

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:00pm on Friday, February 20, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Rob Bruchman – Excused

Representative John Ewy – Excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department

Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative John Alcala

Dr. Ben Chappell, Associate Professor of American Studies, University of Kansas

Dr. Tosha Sampson-Choma, Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies, Kansas State University

Dr. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez, Head of American Ethnic Studies Department, Kansas State University

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2353 — Eliminating an obsolete reference to nonproficient pupils in the virtual school act.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2353** and asked Tamera Lawrence to give a briefing on the bill.

The Chairman directed committee members to neutral written testimony on **HB2353** submitted by Scott Frank, Legislative Post Auditor. ([Attachment 1](#))

The hearing on **HB2353** was closed.

*Representative Barker moved and Representative Bradford seconded the committee waive the 24-hour notice policy to work **HB2353** immediately. The motion passed.*

*Representative Grosserode moved and Representative Rhoades seconded **HB2353** be passed out favorably. The motion passed.*

Hearing on: HB2207 — Development and implementation of ethnic studies in schools.

Chairman Highland opened the hearing on **HB2207**. Tamera Lawrence gave an overview of the bill.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:00pm on Friday, February 20, 2015, 112-N of the Capitol.

Representative Alcala spoke in favor of **HB2207** stating it is his belief the legislature has a responsibility to prepare Kansas students for the rapidly changing global aspects of society. He offered a possible amendment to the bill for consideration by committee members. Representative Alcala answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 2](#)) ([Attachment 3](#))

Dr. Ben Chappell highlighted his testimony giving support for **HB2207** and indicating he believes both students and the State are not well-served by ignorance of ethnic contributions to our history and society. Dr. Chappell answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 4](#))

Tosha Sampson-Choma supported **HB2207** indicating it is not uncommon for college students participating in an ethnic studies class to question why they have not learned the material earlier. Ms. Sampson-Choma answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 5](#))

Dr. Yolanda Broyles-Gonzalez presented support for **HB2207** giving her view that it is not differences that divide but the inability to recognize and celebrate those differences. Dr. Broyles-Gonzalez answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 6](#)) ([Attachment 7](#))

The Chairman directed committee members to written testimony in support of **HB2207** submitted by Dr. Norma Cantu, Professor of Latina/Latino Studies and English, University of Missouri, Kansas City. ([Attachment 8](#))

The hearing on **HB2207** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Monday, March 23, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.