

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathe Decker at 9:00 a.m. on March 6, 2003 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Barbieri-Lightner - Absent  
Representative D. Williams - Excused Absence  
Representative E. Johnson - Excused Absence  
Representative Winn - Excused Absence

Committee staff present: Kathie Sparks, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Ann Deitcher, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Dr. Ray Daniels, Supt. Kansas City, KS Schools  
Walt Thompson, Principal, Wyandotte High School  
Romona Robson, Teacher, Wyandotte High School  
Helen Spearman, Wyandotte High School Parent

The Chair introduced Dr. Daniels who spoke to the committee on "First Things First" - Creating the conditions and capacity for community-wide reform in an urban school district. (Attachment 1).

Helen Spearman spoke of the Small Learning Communities (SLC) program and the effect it had on her two children who are students at Wyandotte High. (Attachment 2).

A power point presentation was given, after which Romona Robson spoke of the advantages of teaching in a school that offered the Small Learning Community Approach to High School. (Attachment 3).

Principal Walt Thompson offered a view of his role in this program and spoke of the vast improvement in the dropout numbers and those continuing on to higher education as well as students' attitudes toward school and their teachers.

A question and answer session followed.

Minutes of the Education Committee meetings for February 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25 were distributed to the committee for their approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2003.