

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Kasha Kelley – Excused

Committee staff present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant
Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research Department
Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department
Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Bruce Wellman, high school Chemistry instructor
Monte Slaven, Grade 7 English instructor
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB)
Aaron Estabrook, Manhattan-Ogden Board of Education member
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association (KNEA)
Brandon Smith, Policy Director, Office of the Governor
Brian Koon, Kansas Families for Education
David Dorsey, Kansas Policy Institute (KPI)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairman Highland opened the meeting and asked if there were any bill introductions.

Representative Bradford asked the committee to sponsor a bill creating a bonding project review board. The bill was accepted without objection.

Informational Meeting

The Chairman asked Tamera Lawrence to provide an overview of current statutes related to merit pay for teachers. Statutes do not provide for a teacher merit pay program that would tie a teacher's compensation to classroom performance; however, local school districts have the freedom to provide for merit pay compensation if they choose to do so. Ms. Lawrence answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 1](#))

Bruce Wellman and Monte Slaven presented joint testimony suggesting the use of National Board Certification as an alternative to a merit pay system. Mr. Wellman and Mr. Slaven answered questions

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30pm on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

from committee members. ([Attachment 2](#))

Mark Tallman supported locally-developed merit plans and offered supplemental information on teacher salaries and staffing ratios. ([Attachment 3](#)) ([Attachment 4](#)) ([Attachment 5](#))

Chairman Highland noted that oral conferee Aaron Estabrook was not in the audience and asked committee members to review his testimony. ([Attachment 6](#))

Mark Desetti opposed a legislatively-imposed merit pay system and gave support to locally-developed systems. ([Attachment 7](#))

Brandon Smith gave support for the development of a merit pay system based on systems that are working well in other states. ([Attachment 8](#))

Brian Koon opposed merit pay, expressing his views that teachers would be encouraged to focus on performance rather than on student needs. ([Attachment 9](#))

David Dorsey spoke in support of teacher merit pay. ([Attachment 10](#))

Chairman Highland provided information from Legislative Research Department (KLRD) staff on current funding of the National Board Certification statutes. ([Attachment 11](#))

Committee members asked questions of the conferees.

The Chairman asked committee members to review written testimony submitted by:

Denise Sultz, Kansas PTA ([Attachment 12](#))

Marcel Harmon, Lawrence Board of Education member ([Attachment 13](#))

Glendyn Buckley, Ed.D. ([Attachment 14](#))

Brittany Corona, Friedman Foundation ([Attachment 15](#))

Lindsey Burke, Will Skillman Fellow in Education, Heritage Foundation ([Attachment 16](#))

Jennifer Schlicht, Kansas high school teacher ([Attachment 17](#))

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet jointly with the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday, January 20, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.