

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on January 11, 2012 in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Tamera Lawrence, Off of the Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research
Jeff Huff, Kan-ed
Cort Buffington, KanREN

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Apple called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.. and introduced the first presenter.

Overview of Kan-ed Study Committee Reports

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research, explained the conclusions and recommendations made by the study committee. The committee studied and made recommendations in two areas: (1) Evaluate the Kan-ed Program for efficiency and effectiveness in providing schools, libraries and hospitals broadband Internet access; and (2) determine the economic value of the Kan-ed program to the state. (Attachment 1)

Ms. Wenger also provided statistics on all Kan-ed Constituent Groups combined. She reviewed the charts showing recommendations and utilization. (Attachment 2)

A letter from Dr. Andy Tompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, was distributed to the committee (Attachment 3)

Jerry Huff, Kan-ed Director, provided an update on Kan-ed. He reviewed the concerns and what has been done to address those concerns. (Attachment 4)

Cort Buffington, KanREN (Kansas Research and Education Network), explained the functions of KanREN and their focus in providing advanced network services for all its members. (Attachment 5)

Committee questioned the presenters on use of fiber optic infrastructure, the balance remaining of the current funds, and the funding required if KanREN were to operate the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant
Attachments - 5