

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:35pm on Tuesday, February 09, 2016, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

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:

Vincent Clark, professor, Johnson County Community College
Kathy Mendenhall, professor, Hutchinson Community College
Deborah Williams, postsecondary instructor
Melanie Harvey, postsecondary instructor
Brian Koon, Kansas Families for Education
Greg Goode, President, Salina Area Technical College
Herbert Swender, President, Garden City Community College

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Hearing on: HB2531 — Eliminating due process for certain postsecondary teachers.

Chairman Highland opened the meeting and asked committee members to review the minutes ready for approval prior to the next meeting.

Representative Boldra asked the Chairman to remove **HB2630 - Amending the special education for exceptional children act** from consideration for action explaining the public has perceived the bill as threatening and that was not her intent in introducing it. The Chairman agreed with her request.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **HB2531** and asked Tamera Lawrence to provide an overview of the bill. Ms. Lawrence answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 1](#))

The Chairman invited conferees to speak on the bill.

Vincent Clark opposed **HB2531**, expressing his concern that innovation would be discouraged because instructors would feel the need to protect themselves. ([Attachment 2](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:35pm on Tuesday, February 09, 2016 in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

Kathy Mendenhall spoke against **HB2531**, voicing agreement with Mr. Clark and expressing concern that community colleges could lose teachers because of the bill. ([Attachment 3](#))

Deborah Williams gave opposition to **HB2531**, stating she believed the bill was unnecessary. ([Attachment 4](#))

Melanie Harvey opposed **HB2531**, commenting that she believes the mechanism needed to remove bad teachers is already in place. ([Attachment 5](#))

Brian Koon spoke against **HB2531**, expressing that he, too, believes it is unnecessary. ([Attachment 6](#))

Greg Goode offered testimony in favor of **HB2531**, commenting there are more areas to consider when evaluating an instructor than classroom performance. ([Attachment 7](#))

Herbert Swender spoke in favor of **HB2531**, encouraging the committee to allow decisions to be made at the local level. ([Attachment 8](#))

Written testimony in favor of **HB2531** was submitted by Linda Fund, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. ([Attachment 9](#))

Conferees answered questions from committee members.

Chairman Highland closed the hearing on **HB2531**.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Wednesday, February 10, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.