

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ron Highland at 1:45pm on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 112-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative John Barker – Absent

Committee staff present:

Sue Mollenkamp, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education (KSDE)

Dan Klucas, Director of Grants and Contracts, Department for Children and Families (DCF)

Andrew Hysell, Executive Director, Kansas Reading Roadmap

Sandra Thomas, President and Chief Operating Officer, Istation

Chris Blevins, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of Sales, Istation

Amanda Fouts, Chief Operations Officer, Educational Design Solutions

Dr. Steve Pegram Superintendent, Santa Fe Trail USD434

Carrie Sowers, Director, Atchison Child Care Association

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Informational hearing: Reading Programs

Chairman Highland opened the meeting, made announcements, and introduced his grandsons who were seated in the audience.

The Chairman asked Representative Rhoades to introduce the topic of the day and then invited conferees to provide the committee with information on Kansas reading programs.

Dale Dennis gave details of the reading program selection process carried out by the Department of Education (KSDE) in hiring the current reading program vendor, Istation. Mr. Dennis indicated the state has an option to renew the contract with Istation for up to five years; however, he also indicated the legislature has the authority to change the proviso now in statute and the Department will follow whatever changes the legislature might make. Local school districts are free to select the reading program of their choice; however, the program provided by the state is free to the districts and other programs are not. Monitoring of the program begins with parents who have access to their children's progress in the program. School personnel also monitor student progress, and reports are made to KSDE. Mr. Dennis answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 1](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Education at 1:45pm on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

Dan Klucas and Andrew Hysell provided information on the Reading Roadmap program developed by the Department for Children and Families (DCF). The program focuses on developing reading skills by the end of the third grade year and serves low-income families through after-school and summer programs. The program also engages parents in the process through FAST - Families and Schools Together, and they partner with schools which are using the Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) program. Mr. Klucas and Mr. Hysell answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 2](#)) ([Attachment 3](#)) ([Attachment 4](#)) ([Attachment 5](#))

Sandra Thomas and Chris Blevins provided information on the start up of Istation in Kansas schools. The program was not launched until mid-October of 2015. Ms. Thomas commented on the number of students enrolled in the program since that beginning date and on the progress made since that time and indicated Fort Hays State University will be handling evaluations of their program. Ms. Thomas and Mr. Blevins answered questions from the committee. ([Attachment 6](#)) ([Attachment 7](#))

Amanda Fouts introduced Dr. Steve Pegram and Carrie Sowers, who commented on their use of the Lexia reading program; Dr. Pegram uses Lexia in a school district setting and Ms. Sowers uses it in a preschool setting. Ms. Fouts also presented the Lexia 2015-16 fall and winter progress report and commented on a survey conducted by her company. Ms. Fouts, Dr. Pegram and Ms. Sowers answered questions from committee members. ([Attachment 8](#)) ([Attachment 9](#)) ([Attachment 10](#)) ([Attachment 11](#)) ([Attachment 12](#)) ([Attachment 13](#))

Chairman Highland asked committee members to note written comments on Lexia submitted by:

Nancy Barstow, elementary instructor, Manhattan ([Attachment 14](#))

Amy Hamilton and Tammy Willsor, reading instructors, Bonner springs Elementary School ([Attachment 15](#))

Rebecca Khosravipour, Director of Learning, Valley Center ([Attachment 16](#))

Raymond Streeter, Principal, Pleasanton Elementary School ([Attachment 17](#))

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The House Education Committee will meet next on Thursday, March 17, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 112-N of the Capitol.

Follow up information from Reading Roadmap is attached. ([Attachment 18](#)) ([Attachment 19](#))

Follow up information from Istation is attached. ([Attachment 20](#))