

Approved: 2-9-2000  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

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

All members were present except: Senator Hensley; Senator Lee - Excused

Committee staff present: Avis Swartzman, Revisor of Statutes  
Ben Barrett, Legislative Research Department  
Jackie Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Susan Rippe, USD 259, Wichita; Teacher of the Year  
Tammy R. Lalicker, USD 457, Garden City  
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 Tanner, House Education Committee Chairman. He stated there was a request for a bill introduction and the legislation was introduced. He turned the meeting over to Senator Lawrence, Senate Education Committee Chairperson, who conducted the meeting.

Chairperson Lawrence greeted the conferees and called on Dale Dennis, Deputy Education Commissioner, to make the introduction. He stated that the teacher of the year and finalists would speak and limit their remarks to a few minutes each. He distributed a handout entitled, "**KANSAS** Teacher of the Year." ([Attachment 1](#))

Sue Rippe, Teacher of the Year, stated she was 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 over 200 years teaching experience. They represent vast differences in areas of expertise. She asked legislators to use them as a resource/liason source. It is Ms. Rippe's firm belief that all students can learn.

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

Chairperson Lawrence stated that it was very obvious why these teachers are at the legislature today, as they are exemplary teachers.

Questions were asked of the teachers concerning some of the problems they face such as the lack of teachers in specific areas of expertise. The teachers as a group stated that more recruiting needs to be done. Teachers are stretched too thin. There is need for teacher mentoring, training and staff development. There are also other problems with classroom size and dealing with students with learning disabilities. The small amount of time parents interact with their children was cited as a factor of concern. Parents need to know what needs to be done with the child at home to prepare that child for school. A study has shown that parents spend as little as ten minutes a day with a child. This trend is not unique to any socio-economic group.

The committees were challenged to visit any classroom, unannounced, on any day in a school. That is the way to see the 'nitty gritty' of what is happening in the schools.

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

