be made aware of what they should do at home to prepare their children for the learning experience at school. Studies have shown that the average parent spends only ten minutes a day of 'quality time' with their children, a trend that transcends all socio-economic groups.

The teachers challenged committee members to visit any classroom unannounced on any school day for a realistic view of what is really happening in our classrooms.

Chairwoman Lawrence thanked all of the conferees for visiting the committees.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2000.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

DATE: January 18

NAME	REPRESENTING
Stan Brown	KGC
Diane Gjerstad	Wichita Public Schools
Bruce Dimmitt	Independent
Maure Deszetti	KNEA
Stacy Farmer	KASB
Brilla Scott	USA
Mike Huttles	Ks. Gov't Consulting
Amy Metzger	Intern
Chin Louie	Intern
Jim Yonally	USD #512
Don Ryan	USD 321
Craig Grant	HWEA
Earl Norcott - Nebraska	APKA
Steven Thompson	Stand Up For KS.
Kevin Barone	Hen/Wer
Tom Bruno	MGA, Inc.
Anne Spies	Peterson Public Affairs Group
Kevin Scott	Kansas Lottery
GARY SAVILLE	KANSAS LOTTERY

Lead
&
State
Affairs