

Approved: _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on January 11, 2001 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ben Barrett, Legislative Research
Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Chairman Tanner introduced Commissioner of Kansas State Board of Education, Andy Tomkins. He spoke to the Committee of Kansas Education 1999-2000: A Solid Foundation For a New Century. (**Attachment 1**).

Commissioner Tomkins said that attendance was not a problem in Kansas schools. One of the things that was a problem, however was motivation in high school students. One of the things he pointed out was how they were starting to focus on early childhood initiative to increase school readiness and school success. He said that some kids come to school with 1/3 the words as the other kids.

Speaking in regard to the shortages of teachers, he said they needed them in special education, mathematics, science, music, counseling, librarians, business and industrial technology and school and district leadership.

A question was asked in regard to home schooling and the problem of tracking truants. Commissioner Tomkins said there was no specific law in requiring home teachers to comply with registering of students being taught in the home. They are asked to complete forms to provide information on these students but many do not.

The Chair introduced Representative Loganbill who replaces Representative Aldritt on the Education Committee. Also introduced was Representative Huebert, another member of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40. The next morning is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2001.