

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 A.M. on February 15, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Deena Horst- excused  
Representative Ted Powers- excused

Committee staff present:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michele Alishahi, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ashley Holm, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes  
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dale Dennis, Interim Commissioner, Kansas Department of Education  
Representative Lance Kinzer  
Ron Johnson, Kansas City Autism Training Center  
Matthew Carr, Education Policy Director, Buckeye Institute fo Public Policy Solutions  
July Pollard-Licklider, Erin Is Hope Foundation, Inc.  
Gretchen DiGiovanni, parent  
Kris Edington, parent and teacher  
Phil and Susan Carrilo, parent  
Julie Perry, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
David & Charlotte Combs, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
Elizabeth Parsons, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
Jean and Bob Brown, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
Sarah Dondlinger, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
Cynthia and Cy Suellentrop, Blessed Sacrament School  
Michael and Christine Ostroski, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
Maria and William Cospers, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
Valerie Johnson, Erin Is Hope Foundation  
Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards  
Bill Reardon, USD 500  
Kathy Cook, Kansas Families United for Public Education  
Dr. Gary George, Olathe School District  
Ashley Sherard, V-Pres, Lenexa Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Desetti, KNEA

The Chairman recognized Dale Dennis who spoke to the Committee of FY 2008 projection of Special Education expenditures and excess costs. (Attachments #1 and #2)

### **HB 2253: School districts; special needs scholarship program**

Representative Lance Kinzer spoke to the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2253**. (Attachment #3)

Matthew Carr testified as a proponent of **HB 2253**. He stated that while the public schools provide a high quality education to many special needs students, far too many are ill-served by the current IEP process. A voucher program for special needs students provides a complement to the standard legal process-compliance model of accountability by providing a quality alternative for those who need it. The use of such programs should not be seen as an either/or proposition or as creating a zero-sum game for special education dollars. Instead, voucher programs for special needs students help en ensure that all students get the services they need. (Attachment #4)

Ron Johnson spoke to the Committee as a proponent of **HB 2253**. (Attachment #5)

Judy Pollard-Licklider gave supportive testimony to the Committee regarding **HB 2253**. (Attachment

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Education Committee at 9:00 A.M. on in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

#6)

Written testimony in support of **HB 2253** was received from the following:

Gretchen DiGiovanni (Attachment #7)  
Kris Edington (Attachment #8)  
Phil & Susan Carrilo (Attachment #9)  
Michael & Christine Ostroski (Attachment #10)  
Jean and Bob Brown (Attachment #11)  
Valerie Johnson (Attachment #12)  
Maria & William Cospers (Attachment #13)  
Julie A. Perry (Attachment #14)  
Cynthia and Cy Suellentrop (Attachment #15)  
Sarah Dondlinger (Attachment #16)  
Elizabeth Parsons (Attachment #17)  
Gary and Brenda Anderson (Attachment #18)  
David and Charlotte Combs (Attachment #19)

Mark Tallman spoke to the Committee as an opponent of **HB 2253**. (Attachments #20, #21, and #22).

Bill Reardon expressed to the Committee the concerns for **HB 2253**. (Attachment #23)

Kathy Cook spoke to the Committee as an opponent of **HB 2253**. (Attachment #24)

Dr. Gary George testified before the Committee in opposition of **HB 2253**. (Attachment #25)

Mark Desetti also spoke to the Committee in opposition of **HB 2253**. (Attachment #26)

Written testimony in opposition of **HB 2253** was received from Ashley Sherard. (Attachment #27)

The hearing on **HB 2253** was then closed by the Chairman.

The Chairman informed the Committee that three bills would be considered for possible action on Friday, February 16, 2007. The bills included **HB 2090**, **HB 2343**, and **HB 2447**.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 16, 2007.