

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Deena Horst at 9:00 a.m. on January 20, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Clay Aurand- excused
Representative Marti Crow- excused
Representative Steve Huebert- excused
Representative Judy Loganbill- excused
Representative Bill Otto- excused
Representative Jene Vickrey- excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Kansas Legislative Revisor
Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Vice-Chairperson Horst welcomed the Kansas Teacher of the Year Team to the House Education Committee.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education, told Committee members this group of teachers is a representative of the great teachers we have in the state of Kansas and it is as a result of teachers like this that we have seen scores going up in the last few years. There were approximately 100 nominees from across the State for the Kansas Teacher of the Year award. (Attachment 1)

Each team member spoke to Committee members of their experiences and various obstacles they have had to face in the teaching field. The Kansas Teacher of the Year was Cynthia Couchman, Buhler High School, USD #313 - Buhler. Other team members included:

Cynthia Venard, Soule Intermediate Center, USD #443 - Dodge City
Walter (Walt) Cochran, Gardner Edgerton High School, USD #231 - Gardner-Edgerton
Jennifer Hartman, Clear Creek Elementary School, USD #232 - DeSoto
Mary Bradshaw, Chisholm Middle School, USD #373, Newton
Julie C. Miller, Cottonwood Elementary School, USD #368 - Paola
Mary Martha Good, Skelly Elementary School, USD #490 - El Dorado
Marilyn Fox, Susan B. Anthony Middle School, USD #383, Manhattan

Committee members were told they could follow the team as they traveled across the state learning from educators, reflecting on what they had learned and discussing the issues that face education by going to www.ktoytravels2009.blogspot.com/ (Attachment 2)

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2009.