

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES IN JOINT SESSION WITH THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The joint meeting was called to order by Education Chairman Ralph Tanner at 9:09 a.m. on January 24, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep Richard Alldritt

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department  
Jo Cook, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Doug Heacock, Executive Director,  
Kansas Research and Education Network (KANREN)  
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Chairman Tanner, Chairman of the Education Committee, welcomed the Utilities Committee. Chairman Tanner stated that there were two bills styled to establish the state Education Technology Network (KAN-ED). The predominate bill for the Education Committee will be HB 2591, which has not been assigned to the Utilities Committee, and includes a provision for libraries. HB 2635, which was assigned to both committees, does not include the state libraries.

Chairman Tanner welcomed Doug Heacock, Executive Director of the Kansas Research and Education Network (KANREN). Mr. Heacock presented an overview of the process, proposal and challenges of the 'KAN-ED' Project ([Attachment 1](#)).

Mr. Heacock stated that the vision for this project was "As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> century, every citizen of Kansas should benefit from the global digital revolution in information technology. To achieve this, all Kansans should be provided with the opportunity, training and resources to use and exploit electronic information and technologies for their betterment now and in the future."

Mr. Heacock outlined the process that began with a task force in the fall of 1998 and ended with the introduction of HB 2591. Nearly thirty people, mainly from education, DISC and KANREN, collaborated on the initial proposal presented to the legislature in the spring of 1999. After the original KAN-ED proposal was dropped from the 1999 omnibus bill, two new groups were then formed during the summer of 1999 to tackle the issue again. In August 1999 a presentation was made to the Special Committee on Education. The Committee then requested a formal proposal and a bill was drafted from that proposal. The proposal includes a request for \$17.5 million in state appropriations for the first year and \$13 million per year thereafter. The amounts requested would provide start-up costs, staff training to support the educational networking, statewide online database licenses, a T1 to every school district and a fractional-T1 to every public library, high-bandwidth connections to 25 school districts and 20 libraries and much needed staff development. DISC will implement the backbone of the bill, KANREN will provide staff development, training, consulting and related network services and the State Library will coordinate the acquisition of statewide licenses for full-text online content.

DISC and KANREN will collaborate on the network design of KAN-ED. The implementation will probably begin by interconnecting KANREN, KanWIN and other existing state-wide network resources via 'gateways'. The ultimate goal is an ATM-based (asynchronous transfer mode) high-bandwidth backbone network in a multi-service, multi-protocol environment. The backbone should have sufficient bandwidth to distribute Internet connectivity to all districts and libraries; allow for a variety of protocols; provide a means to interconnect existing IDL networks in Kansas; be robust and reliable and be scalable.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Other features of KAN-ED would include staff development, consulting services, networking monitoring, 24 x 7 NOC and help desk. KAN-ED benefits include keeping Kansas traffic (Internet, e-mail, etc) in Kansas, leverage of existing resources, statewide access to electronic resources and development and sharing of online education resources, sharing of instructors, aggregation of demand and increased purchasing power to help keep costs low.

The challenges of this project are funding, the increasing need for bandwidth and technical designs.

Mr. Heacock then responded to questions from Rep. Loyd (Utilities), Rep. Holmes (Utilities), Rep. O'Connor (Education), Rep. Sloan (Utilities), Rep. Tanner (Education), Rep. McClure (Utilities), Rep. Horst (Education), Rep. Dahl (Utilities) and Rep. Kuether (Utilities).

Chairman Tanner then welcomed Lynne Holt, Legislative Research, who provided information on the Special Committee on Education report (Attachment 2). This report documented the interim meetings held and topics discussed at those meetings.

Ms. Holt then provided an explanation of the KAN-ED bill section by section (Attachment 3). She also provided copies of the memo she addressed to the Special Committee on Education as revised on December 13, 1999 (Attachment 4). The memorandum summarized the existing 'landscape' of technology-based networks in Kansas for secondary and post-secondary education; described salient features of Missouri's MOREnet Network and Washington's K-20 Network; identified benefits that could be derived from a statewide education network; and identified potential impediments associated with development of a statewide network.

Ms. Holt responded to a question from Rep. Dahl (Utilities).

Education Chairman Tanner announced his appointment for the Sub-Committee on HB 2591. These appointees are Rep. Jim Morrison, Rep. Crow, Rep. Light, Rep. Mason, Rep. Phelps. Utilities Chairman Holmes announced he would be appointing five members of the Utilities Committee to serve on the joint Sub-Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 25, 2000 at 9:00 in Room 522-S.