

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:30 pm on Monday, February 01, 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:

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB)
Representative John Bradford
Rodger Woods, Americans for Prosperity (AFP)
Dave Trabert, Kansas Policy Institute (KPI)
Walt Chappell, Educational Management Consultants
Brian Smith, Superintendent, Galena School District
Brian Koon, Kansas Families for Education
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association (KNEA)

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairman Highland asked for bill introductions. Seeing none from other members, the Chairman offered two bill introductions, one related to student data privacy and one authorizing income tax contributions to school districts. Both were accepted without objection.

Hearing on: HB2486 — Creating the school district bond project review board.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB2486** and asked Nick Myers to provide an overview of the bill. Mr. Myers referenced a memo written by Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, for the 2015 Special Committee on K-12 Student Success. Mr. Myers answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 1](#)) ([Attachment 2](#))

Chairman Highland invited conferees to speak to the bill.

Mark Tallman spoke on **HB2486** from a neutral stance expressing both favorable comments and concerns about the bill. ([Attachment 3](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:30 pm on Monday, February 01, 2016 in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

John Bradford spoke in favor of **HB2486** as a way to avoid un-appropriated claims for additional funding related to bond issues. ([Attachment 4](#))

Rodger Woods addressed the committee as a proponent of **HB2486** expressing his concern that it is currently possible for a school district to obligate money which must be paid by all taxpayers across the state. ([Attachment 5](#))

Dave Trabert gave support for **HB2486** also expressing concern that current school district bonding issues obligate the rest of the state to provide money for local building projects. ([Attachment 6](#))

Speaking in favor of **HB2486**, Walt Chappell expressed his concern about the total bonded indebtedness and suggested it is time that each project be examined to determine whether or not it is necessary. Mr. Chappell provided information from the Kansas Department of Education and a media article related to the bill topic. ([Attachment 7](#)) ([Attachment 8](#)) ([Attachment 9](#)) ([Attachment 10](#))

The Chairman asked committee members to note written testimony in favor of **HB2486** which was submitted by Mike O'Neal, CEO, Kansas Chamber. ([Attachment 11](#))

Brian Smith opposed **HB2486** expressing his concern about the bill's potential negative effects on school districts. ([Attachment 12](#))

Brian Koon spoke in opposition to **HB2486** stating his belief that denying state aid to bonding projects would effectively cause the projects to be rejected. ([Attachment 13](#))

Mark Desetti provided testimony in opposition to **HB2486** stating his belief that it would be better for the issue to be address in the new school funding mechanism. ([Attachment 14](#))

Chairman Highland asked committee members to review written opposition submitted by:

Dr. Julie Ford, Superintendent, Topeka Public Schools ([Attachment 15](#)) ([Attachment 16](#)),
Marcel Harmon, Lawrence Board of Education ([Attachment 17](#)),
Patricia Welicky, Bonner Springs-Edwardsville Board of Education ([Attachment 18](#)) , and
Denise Sultz, Kansas PTA ([Attachment 19](#)) .

Conferees answered questions from committee members. The hearing on **HB2486** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Tuesday, February 2, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.