

## MINUTES

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

May 25, 2006  
Room 526-S—Statehouse

#### Members Present

Senator Tim Huelskamp, Chairperson  
Representative John Faber, Vice Chairperson  
Senator Janis Lee  
Senator Mike Petersen  
Representative Nile Dillmore  
Representative Harold Lane  
Representative Joe McLeland  
Representative Jim Morrison

#### Staff

Don Heiman, Legislative Chief Information Technology Officer  
Julian Efird, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Matt Spurgin, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mary Torrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Diana Lee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

#### Conferees

Bob Corkins, Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education  
Ron Nitcher, Director of Fiscal Services, Kansas State Department of Education  
Kathleen Gosa, Project Manager, Kansas State Department of Education  
George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m., and the Chairperson welcomed Bob Corkins, Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), who reviewed the Enterprise Data System to Support Decision-Making and Reporting, a pre-K-12 longitudinal enterprise data system (Attachment 1). He stated that the system, once implemented, will improve data reliability, reduce redundancy, streamline reporting, and aid in decision-making and management. He said that the project plan had been approved by the Executive Chief Information Technology Officer (CITO) and that the KSDE is preparing a Request for Proposals to select a consultant to help develop the data architecture. Acknowledging that, in the initial planning phase, the work of local school districts involved unreimbursed local staff resources, Mr. Corkins stated that most school districts are enthusiastic about the project, since they see distinct benefits.

Answering a question on the \$15 million return on investment, Ron Nitcher, Director of Fiscal Services, KSDE, commented on the potential time and staff savings for local districts, as well as the retention of some of the 2,200 school dropouts who, with a high school diploma, will pay more taxes over the course of their careers. Mr. Corkins said the \$2.4 million proposed cost of the three-year project included training, and that \$850,000 had been approved for FY 2007. Kathleen Gosa, Project Manager, KSDE, replied to a question that she would evaluate whether or not off-the-shelf software could be made compatible with 80 separate local databases. She commented that Attachment 2 illustrates the architecture, portraying both the modules in the current plan and the modules anticipated for future plans.

George Teagarden, Livestock Commissioner, Kansas Animal Health Department, reviewed a pilot project to track livestock. He noted that the Commodity Credit Corporation provided a federal grant of \$805,000 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to tag livestock with radio-frequency identification devices and to monitor locations and movements of the tagged livestock (Attachments 3 and 4). He indicated that two companies developed prototype systems, but that both systems needed significant modifications to work properly. In addition, truckers were reluctant to cooperate with employing the system because of the added record keeping.

Answering questions, Mr. Teagarden said \$400,000 was expended on the project, and that the remainder of the funds would be returned to the USDA. He believed that the federal government will mandate electronic tracking of livestock to help control the spread of animal-borne diseases. He said that 45 states applied for federal funding for other projects and 29 were funded, but Kansas was the only state to attempt a livestock transportation tracking project.

Members offered various comments on the project:

- That the project would have benefitted from CITO oversight and involvement;
- That the intellectual rights to the newly developed software would be valuable to Kansas State University, which was involved in the project;
- That allowing private firms to use tax resources to build a system which might later be sold to the state was not a wise use of taxpayers' money;
- That Committee members are concerned that filing of a project plan was ignored; and
- That placing system security in private hands was inadvisable.

Don Heiman, Legislative CITO, described the Capitol Restoration East Wing Telecommunications Wiring Project (Attachment 5). Noting the project estimated cost at \$731,942, he said final documentation of the wiring and the tagging of each outlet are presently underway, with the project expected to be completed under budget.

The Chairperson announced that he would request ten days of interim meetings from the Legislative Coordinating Council. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 12-13, 2006.

Prepared by Gary Deeter  
Edited by Julian Efird

Approved by Committee on:

June 12, 2006

(Date)