

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education  
 Tuesday, August 11, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kathy Busch called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020 in the Board Room at the Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. Chairman Busch acknowledged that this would be a different start to the school year, and thanked everyone for their hard work amongst the pandemic. She also reminded the audience about being alert for school buses and school zones.

(00:00:06)

**ROLL CALL**

The following Board members were present:

Kathy Busch	Ben Jones	Jim Porter
Jean Clifford	Ann Mah	Steve Roberts
Deena Horst	Jim McNiece	Janet Waugh

Board member Michelle Dombrosky was absent.

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA**

Chairman Busch announced that Item 11 “Update on Dyslexia training and timeline” would be a receive item rather than for information only. Mr. McNiece moved to approve the day’s agenda as amended. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mr. Roberts abstaining.

**MOTION**  
(00:04:21)

**APPROVAL OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES**

There were two sets of meeting minutes from July. Mrs. Mah moved to approve the minutes of the regular July Board meeting. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-0. Mr. McNiece moved to approve the minutes of the July 22 special Board meeting. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

**MOTIONS**  
(00:04:59)  
(00:05:29)

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Dr. Randy Watson reminded Board members that the Navigating Change guidance document was developed by Kansans to assist schools throughout the 2020-21 school year. Districts may personalize the guidance based on different factors, including spread rate in their communities. Even though there are periodic updates, the goals remain the same — quality learning, equity and access as essential for families. Multiple learning environments will allow flexibility. Dr. Watson announced proposed metrics evaluating criteria within school buildings and the community as a wholistic approach to reopen stages. The Kansas School Gating Criteria reflects input from state medical professionals and should be assessed in conjunction with local health officials. Board members asked questions about equity in hybrid learning models and services for at-risk students.

(00:06:07)

**CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Busch declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:51 a.m. There were no speakers for open forum this month.

**ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION**

At the July State Board meeting, members reviewed Executive Summaries for four education systems (three public, one private) that are scheduled for accreditation. Board action follows an examination of information provided in the summaries and recommendations from the Accreditation Review Council. Mrs. Waugh moved to accept recommendations of the Accreditation Review Council and award the status of accredited to USD 202 Turner, USD 303 Ness City, USD 389 Eureka and X0758-1881 Heartspring of Wichita. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mr. Roberts abstaining.

**MOTION**  
(00:54:08)

Board members took a break until 11:05 a.m.

**BREAK**

**RECEIVE ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION**

The next school systems presented for accreditation consideration are: USD 368 Paola, USD 490 El Dorado and Hope Lutheran of Topeka. Accreditation status recommendations are brought to the State Board upon completion of final visitations and meetings of the Accreditation Review Council (ARC). An Executive Summary was prepared for each system, outlining evidence of goals and identifying both strengths and challenges. Accountability report data was also provided. Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Mischel Miller and Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo reminded members of the three status categories — accredited, conditionally accredited, not accredited. These center on evidence of an intentional quality growth process. Presenters explained steps systems can use to appeal an ARC recommendation. They also answered questions about timelines for improvement and emphasizing a systemwide process.

(00:55:35)

**INFORMATION ON FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD REGARDING START OF 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR**

School districts were provided a guidance document titled "Navigating Change: Kansas Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations" to assist in their preparations for the 2020-21 school year following disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Brad Neuenswander, Deputy Commissioner with the Division of Learning Services, recapped three stages involved with the restart of school — key competencies, navigating change within instruction and operations, and support with implementation. A survey of districts revealed the need for more professional learning for educators, greater community engagement and online learning tools. Plans are underway to provide training to support teachers and schools, and to enhance strategies for remote learners. Discussion included staffing concerns and potential shortages, encouraging creativity and flexibility, misunderstandings about remote learning, and examples of best practices.

(01:21:49)

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

**LUNCH**

**RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPDATING DYSLEXIA TRAINING AND TIMELINE**

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Brad Neuenswander provided an update on work stemming from recommendations of the Kansas Legislative Taskforce on Dyslexia that the State Board approved in November 2019. Pre-service recommendations are still on track. However, due to a lack of funding to continue the other work outlined by the Taskforce, a modified timeline is recommended until a dyslexia coordinator position can be funded. The adjusted timeline will delay professional learning, universal screenings, tiered systems of support, structured literacy, and creation of a dyslexia handbook. Certain supports, including training to educators on early literacy, will be available through other sources.

**P.M. SESSION**  
(00:00:20)  
*Timer restarted*

**RECEIVE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR READING SPECIALIST**

Educator Preparation Program Standards establish program approval requirements for Kansas educator candidates. Institutions of higher education utilize these standards to develop their educator preparation programs and professional learning requirements for licensure renewal. Kathi Sanders from Fort Hays State University served as committee chair for the review of Reading Specialist Standards. She presented the proposed revisions, including greater alignment to standards from the International Dyslexia Association and International Literacy Association. Dr. Catherine Chmidling from KSDE assisted in answering questions.

(00:19:01)

**QUARTERLY UPDATE ON WORK OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The Special Education Advisory Council works collaboratively to provide continuous improvement of educational systems to ensure equity and enhance learning for all students in Kansas. Bert Moore, Director of Special Education and Title Services at KSDE, and Heath Peine, SEAC Chair, provided a report on recent work of SEAC. One focus area is secondary transition. A transition summit was conducted virtually in August and a webpage has been developed as a resource. Working closer with the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition is among the goals as is forming a transition council.

(00:37:54)

**ACTION ON NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mr. Porter moved to appoint two new members to the Special Education Advisory Council (Brandon Gay, representing Adult Corrections, and Tobias Wood, representing State Agency) with their terms of service from date of appointment through June 30, 2023. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 8-1 with Mr. Jones in opposition. Mr. Gay is contract manager of correctional education for Colby Community College; Mr. Wood is associate director of Career Technical Education with the Kansas Board of Regents. One of the major functions of the SEAC is to serve as a liaison between the statewide populace and the Kansas State Board of Education.

**MOTION**  
(00:58:13)

**ACTION ON APPOINTMENT TO THE LICENSURE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The seven-member Licensure Review Committee reviews the qualifications of applicants who desire to be licensed in Kansas, but who do not satisfy all the requirements of licensure as specified in regulations. Mrs. Clifford moved to appoint Cody Calkins to his first term on the Licensure Review Committee effective from date of appointment through June 30, 2023. (Motion ready by Chairman Busch). Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-0. Mr. Calkins is Principal at Lakin Middle School and will represent building level administrators.

**MOTION**  
(01:01:36)

There was a break until 2:50 p.m.

**BREAK**

**RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORT FROM TEACHER VACANCY AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE REGARDING LIMITED APPRENTICE LICENSE**

Mischel Miller reported on the Limited Apprentice License program that is in the final phase of its two-year pilot for elementary education or high-incidence special ed alternative licensure pathways. The Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee (TVSC) worked with Dr. Amy Gaumer Erickson of KU's Center for Research and Learning to complete a formal evaluation of the pilots. Survey questions were directed to program participants, university coordinators/advisors and school administrators. Based on feedback, the TVSC recommends continuing a para-professional to teacher high-incidence program with modifications. Other recommendations were cited: an alternative means for teachers already licensed to add an elementary education endorsement and to explore opportunities for bachelor-degreed individuals to transition to teaching and earn an elementary education license.

(01:03:21)

### **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Waugh seconded. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mr. Roberts abstaining. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

- received the monthly Personnel Report for July.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Kyleen Harris as Public Service Executive on the Child Nutrition and Wellness team, effective July 20, 2020, at an annual salary of \$54,995.20; Meg Richard as Education Program Consultant for science on the Career, Standards and Assessment Services team, effective July 22, 2020, at an annual salary of \$56,118.40; Jim Green as Safety Specialist on the School Finance team, effective July 27, 2020, at an annual salary of \$62,836.80.
- approved issuance of Visiting Scholar licenses for the 2020-21 school year as follows: William Allen Skeens, Blue Valley USD 229 Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) program; Kelly Welch, Lawrence USD 497.
- approved, with modifications, the in-service education plans for USD 270 Plainville, USD 288 Central Heights, USD 369 Burrton, USD 403 Otis-Bison, USD 438 Skyline, USD 445 Coffeyville, USD 487 Herington, USD 495 Fort Larned and Three Lakes Educational Cooperative.
- approved recommendations for funding the 2020-21 McKinney Vento Children and Youth Homeless grants as follows: USD 233 Olathe \$46,575; USD 259 Wichita \$160,132; USD 261 Haysville \$30,500; USD 289 Wellsville \$11,000; USD 290 Ottawa \$24,500; USD 383 Manhattan-Ogden \$29,250; USD 457 Garden City \$24,773; USD 475 Geary County \$27,300; USD 500 Kansas City \$116,000; USD 501 Topeka \$38,659. Total funding: \$508,689.

### **BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL**

Board members had the opportunity to make changes to the travel requests for approval. Mrs. Mah moved to approve the travel requests and updates. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

### **ACTION ON PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT WITH KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF NEA**

The negotiations bargaining team for the Kansas School for the Deaf NEA and State Board of Education has been working to finalize the Professional Agreement for the term beginning with the 2020-21 school year. Board Attorney Mark Ferguson restated steps in the bargaining process. Mrs. Dombrosky represents the State Board on the negotiations team. The two-year agreement has been ratified by the School for the Deaf NEA. Mr. Jones moved to adopt the Professional Agreement between the Kansas School for the Deaf NEA and the Kansas State Board of Education for the term Aug. 1, 2020 to July 31, 2022. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Action to accept Navigating Change document updates** — Commissioner Watson reiterated the involvement of Kansas medical professionals as informational resources to the Navigating Change guidance document. He also reviewed the various stages in the proposed Kansas Schools Gating Criteria he outlined earlier in his Commissioner's Report. This information will be added to the Navigating Change guidance for schools. Mr. McNiece moved to accept updates to the Navigating Change document reflecting changes and new information since State Board approval on July 15. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

**Board Attorney's Report** — Mark Ferguson reported that he had contacted the Attorney General regarding the AG Opinion on Executive Order 20-59.

**MOTION**  
(01:25:34)

**MOTION**  
(01:28:52)

**MOTION**  
(01:38:44)

(01:39:42)

**MOTION**  
(02:02:12)

**Requests for Future Agenda Items —**

- Examples of best practices in place during pandemic from districts of various sizes. (Ms. Busch)
- Public acknowledgment to medical professionals assisting on Navigating Change committees and assisting with resources and guidance. (Mrs. Waugh)
- Report on statewide concerns from districts -- a broader picture of responses, lessons learned, successes and challenges during COVID-19. (Mrs. Clifford)
- Request for a professional license. (Mr. Roberts)
- Update on broadband capacity and access, plus the plan for achieving results where gaps in service exist. (Mr. McNiece)
- Clarification on differences between virtual and remote learning programs (Dr. Horst)
- Virtual travel to school districts. (Dr. Horst)
- Examination of CTE pathways and certifications – are they an adequate reflection of job needs? (Mr. Jones)

**Committee Reports —** Mr. Jones reported on the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and naming of Kacie Lockyear, Winfield, as the 2021 Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year by KFAC.

**Chairman's Report —** Ms. Busch reported on school mental health subcommittee work regarding bullying awareness and prevention recommendations. A draft is anticipated by the end of the year. She also previewed activities of the Sept. 8 and 9 State Board meeting.

**RECESS**

Chairman Busch recessed the meeting at 4:11 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

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Kathy Busch, Chairman

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Peggy Hill, Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kathy Busch called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on Aug. 12, 2020, in the Board Room at the Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

(00:00:04)

**ROLL CALL**

All Board members participated, either in person or remotely via Zoom:

Kathy Busch	Ann Mah
Jean Clifford	Jim McNiece
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Steve Roberts
Ben Jones	Janet Waugh

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA**

Chairman Busch announced the addition of reopen plans for acceptance from the Kansas State School for the Blind and Kansas School for the Deaf. Mr. Jones moved to approve the Wednesday agenda as amended. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mr. Roberts abstaining.

**MOTION**  
(00:01:12)

**ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

KSDE General Counsel Scott Gordon brought forth the recommendations of the Professional Practices Commission on one case this month and offered to answer questions. Dr. Horst moved to adopt the findings of the PPC and revoke the license of the individual in case 20-PPC-18. Mr. Roberts seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(00:02:24)

**RECEIVE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION REGULATIONS (91-22-1A THROUGH 91-22-25)**

KSDE General Counsel Scott Gordon explained the rationale for proposed amendments to Professional Practices Commission regulations 91-22-1a through 91-22-25. These regulations guide the process by which the State Board of Education determines that a license to teach should be denied, suspended, revoked or publicly censured. Among the recommended changes are to divide 91-22-1a into 1(a) and 1(b) reasons for denial; and adjust language in the section addressing complaints. The Board will act on the proposed amendments in September. He then answered questions or provided clarification.

(00:03:18)

**UPDATE ON WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM**

Amanda Petersen, KSDE's Early Childhood Director, and Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, updated Board members on the status of activities related to goals of the *All in for Kansas Kids* strategic plan. They spoke about promoting kindergarten readiness; addressing accessibility, availability and quality of services; and coordinating governance. Specifically addressed were the Ages and Stages Questionnaire response timeline through Sept. 21, community service tax credits for child care and early childhood development projects, and state-level coordination to benefit the early childhood system in Kansas.

(00:24:15)

Members took a break from 10:13 to 10:23 a.m.

**BREAK**

**ACTION ON REOPEN PLANS FOR KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**

Superintendent Jon Harding, Kansas State School for the Blind, presented the school's reopen guide for the start of the 2020-21 school year. KSSB is working in cooperation with the Wyandotte County Health Department for operations protocol for in-person instruction. He discussed safety precautions throughout the buildings, including the dormitories; professional development for staff and social-emotional supports. Mr. Jones moved to accept the reopen guide for the Kansas State School for the Blind as in preparation for the 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Waugh seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(01:14:42)

**MOTION**  
(01:34:44)

**ACTION ON REOPEN PLANS FOR KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

Superintendent Luanne Barron, Kansas School for the Deaf, commented how the school's continuous learning crisis response plan helped in the reflection and development of the current reopen plan. She addressed components of the plan and considerations used for making decisions. Survey results from staff and parents were evaluated as part of the planning process. Mrs. Dombrosky moved to accept the reopen plans for the Kansas School for the Deaf in preparation for the 2020-21 school year. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(01:39:22)

**MOTION**  
(02:15:06)

Commissioner Watson commended both superintendents plus their teams and staff for strong community outreach. He was encouraged by their plans to safely deliver on-site instruction.

There was a break from 11:30 to 11:35 a.m.

**BREAK**

**DISCUSSION ON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, INDIVIDUAL PLANS OF STUDY AND POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALING**

Commissioner Watson led the discussion on preparing students with the skill sets needed to transition to young adulthood. He stressed that the current high school focus is on counting graduation credits when the focus should be centered on a student's Individual Plan of Study (IPS) and preparation for the future. While the State Board has oversight over high school, the Kansas Board of Regents has oversight over postsecondary. Those agencies working together can help restructure the learning system for today and the future. Currently multiple groups are working on the issue of high school graduation requirements, IPS and postsecondary, but a more centralized execution plan is needed. Discussion included exposure to career options early and often, evaluation of career and technical education pathways to match job market needs, inclusion of private schools and technical colleges in the conversations and school redesign. By consensus, Board members agreed that the Coordinating Council should take the lead to centralize work on the topic of postsecondary preparation/transition (last two years of high school and first two years of postsecondary), and to organize appropriate workgroups. The Coordinating Council consists of members of KSDE, KBOR, the State Board of Education and the Kansas Chamber.

(02:20:02)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Busch adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.

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Kathy Busch, Chairman

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Peggy Hill, Secretary