

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2021, in the Board Room of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. Board members met in person while maintaining precautions to limit guests and non-agency presenters gathered in a confined space. The meeting was livestreamed for the public to observe and listen.

(00:08:54)

Mr. Porter thanked the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools for hosting Board members virtually for a panel discussion as part of the association's annual meeting. He acknowledged the observance of February as Black History Month, citing the many contributions of Lucinda Todd, a civil rights activist and one of the plaintiffs in the landmark US Supreme Court case *Brown v Board of Education* to desegregate schools.

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present:

Betty Arnold	Ben Jones
Jean Clifford	Ann Mah
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim McNiece
Melanie Haas	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Janet Waugh

STATE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Porter read both the Board's Mission Statement and Kansans Can Vision Statement. He then asked for a moment of silence after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Dombrosky asked for discussion on two consent agenda items — 17 h. (contract with Kansas Association of Education Service Agencies) and 17 i. (contract with Kansas State Department of Agriculture). Dr. Horst moved to approve the Tuesday agenda noting Mrs. Dombrosky's request. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:15:38)

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McNiece moved to approve the minutes of the January Board meeting. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:16:04)

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Randy Watson began his monthly report with a reminder that the State Board's vision is very purposeful, both in terms of achievement and equity. Civic engagement remains a top priority as one of the outcomes for measuring student success. He then presented proposed updates to the Navigating Change document, reflecting consensus from the advisory team of health professionals regarding low-risk transmissions. A modified Gating Criteria chart allows for middle schools

(00:16:22)

and high schools to remain in an in-person or hybrid learning environment even when county metrics recommend a remote-only environment if school districts meet mitigation protocols. Dr. Watson outlined the precautions to enable middle and high schools to safely reopen, including testing strategies and cohorting of students. Board members had questions or comments about cohorting, vaccine distribution and testing. Commissioner Watson also announced plans to form a 19-member task force to oversee the spending plans presented by school districts for use of the federal COVID relief funds. State Board Chair Jim Porter and Vice Chair Janet Waugh will serve on the Task Force. Mr. Porter will serve as the group's chair. Others will include superintendents, teachers, local school board members, legislators and private school representatives. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds must be spent on pandemic-related expenses according to federal law. The Task Force will also oversee federal relief money designated for private schools.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Porter announced the opening of Citizens Forum at 10:40 a.m. Only written comments were accepted this month. He acknowledged the following submissions: Amber Doyle, concerns about social studies state test and standardized testing; Gail Withers, acceptance of Western Governors University master's program for certification; Kansas School Counselor Association, National School Counseling Week; Kristen Palmer, concerns about declining test scores; Amanda Swart, concerns about hybrid learning model; Melissa Masoner, youth voting as a measure of Kansas Can Vision success.

(00:51:03)

DISCUSSION ON NAVIGATING NEXT FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Dr. Brad Neuenswander and Dr. Craig Neuenswander co-presented information pertaining to the Navigating Next guidance as schools contend with the ongoing pandemic and make plans for transitioning out of it. Learning environments have been in person, hybrid or remote. Navigating Next, an extension of Navigating Change, is intended to help districts think about strategies to re-engage staff, students and families during the remainder of the current school year as well as consider preparations for the 2021-22 school year. Bart Swartz from the Greenbush Service Center explained how the seven educational service centers are providing support resources for school personnel such as those in the online Teaching and Leading Project. Federal funds distribution was explained, with an emphasis on first helping students academically and with social-emotional needs. Dr. Craig Neuenswander talked about the spending timelines, federally determined categories of COVID-related expenses, separate funding for nonpublic schools and extra support planned for special education. Questions were asked throughout the report.

(00:52:55)

Members took a break until 11:50 a.m.

BREAK

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

At last month's meeting, members received Executive Summaries and accreditation recommendations from the Accreditation Review Council for one public system and five private systems as part of the process for Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA). Mischel Miller, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, stated the definitions for each status, based on evidence of intentional quality growth process. Systems receiving the status of Conditionally Accredited can respond to ARC recommendations and seek full accreditation before the next accreditation cycle. Mr. Jones moved to accept the recommendations of the Accreditation Review Council and award the status of Accredited to USD 445 Coffeyville, John Paul II Elementary, Cure of Ars, St. Thomas Aquinas; and the status of Conditionally Accredited to St. Paul Elementary and Our Lady of Unity. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(01:58:36)

MOTION
(02:05:13)

UPDATE ON 2021 KANSAS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Assistant Director Beth Fultz gave an overview of the assessment team’s roles and responsibilities including work of the education program consultants and Assessment Advisory Group. Kansas’ balanced approach to assessments was portrayed as three main areas: formative, interim and summative. Other topics covered in the updated were testing dates, ACT and WorkKeys, delay of NAEP exams, and rigor of standards-based assessments. Dr. Brad Neuenswander described how mathematics and English Language Arts assessment scores are relative to ACT college readiness benchmarks.

(02:06:54)

Chairman Porter recessed the meeting at 12:32 p.m. for the lunch break.

LUNCH

RECOGNITION OF KANSAS CERTIFICATE IN CHILD NUTRITION MANAGEMENT RECIPIENTS

Chairman Porter called the meeting back to order at 1:30 p.m. The Kansas Certificate in Child Nutrition Management is a program sponsored by Child Nutrition and Wellness, and approved by the State Board of Education. To receive this certificate, individuals must complete 120 hours of management classes that have been approved by KSDE’s Child Nutrition and Wellness. CNW Director Cheryl Johnson notified Board members that two child nutrition professionals have completed the requirements. Those recognized for this achievement were Jessica Phillips, USD 234 Fort Scott and Melissa Miller, USD 232 DeSoto. Mrs. Phillips connected to the meeting remotely to talk about her work to fuel Kansas’ future.

P.M. SESSION
(03:39:01)

RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON MICROCREDENTIALS FOR LICENSED EDUCATORS

The Professional Standards Board has been working to establish microcredentials as a recognized method to personalize professional learning for Kansas educators. Earning a microcredential is one way that educators can choose to improve their learning and teaching, with an opportunity to advance their instructional practice. The PSB has defined a microcredential along with the appropriate components. Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Director Mischel Miller presented the information on behalf of the PSB. Next steps are to consider how to tie microcredentials into the relicensure plan. Ms. Miller also shared an example of how one district—Lansing USD 469—is implementing the microcredential initiative for its educators.

(03:47:10)

RECEIVE REPORT ON KANSAS CITY TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee continues to research alternative pathways toward an elementary teaching license. The State Board has asked for continued exploration and so the TVSC shared information regarding the Kansas City Teacher Residency model as a potential pilot opportunity for Kansas educators and school systems. KSDE Director Mischel Miller along with Dr. Charles King and Andrew Stuart with the Kansas City Teacher Residency program described steps in their model, which currently serves about 50 schools in the KC Metro area. Participants work toward a master’s degree while gaining experience in an elementary classroom. Board members asked questions about cost, partnership with AmeriCorps and the potential for growing the teacher pipeline in other areas of the state.

(04:03:35)

DISCUSSION ON VAPING AND TOBACCO-RELATED 2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The State Board’s Legislative Priorities support the passage of Tobacco 21 legislation, plus bans on flavoring for electronic nicotine devices and marketing of such products to youth. The E-Cigarette / Vaping Task Force was established in 2019 has since worked to address increases in use by youth, even as the public health focus shifted to COVID-19. Task Force Coordinator Mark Thompson, along with Jordan Roberts from KDHE and Sara Prem from the American Lung Association in Kansas and Greater Kansas City, provided an update on work of the Task Force concerning education about prevention, cessation resources and status of tobacco-control legislation.

(04:39:40)

Board members had comments or questions about educating youth in younger grades about the dangers of vaping and how the pandemic may have impacted youth use.

INFORMATION ON CONNECTING STATE BOARD INITIATIVES WITH GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Multiple intergovernmental agencies, including KSDE, are collaborating through the Governor's Council on Education to help integrate real-world learning and work experiences into student education. Among the benefits are greater postsecondary enrollment rates, increased appeal for scholarships and better prepared entry-level talent. Presenters were Stacy Smith, Natalie Clark and Jay Scott from KSDE; Dr. Cynthia Lane, Susan Wally (PrepKC), Donna McDaniel (Kauffman Foundation) and Bob Kreutzer from the Governor's Council on Education. The purpose is to further join efforts to connect Board initiatives with the Council's recommendations for a comprehensive policy approach. Regionally vetted Market Value Assets (MVA) and a student's Individual Plan of Study combined together become an equity strategy. MVA are industry valued and recognized skills acquired in high school that create a more seamless transition to postsecondary or the workplace. During the report, an emphasis was placed on professional experiences and career preparedness. Discussion followed to include equity issues, reaching all students and creating more opportunities for authentic work experiences.

(05:14:35)

Members took a break from 4:03 to 4:20 p.m.

BREAK

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Dr. Craig Neuenswander gave a status report on selected House and Senate bills followed in the 2021 legislative session. He noted that many presentations to the various committees are occurring remotely rather than in person at the Statehouse as a safety practice. He summarized legislative requests to the agency for data, then reported on several bills that have been introduced, their status and key points of those related to education. Highlighted bills dealt with expansion of the tax credit scholarship program, adding private school students - both from accredited and nonaccredited schools - to the ACT, WorkKeys and pre-ACT assessments at no cost; reinstating high density at-risk weighting; and changes to the definition of an at-risk student.

(06:30:30)

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Dombrosky earlier asked for discussion on consent items 17 h. and 17 i., but she confirmed that her questions have since been answered. Mr. McNiece moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

MOTION
(07:02:11)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for January.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Courtnie Cowser as Accountant on the Fiscal Services and Operations team, effective Jan. 24, 2021, at an annual salary of \$46,363.20; Shanna Bigler McKenzie as Education Program Consultant on the Special Education and Title Services team, effective Jan. 4, 2021, at an annual salary of \$56,118.40; Kayla Love as Senior Administrative Assistant on the Special Education and Title Services team, effective Jan. 11, 2021, at an annual salary of \$29,161.60; Annie Diederich as Education Program Consultant on the Teacher Licensure and Accreditation team, effective Jan. 4, 2021, at an annual salary of \$56,118.40.
- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year:
Early Childhood Special Education — Ashley English, USD 501. *Gifted* — Jacob Pike, USD 500.
High Incidence Special Education — Estrella Watkins, USD 259; Kristine Kirk, April Halcomb, USD 260; Kelsey Whaley, USD 353; Tiffany Harms, USD 383; Theresia Matthews, Natalie Crook, Tessa Wadel, USD 457; Angela Martinez, USD 475; David Bean, Joshua Gray, Melissa

Engbroten, Kelly Meyer, USD 500; Clinton Keckeisen, Elizabeth Mollet, Connie Overstreet, Lori Gowan, Kathryn Locke, Slayton Fargo, USD 501; Lisa Jackson, D0607; Rebecca Fiedler, Alyssa Rogers, D0608; Jodi Hammerbacher, Melissa May, D0618; Tonya Bernauer, D0620. *Library Media Specialist* — Sherry Giddens, USD 259. *Low Incidence Special Education* — Amy Hajdukovich, USD 260; Amity Ihrig, D0602; Brooklyn Sipp, D0618.

- authorized USD 375 Circle, Butler County, to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation.
- authorized USD 375 Circle, Butler County, to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law.

authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and

- enter into a contract amendment with the Achievement and Assessment Institute at the University of Kansas for the purpose of providing the interim predictive assessments in Braille with the amount not to exceed \$80,000 annually through the end of the current contract;
- enter into a contract with the recommended vendor resulting from the bidding process required by the Department of Administration and Division of Purchasing for the purpose of providing a product linked to English Language Arts and mathematics scale score on the Kansas state summative assessments and resources for students, parents and teachers aligned to the scientific measure of a student's reading or mathematics ability with a contract amount not to exceed \$1,350,000 through June 30, 2026;
- amend contract with the Kansas Association of Education Service Agencies to implement key components of the Navigating Change and Navigating Next guidance, in an amount not to exceed \$320,000 for the period through Dec. 31, 2021.
- enter into a contract with the Kansas Department of Agriculture for the purpose of completing on-site health inspections of unlicensed Summer Food Service Program meal preparation and service sites at the rate of \$180 per inspection, not to exceed \$22,500.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Action on Board Travel — Board members had the opportunity to make changes to the travel requests for approval. Mr. Jones moved to approve the travel requests and updates. Mrs. Waugh seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(07:03:18)

Committee Reports — Legislative Liaison Dr. Horst reported on written testimony that has been presented on behalf of the State Board. Communications committee member Mrs. Haas referenced a series of informational postcards being created to share with lawmakers. Mrs. Mah gave an update on the School Redesign Advisory Committee.

Board Attorney's Report — Board Attorney Mark Ferguson commented on the purpose of the consent agenda for routine, non-controversial items, plus the process, according to Board Policy, to remove something from the consent agenda for discussion or separate action. He also spoke of the process for adding an item to the main agenda.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Endorsement of microcredentials as a viable option for educators (Mr. Porter)
- Dyslexia update and additional dialogue (Mrs. Dombrosky)

- Commissioner's Report on progress with legislative committees regarding civics test bill (Mr. Porter)
- Full retreat on vision, goals, objectives and outcomes

Action on updates to Navigating Change document —

Commissioner Watson recounted recommendations from the advisory group of medical professionals prompting updates to Navigating Change and modifications to the Gating Criteria chart. He reviewed the recommended mitigation safety protocols and testing strategies. Dr. Watson then answered questions, noting that guidance is being presented, not mandated. Mr. Porter read the motion for Mrs. Waugh who moved to accept updates to the Navigating Change document reflecting changes and new information since State Board approval Dec. 8. This included updating the Gating Criteria chart to recommend middle schools and high schools to remain in an in-person or hybrid learning environment even when county metrics recommend a remote-only environment if school districts meet mitigation protocols. Mr. McNiece seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The vote was 8-1-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky opposing and Mrs. Mah abstaining.

MOTION
(07:27:10)

Chair's Report — Mr. Porter was contacted by a US Marine Corps recruiter who would like to visit with Board members about student opportunities. Mr. Porter suggested that remote conversations could be set up in groups of three if members were interested in voluntarily participating.

RECESS

Chair Porter recessed the meeting at 5:23 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on Feb. 10, 2021. Board members met in person while maintaining precautions to limit the number of guests gathered in a confined space. The meeting was livestreamed for the public to observe and listen.

(00:00:48)

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present:

Betty Arnold	Ben Jones
Jean Clifford	Ann Mah
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim McNiece
Melanie Haas	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Janet Waugh

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Clifford moved to approve the Wednesday agenda as presented. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:05:01)

INFORMATION ON ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ENRICH STUDENTS' CIVICS UNDERSTANDING

The Kansas standards for History Government Social Studies incorporate civics connections and competencies. Education Program Consultant Marci Fiorentino described the standards' mission as preparing students to be informed, thoughtful, engaged citizens as they enrich their communities, state, nation, world and themselves. Guest Thomas Fulbright, social studies teacher at Hope Street Academy in Topeka, participated remotely to share examples of student engagement projects and strategies for effective civic learning. Encouraging civic engagement at all grade levels is demonstrated through the standards as well as programs such as the Civic Advocacy Network awards. Board members had questions or comments about civics questions on the state assessments, the broad nature of the standards and future civics conferences.

(00:05:31)

REPORT FROM REP. STEVE HUEBERT

Rep. Steve Huebert chairs the House Education Committee. He spoke with Board members about the importance of working together and communicating, especially during the pandemic as groups deal with changing situations and elevated emotions. Mr. Porter mentioned several areas where past cooperation has been evident — Emergency Safety Intervention, dyslexia, school mental health and bullying awareness/prevention. Currently House Bill 2039, proposed within the House Education Committee, requires students to pass an American Civics test in order to graduate with a high school diploma. Chair Porter stated that the constitutional sole responsibility for graduation requirements rests with the State Board of Education. Other potential cooperative areas were identified, including computer science education and financial literacy. There was a desire to have a follow-up meeting to work cooperatively on accomplishing common goals and to further build relationships to solve problems.

(00:32:56)

Members took a break from 10:02 until 10:13 a.m.

BREAK

WORK SESSION: REVIEW OF KANSANS CAN VISION; NAVIGATING NEXT FRAMEWORK

Commissioner Watson summarized origin of the Kansans Can vision, adopted by the State Board in 2015, and which states *Kansans leads the world in the success of each student*. He reflected on the statewide tours to visit with community groups and business leaders about the characteristics desired in a successful 24-year-old. Focus group responses provided the basis for development of a bold, different vision reflecting what Kansans said were critical, including non-academic qualities such as perseverance, integrity and civic engagement. He reviewed the establishment of priority outcomes and the plan for another listening tour to learn from parents and communities what's changed since the vision was developed. A more in-depth retreat will be scheduled soon to re-evaluate goals and outcomes.

(01:21:01)

ACTION ON NAVIGATING NEXT FRAMEWORK AND DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR COVID-19 FEDERAL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS TO SCHOOLS

Deputy Commissioners Brad Neuenswander and Craig Neuenswander described how the Navigating Next guidance for schools aligns with the Kansans Can purpose and vision, but the pathway has changed as a result of the pandemic. The online document will support schools through the remainder of this school year and guide them as they plan for the 2021-22 school year. Among the action plan considerations are attention to the current graduating class, assessing student learning, communication with families, social-emotional support, and evaluating learning loss when school buildings were closed because of COVID-19. Educational service centers and other educational partners are assisting with support and resources. Dr. Craig Neuenswander reviewed approved uses for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds and COVID relief funds for nonpublic schools, primarily to assist students who are struggling. During discussion, Mrs. Dombrosky expressed she would like more time to review the document. There were questions or comments about the Task Force's role in oversight of the ESSER federal funds to support initiatives moving forward, and the need to provide leadership during this time. Mrs. Waugh also wanted to clarify that districts could use some, all or none of the Navigating Next guidance, but federal criteria must be followed for ESSER fund use.

(01:42:43)

Mrs. Waugh moved approve the Navigating Next framework as guidance for school districts transitioning out of the pandemic and to approve the distribution plan for COVID-19 federal emergency relief. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

MOTION
(02:13:08)

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m. The next meeting is March 9 and 10, 2021.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary