

Approved: March 7, 2002  
Date

*Carl D. Holmes*

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:07 a.m. on January 22, 2002 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Gene O'Brien

Committee staff present:

Robert Chapman, Legislative Research  
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research  
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes  
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jerry Niebaum, Kansas Board of Regents

Others attending: See Attached List

Chairman Holmes outlined the agenda for the following day and several days next week, when we will be in joint session with the Senate Utilities Committee along with having hearing on bills beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman Holmes welcomed Jerry Niebaum, KAN-ED Planning Coordinator for the Board of Regents, who provided an update on the status of the KAN-ED project (Attachment 1). Mr. Niebaum shared two video clips that are part of a multimedia presentation on CD-ROM that allows the vision of KAN-ED to be shared with others. He also provided a list of the members of the KAN-ED Council and acknowledged the work of the User Advisory Council. Mr. Niebaum responded to questions from the committee.

Chairman Holmes then called a recess and the committee reconvened in the lobby of the Curtis State Office Building, where the committee was led on an energy-efficiency tour by Jim Ploger Energy Programs Manager for the Kansas Corporation Commission.

The meeting adjourned following the tour.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 23, 2002, at 9:30 a.m., in joint session with the Senate Utilities Committee.

# HOUSE UTILITIES COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 22, 2002

NAME	REPRESENTING
Julie Numrich	KTCA / Federico
KAREN KENLEY	Cisco Systems
Jolene Witkin	KAN-ED
Guy Mc Donald	KCC - Staff
Mike Whit	KACTE / Kearney Law
Dore Holburn	KEC
James Robinson	Bd of Regents
Cindy Schauf	DISC
KARLA OLSEN	WESTAR ENERGY
Mike Huffles	Ks. Gov't Consulting
Kara Walters	intern Rep Sloan
Sammy Dishman	KDFA
Rebecca Floyd	KDFA
Shelia Permon	self-interest
Walker Hendrix	CURB



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## *Creating the Kansas Information Highway for Schools, Libraries, & Hospitals*

Testimony for the House Utilities Committee about KAN-ED,  
By Jerry Niebaum, January 22, 2002

Members of the Committee I am here today at the request of Chairman Holmes to provide a status report on KAN-ED, a project assigned to the Kansas Board of Regents in the legislative session of 2001. For the past 20 years I've been a university administrator in computing and networking for the University of Kansas. Since last May I've been on special assignment as KAN-ED Planning Coordinator for the Board of Regents.

Governor Graves signed the KAN-ED Act into law on April 20, 2001. Many of you played important roles in the creation and passage of that legislation. We in education, healthcare, and libraries are grateful to you for your foresight and efforts in moving forward in this important way.

The KAN-ED Act says the following:

"The purpose of this act is to provide for a broadband technology-based network to which schools, libraries and hospitals may connect for broadband Internet access and intranet access for distance learning. For that purpose, the state board of regents shall contract in accordance with this act for the creation, operation and maintenance of such network to be known as the KAN-ED network."

In May 2001 Dr. Kim Wilcox, President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents, with advice from Vice Chancellor, Marilu Goodyear, University of Kansas, and Vice Provost, Beth Unger, Kansas State University, created a 12 person KAN-ED User Advisory Council. Dr. Wilcox selected 3 members to represent higher education and asked the Commissioner of Education and the President of the Kansas Hospital Association each to select 3 members to represent their user communities. For libraries he selected the State Librarian, Duane Johnson, and asked the President of the Kansas Library Association to select 2 members. The Council met for the first time on July 18 at the Maner Conference Center here in Topeka.

Members of the Council are:

Fred Atchison, Manhattan Public Library  
Mel Chastain, Kansas State University  
David Cook, University of Kansas Medical Center  
Hal Gardner, Kansas Department of Education  
Jane Hatch, Coffey County Library System  
Melissa Hungerford, Kansas Hospital Association

*HOUSE UTILITIES*

DATE: 1-22-02

ATTACHMENT 1

Duane Johnson, Kansas State Library  
Les Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital – St. Francis  
Deborah Ludwig, Johnson County Community College  
Nancy Malone, Central Christian College – McPherson  
Milt Pippenger (Chair), Garden City Schools – USD #457  
Greg Rasmussen (Vice Chair), Wichita Schools – USD #259

In his charge to the Council Dr. Wilcox said, "... I ask that you present to me your recommendation for a comprehensive architectural and fiscal plan for KAN-ED by November 1 of this year. From those recommendations, I hope to craft a plan for presentation to the Board of Regents for their approval in December."

But why are we doing this at all? Why is it important for Kansas to have a comprehensive communications network for schools, libraries, and hospitals? Last Fall our public schools opened with more than 500 unfilled teaching positions. Many of these vacancies were in rural communities where it has been especially difficult to recruit qualified teachers. In the areas of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Foreign Languages the shortages are acute. Many of our schools continue to offer courses in these disciplines through interactive distance learning from other communities. We have about 11 unique interactive distance learning networks in the state many of which cannot communicate with other networks. Currently, only about half our school districts have access to this technology. With KAN-ED interactive distance learning can reach all our school districts.

Rural health care continues to be a great concern for our state. One reason it is difficult to recruit and retain healthcare workers in rural areas is professional isolation. With KAN-ED we expect to reduce that isolation by interactive collaboration and education. We also will make it possible to extend telemedicine resources to all hospitals in Kansas.

The backbone of the state economy is and will be small business. The future of rural Kansas depends on such business. Many business owners and entrepreneurs rely on resources of their community public library for guidance on creating and operating their business. The economic growth of our state will depend on their success. With KAN-ED we expect to provide information resources through local libraries to help insure their success.

In early November 2001 the KAN-ED User Advisory Council completed the report requested by Dr. Wilcox. At his request we presented it to the Board of Regents at their December meeting. Earlier this month our report was endorsed by the Board and also by the Kansas Board of Education. The report is available on our Web site:  
<http://www.kan-ed.org>

One of our Council members, Mel Chastain, Kansas State University offered to develop a multimedia presentation to share the vision of KAN-ED with others. A CD-ROM has been created and has been sent out for mass reproduction. I'd like to share a portion of that presentation with you now.

Video 1

Throughout the process of designing a plan the Council has been assisted by representatives from the communications and electronics industries. They have participated in nearly all our meetings and actively wrote parts of the appendices of our report. Specifically, Cox Communications, Southwestern Bell, and Sprint contributed staff and also funded the majority of the \$19,500 cost of creating the media production. I'm pleased to report that Cisco Systems, Pioneer Communications, and Technology Solutions funded the balance of that expense.

Video 2

Schematic

I'd like to mention some other partners who have worked with me and with the Council to craft our plan: KanREN (Kansas Research and Education Network), KDLC (Kansas Distance Learning Consortium), KAIDE (Kansas Association for Interactive Education), and DISC (Division of Information Systems and Communications).

I would be remiss in not acknowledging the excellent work of the User Advisory Council and the work groups they created to assist the process. They have a shared passion for learning, for service, and for improving the quality of life for citizens of our great state.

So, where are we now? Last week KAN-ED signed a contingent agreement with DISC to create and manage the KAN-ED backbone network. This 3-year agreement is contingent on obtaining appropriate state and federal funding to move forward. DISC, working with common carriers, local telephone companies, and other communications providers, has the expertise and the experience to create a cost-effective reliable network to serve all our citizens.

We are projecting annual expenses of nearly \$12 million to create and operate this network. Last week, thanks to the good work of my assistant, Jolene Witkin, we completed our application for up to \$2.5 million funding from the federal universal service fund also called the e-rate fund. We are seeking \$10 million in direct state funding. Donations will be accepted today. Promises of donations will be accepted at any time.

I will try to address your questions as best I can.