

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe McLeland at 8:00 a.m. on March 29, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dee Heideman, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Andy Thompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents
Dennis George, Coffey County Health System, Burlington, Kansas
Gary George, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Olathe Public Schools
Cathy Nugent, Johnson County Library Board
Diane Trinkle, Director, Nortonville Public Library
Charlene McGuire, Southeast Kansas Library
Doug Vander Linden, Director, Educational Technology, USD 244, Burlington, Kansas
Lenora Kinzie, Medical Librarian, Stormont Vail Hospital
Carol Woolbright, Director, Greenbush Interactive Distance Learning Network
Audra May, Distance Learning Coordinator, South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network
Brian McChesney, Coordinator, Interactive Distance Learning, Colley County Comm College
Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations, Kansas Hospital Association
John Federica, Kansas Cable Telecomm Associations
Art Hall, Executive Director, Center for Applied Economics, KU School of Business
Dina Fisk, Consultant for Verizon Wireless

Others attending:

See attached list.

HB-2390 KAN-ED act; repeal

After the meeting was called to order, Audrey Dunkel of the Kansas Legislative Research Department gave an overview of **HB 2390**.

Testimony was given first by the opponents of this bill, and the first to speak was Dr Andy Tompkins President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. He opposes this bill because Kan-ed provides a needed service to many people at no charge, and is especially important to members who do not have high-speed broadband access. (Attachment 1)

The next opponent of this bill was Dennis George, Coffey County Health System, Burlington, Kansas, who asked if killing Kan-ed was a way to save tax dollars for the state or the individual taxpayer? If Kan-ed is able to get the best group price and this service is still going to be used why eliminate it and shift the cost to the local tax base which will increase cost, and in turn, increase cost to the Kansas taxpayer. (Attachment 2)

Opposing this bill was Gary George, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Olathe Public Schools. He stated that we share the contact information with students and they use this service. Taking these resources out of the hands of students is not good public policy. (Attachment 3)

The next opponent was Cathy Nugent, member of the Johnson County Library Board, who stated that Kan-ed supplied many resources for libraries by providing needed funding for their core databases that provide access to magazines, consumer health information, student databases and business and legal information. (Attachment 4)

Diane Trinkle, Director, Nortonville Public Library stated she sees every day the usage of Kan-ed by adults, children and families. These services enrich lives every day. The present economy makes these services more important than ever. (Attachment 5)

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the General Government Budget Committee at 8:00 a.m. on March 29, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Charlene McGuire, Southeast Kansas Library, strongly opposes this bill because most of the Southwest Kansas libraries are in very rural areas and many of the libraries are small by urban city standards. Most of these libraries do not have an alternative to getting the kind of high speed internet that is necessary to run a library. ([Attachment 6](#))

Doug Vander Linden, Director of Educational Technology, Burlington USD #244, pointed out the salient points attributed to the elimination of the Kan-ed network. ([Attachment 7](#))

The next opponent, Lenora Kinzie, Medical Librarian, Stormont Vail Hospital, stated several proven Kan-ed benefits. 1) EM resource; 2) rural healthcare education; 3) Stormont Vail staff education; 4) telemedicine opportunities; 5) "windshield" time and fuel costs reduced with videoconferencing; 6) enhance recruitment of physicians and other healthcare providers in rural locations; 7) library databases. ([Attachment 8](#))

Opposing **HB 2390**, Carol Woolbright, Director, Greenbush Interactive Distance Learning Network, stated Kan-ed is a critical service for K-12 and the forty seven (47) school district members comprising the 101 interactive video classrooms of the Greenbush interactive Distance Learning Network. We are dependent on the Kan-ed backbone for technical services and support. People in every legislative district in Kansas will be negatively impacted if this bill is passed. ([Attachment 9](#))

Audra May Distance Learning Coordinator, South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network, opposes this bill. She represents a network of nineteen (19) educational institutions and says each of these depends on Kan-ed's services for the survival of their institutions ([Attachment 10](#))

As Interactive Distance Learning Coordinator at Cowley County Community College in Arkansas City, Kansas, Brian McChesney, stated he has been working with Kan-ed since its inception in 2001. The nineteen (19) educational entities served by SCKDLN are mostly rural and rely heavily on the ability to share class and instructors between themselves and with other networks across the state. It would be impossible for each school to retain all the teachers needed for their students to meet Kansas Qualified Admissions Curriculum standards. Through distance learning they can share their math, physics, English, art, foreign language. ([Attachment 11](#))

Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations of the Kansas Hospital Association, says this bill should not be passed because Kan-ed is a cost effective use of technology for hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. He said they are concerned about any changes to the current statute that would eliminate funding for Kan-ed and are opposed to this bill. ([Attachment 12](#))

After the opponents finished speaking, John Federico, a proponent spoke on behalf of the Kansas Cable Telecomm Association. He stated there are three areas of concern and he supports the bill. He said he is concerned with the purpose and mission of Kan-ed. Secondly, the funding of Kan-ed is a growing concern. Lastly, their members have some concern about the oversight of the Kan-ed program. ([Attachment 13](#))

The next proponent, was Art Hall, Executive Director, Center for Applied Economics, KU School of Business, who stated Kan-ed served a useful role in the earliest day of high-speed internet when broadband was not available in all areas of the State. The money has greater potential if used elsewhere or returned to taxpayers. He said if Kan-ed ceased to operate, it's members would not notice the difference in internet functionality. He said Kan-ed accomplished it's mission because rural broadband deployment has been accomplished. ([Attachment 14](#))

Dina Fisk, a consultant for Verizon Wireless, said if Kan-ed is needed, then it should be paid for from the State General Fund, or become self-funding by users of the network. She stated she felt if Kan-ed cannot be self-funded or isn't important enough to be funded from the State General Fund, then she encouraged the passage of this bill. ([Attachment 15](#))

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Written testimony only was submitted by:

Proponent

Patrick Fucik, Director, West Region, Sprint State Government Affairs ([Attachment 16](#))

Opponents:

Beth Reust, Superintendent, USD 270, Plainville ([Attachment 17](#))

Linda Kenne, Superintendent, USD 423, Victoria ([Attachment 18](#))

Jim Mingos, Director, Northeast Kansas Library System ([Attachment 19](#))

Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards ([Attachment 20](#))

Ryan Spaulding, Director, Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth, KU Medical Center ([Attachment 21](#))

Brandi Hendrix, Executive Director, Technology Excellence in Educational Network ([Attachment 22](#))

Mike Mathes, Citizen ([Attachment 23](#))

Cynthia Beisner, Director, I-CAN ([Attachment 24](#))

Caleb May, Director, Meade Public Library ([Attachment 25](#))

After a short question and answer period ensued and Andy Tompkins, President and CEO , Kansas Board of Regents was asked several questions he was unable to answer, the committee requested Brad Williams, Executive Director of Kan-ed appear before the committee to answer questions on March 30, 2011.

The hearing on **HB 2390** was suspended until March 30, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m., March 30, 2011 in Room 152-S