

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 3, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Virginia Beamer - Excused
Representative Eric Carter - Unexcused
Representative Don Myers - Excused
Representative Jason Watkins - Unexcused

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:

Hal Gardner, Kan-Ed, Topeka, KS
Eldon Rightmeier, Kan-Ed, Topeka, KS
Mark Galbraith, Kansas State Library, Topeka, KS
Mel Chastain, Regents Education Communications Center, Manhattan, KS
Diana Wieland, Colby Public Schools, Colby, KS
Sandy Braden, Cingular Wireless, Topeka, KS
Jim Edwards, Kansas Association of School Boards, Topeka, KS
Dina Fisk, Verizon Wireless, Overland Park, KS

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2026 - KAN-ED funding

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **HB 2026**. Copies of the DA400 report for Fiscal Year 2006 Budget for Kan-Ed (Attachment 1) and the Kan-ed Budget vs. Expenditures spreadsheet (Attachment 2) were distributed to the committee.

Hal Gardner, Executive Director of Kan-Ed, addressed the committee in support of **HB 2026** (Attachment 3). Mr. Gardner provided a brief history of the Kan-Ed program as well as the status of its connection to the state's school districts, libraries, and hospitals.

Eldon Rightmeier, Director of Technical Operations and Planning for Kan-Ed, testified in support of **HB 2026** (Attachment 4). Mr. Rightmeier described the technical implementation and operations of the network.

Marc Galbraith, Deputy State Librarian, provided testimony in support of **HB 2026** (Attachment 5). Mr. Galbraith said that Kan-Ed has met considerable success because of its creative nature. The library community looks forward to reaping the rewards of what Kan-Ed can and will do.

Mel Chastain, Director of the Kansas Regents Educational Communication Center, appeared in support of **HB 2026** (Attachment 6), Mr. Chastain shared information about other states' experiences with similar programs. He also provided a brief history of interconnection throughout the state.

Diana Wieland, Curriculum Director for the Colby Public Schools, spoke to the committee in support of **HB 2026** (Attachment 7). Ms. Wieland said that continued funding is essential to the growth and development of Kan-Ed.

Sandy Braden, on behalf of Cingular Wireless, testified in support of **HB 2026** (Attachment 8). Ms. Braden said that Cingular would encourage a gradual shifting of funding from the KUSF to the state general fund.

Jim Edwards, Governmental Relations Specialist for the Kansas Association of School Boards, appeared in support of **HB 2026** (Attachment 9). Mr. Edwards said that Kan-Ed has met the challenge of providing students and teachers access to educations most comprehensive programs and funding is critical.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES, Room 231-N, Statehouse, at 9:12 a.m. on March 3, 2005

Dina Fisk, speaking on behalf of Verizon Wireless, appeared in support of **HB 2026**. (Attachment 10). Ms. Fisk offered their support of an amendment that would phase out the KUSF contribution to Kan-Ed gradually replacing it with state general funds revenue over three years.

The conferees responded to questions from the committee. Additionally, Janet Buchanan, Chief of Telecommunications for the Kansas Corporation Commission, responded to questions.

The hearing on **HB 2026** was suspended.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

The next meeting is Friday, March 4, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.