

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:12 a.m. on March 4, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Eric Carter - Unexcused
Representative Vaughn Flora - Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Morton, Newton Public Schools, Newton, KS
Fred Atchison, North Central KS Libraries System, Manhattan, KS
Mona Carmack, Johnson County Library, Overland Park, KS
Carol Swinney, SW Plains Regional Service Center, Sublette, KS
Jennifer Findley, Kansas Hospital Association, Topeka, KS
Leslie Lacy, Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis, KS

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2026 - KAN-ED funding

The hearing continued on **HB 2026**.

Dr. John Morton, Superintendent for the Newton Public Schools, addressed the committee in support of **HB 2026 (Attachment 1)**. Dr. Morton urged the committee's support in maintaining the funding for Kan-Ed in order to increase its level of service.

Fred Atchison, Director for the North Central Kansas Libraries System, testified in support of **HB 2026 (Attachment 2)**. Mr. Atchison stated that the Kan-Ed network is a result of a unique public and private partnership. Libraries have benefitted from Kan-Ed through subsidies used to help pay for high-speed Internet connections.

Mona Carmack, Johnson County Library Librarian, appeared as a proponent to **HB 2026 (Attachment 3)**. Ms. Carmack said that the original goals of Kan-Ed still remain, as technology and strategies have changed. The work to date was not accomplished overnight and much work is still needed to be done.

Carol Swinney, Director of Distance Learning for the SW Plains Regional Service Center, addressed the committee as a proponent to **HB 2026 (Attached 4)**. Ms. Swinney provided a brief history of Kan-Ed. She explained how her organization interacted positively with the Kan-Ed system and urged the committee's support of continued funding.

Jennifer Findley, Kansas Hospital Association, spoke in support of **HB 2026 (Attachment 5)**. Ms. Findley stated that a large part of Kan-Ed's continued success will lie in its ability to receive adequate and stable funding. She said that many of the critical services the hospitals provide can only be successful if there is long-term usage and support.

Leslie Lacy, Administrator of the Cheyenne County Hospital, appeared in support of **HB 2026 (Attachment 6)**. Mr. Lacy listed several benefits hospitals have enjoyed from their participation in Kan-Ed. The association is on the brink of several comprehensive health care technology initiatives and participation in Kan-Ed supports them.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES, Room 231-N, Statehouse, at 9:12 a.m. on March 4, 2005

Kan-Ed Actual Expenses (Attachment 7) and Facts on the Kansas Universal Service Fund (Attachment 8) were distributed to the committee.

The conferees responded to questions from the committee.

Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **HB 2026**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.