

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Representative Ralph Tanner at 9:00 a.m. on January, 18, 2000 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: A quorum was present.

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor  
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research  
Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research

Conferees appearing before the committee: Susan Rippe, USD 259, Wichita; Teacher of the Year  
Tammy R. Lalicker, USD 457  
Crystal Cross, USD 428, Great Bend  
Nancy Bradley, USD 303, Manhattan  
Julie Bervert, USD 345, Topeka  
Gayle Newman, USD 229, Kansas City  
Karen Wall, USD 232, DeSoto  
Beverly McWilliams, USD 375, Towanda

Others attending: See Attached List

The joint meeting of the House and Senate Education Committees was called to order by Representative Ralph Tanner, House Education Committee Chairman. He introduced Blanche Parks, State Treasurer's Office, who spoke to the committee regarding a bill request. The legislation was introduced. Representative Tanner turned the meeting over to Senator Barbara Lawrence, Chairwoman of the Senate Education Committee who conducted the meeting.

Chairwoman Lawrence greeted the conferees and called on Dale Dennis, Deputy Education Commissioner, to make the introductions. He stated that the teacher of the year and finalists would each speak for a few minutes. He distributed a handout entitled "Kansas Teacher of the Year." ([Attachment 1](#))

Sue Rippe, Teacher of the Year, stated she felt honored and excited to be present at today's meeting. The teachers present today are the ambassadors for over 32,000 plus teachers across the state and represent a total of more than 200 hundred years of teaching experience. They represent a diverse group areas of teaching expertise and also a variety of geographic locations. Because of this, Ms. Rippe asked the legislators to utilize her group as a resource/liaison source. She adamantly believes that all children can learn.

Each finalist gave her area of expertise and related anecdotes to show their enthusiasm for and success of the programs and processes involved in a commitment to education.

Chairwoman Lawrence express appreciation to all of the conferees and complimented them on being exemplary teachers and positive role modes for both their students and other educators.

Questions were asked of the teachers concerning some of the problems they face, such as the lack of teachers in specific areas of expertise. As a group, the teachers responded that more recruitment should be a top priority. Other problems include classroom size, dealing with students with learning disabilities, and the small amount of time parents spend inter-acting with their children. They feel that parents should be made aware of what they should do at home to prepare their children for the learning experience at school. Studies have shown that the average parent spends only ten minutes a day of 'quality time' with their children, a trend that transcends all socio-economic groups.

The teachers challenged committee members to visit any classroom unannounced on any school day for a realistic view of what is really happening in our classrooms.

Chairwoman Lawrence thanked all of the conferees for visiting the committees.  
The meeting was adjourned.

