# KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

# **KANSAS**



# **Annual Report**

July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012

Special Education Services
Kansas State Department of Education
120 S.E. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 291-3097

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## Secretary's Report

The overarching focus of Kansas special education is to improve outcomes for students with exceptionalities and their families. Services for students with exceptionalities in Kansas are continuously improving because of the dedication and commitment of many exemplary teachers and administrators who are supported by concerned and invested parents who work in partnership with the schools. Another Kansas asset, often overlooked because of their work behind the scenes of Kansas education, is the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). The primary motivation for individuals to accept appointments to SEAC is the focus on quality improvement in the Kansas education system, particularly as it relates to students with exceptionalities. The SEAC members voluntarily meet on a regular basis, study issues of significance, provide a representative advocacy function, and advise the Special Education Services team and Kansas State Board of Education on matters of special education. This report summarizes the activity and accomplishments of SEAC for the 2011 – 2012 school year.

SEAC continues to function as an advisory panel to the Kansas State Board of Education. SEAC advises the State Board in six key areas as required by the implementing regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and by Kansas Statutes. Those areas include:

- Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) of <u>unmet needs</u> within the state in the education of children with exceptionalities;
- Comment publicly on any <u>rules and regulations</u> proposed by the state regarding the education of children with;
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and <u>reporting on data</u> to the secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in <u>Federal Monitoring</u> reports under Part B of the Act; and
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the <u>coordination of services</u> for children with exceptionalities.
- Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

SEAC has represented its constituencies well during the past year and has been productively engaged in fulfilling its legal commitments and mission on behalf of students. SEAC's 2011 – 2012 accomplishments are wide ranging. To summarize, SEAC has been involved in these activities of importance:

- Review testimony and make recommendations to Kansas Board of Education regarding Emergency Safety Interventions
- Provide oversight of the implementation of IDEA and state regulations through review of the Kansas Integrated Accountability System (KIAS) and focused monitoring, due process and formal complaints
- Review and comment on the Kansas Annual Performance Report (APR), and State Performance Plan (SPP) submitted to OSEP
- Study and advise priority areas such as: Early Childhood, Least Restrictive Environments, secondary transition,
- Promote use of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Participate in 2<sup>nd</sup> annual combined meeting with State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)
- Study practices impacting disproportionate representation in Special Education
- Review and comment on Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) Projects
- Provide forum for public comment on disability issues
- Monitor and review state and federal legislative issues

SEAC serves a valuable role in representing the stakeholders in Kansas regarding special education services. There is no question that because of SEAC investment in the future, students with exceptionalities will have a better chance of fulfilling their lifelong dreams. The State of Kansas is fortunate to have an active and involved SEAC.

Colleen Riley, Director Special Education Services Secretary of the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

#### Introduction

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) held nine meetings during the 2011 - 2012 school year. The January meeting was a two day meeting and included members of the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE). Four of the meetings were special sessions called by the chairperson to address time-sensitive matters.

The SEAC priority areas for 2011 - 2012 reflected the following areas:

- Priority Area 1: Advise the State Education Agency (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;
- Priority Area 2: Comment publicly on any rules and regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;
- Priority Area 3: Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Priority Area 4: Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
- Priority Area 5: Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children and youth with exceptionalities; and
- Priority Area 6: Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

## Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

The major responsibilities of the council are to advise, consult and provide recommendations to the Kansas State Board of Education regarding matters concerning special education services. The SEAC is composed of individuals in, or concerned with, the education of children with exceptionalities. The council performs such duties as specified by law, statute or regulation and as outlined in the Kansas SEAC manual. Much of the work is directed through the Special Education Services team

The primary role of the council is as an advocate for achieving excellence, equity, and lifelong learning opportunities for all students in Kansas. As such, it is committed to representing individuals with diverse and changing educational needs. The role of advocate presupposes a sensitivity and responsiveness to these needs. This responsibility leads the SEAC to support the vision and mission of KSBE, the Division of Learning and Innovative Services (DLIS) and the Special Education Services (SES) team.

#### Vision

Schools will work with families and communities to prepare students with exceptionalities for success.

#### Mission

The Mission of the Kansas State Board of Education is to prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous academic instruction, 21st century career training, and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

#### **SEAC Goal**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advocate for an educational system that achieves excellence, equity, and lifelong learning for all individuals in Kansas.

#### **SEAC Beliefs**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council is committed to lifelong learning. SEAC believes that:

- Partnerships increase collaboration for better services.
- Visionary leadership is essential for appropriate services to meet the needs of all students.
- Innovation is essential to the process of lifelong learning.
- All child service systems must be provided in an integrated and collaborative manner.
- Education is an evolving process that requires innovation, continuous growth, and evaluation.
- The needs of individuals in a diverse community must be met.

# Council Membership

The 2011 – 2012 SEAC was composed of nineteen members and one non-voting ex-officio member, all of whom are concerned with the education of children and youth with exceptionalities and includes the state director of special education. Ten members of the council are individuals with disabilities or parents of children with exceptionalities. The 2011 - 2012 membership included:



# Special Education Advisory Council FY 2011-12

Council Member	Address	Representation	Board Region	Appointment Expires
uAnne Barron	Kansas School for the Deaf 450 E Park Street Olathe KS 66061 913-791-0513 text: 913 375 0477 Lbarron@kssdb.org	State Official *	3	June 2014 (2nd term)
Ferry Fehrenbach	ESSDACK/USD 312 Charter School Principal - Pleasantview Academy 5013 S. Dean Road Hutchinson, KS 67501 W 620-921-5569 H 620-694-7674 terryf@essdack.org	Public Charter Schools*	7	June 2014 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
anice Frahm	1553 County Road T Colby, KS 67701 785-462-7388 cell: 620-779-2884 jfrahm@st-tel.net	LEA Official *	5	June 2012 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
± Lesli Girard	Families Together, Inc. 501 SW Jackson Suite 400 Topeka, KS 66603 785-233-4777 cell: 785-608-7455 lesli@familiestogetherinc.org	Parent Training Center	4	June 2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> full term)
Bill Griffith	Southeast KS Education Service Center Lansing Correctional Facility PO Box 2, Mailbox 13 Lansing KS 66043 913-727-3235 ext 57521 bgriffith6@kc.rr.com	Adult Corrections	1	June 2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Penny Lawson Vice Chair)	823 West 5 <sup>th</sup> St. Larned, KS 67550 620-285-7364 phoffman@usd495.k12.ks.us	Juvenile Justice	5	June 2014 (2nd term)
arry Katzif	Director of Students & Community Dev. North Lindenwood Support Center 315 N. Lindenwood Olathe KS 66062 W 913-780-8201 C 913-530-7091 lkatzifnlsc@olatheschools.org	Homeless Children	3	June 2014 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer Past chair)	NKESC 703 West Second Oakley, KS 67748 785-672-3125 cell: 785-443-2479 kko@nkesc.org	Vocational, community or business organization concerned with provision of transition services *	5	June 2013 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Karen Kroh	Archdiocese of KCKCS 12615 Parallel Parkway Kansas City KS 66109 913-721-1570 cell: 913-669-1357 kkroh@archkekes.org	Private Schools	1	June 2013 (1 <sup>st</sup> full term)
Shawn Mackay	9555 W 123 <sup>rd</sup> St Overland Park KS 66213 913-993-7150 shawnmackay@smsd.org	Teacher *	2	June 2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

Council Member	Address	Representation	Board Region	Appointment Expires
Mike Martin	2009 Carline Road Girard KS 66743 620-231-7551 cell: 620-249-4793 mmartin@frontenac249.org	Parent of a child or person with a disability *	9	June 2012 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. Ann Matthews (Chair)	USD 437 Auburn-Washburn 5928 SW 53 <sup>rd</sup> Topeka, KS 66610-9451 W 785-339-4000 cell: 785-633-2316 matthann@usd437.net	Administrator of Exceptional Programs	4	June 2014 (2 <sup>st</sup> term)
Matthew Ramsey	Benedictine College 1020 N 2nd Street Atchison KS 66002 913-360-7387 mramsey@benedictine.edu	Related Services	1	June 2013 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Dr. Joan Robbins	USD 232 De Soto Director of Special Services 35200 W. 91 <sup>st</sup> Street De Soto, KS 66018 W 913-667-6208 H 913-226-1493 jrobbins@usd232.org	LEA Official *	3	June 2014 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Anne Roberts	KVC Behavioral Healthcare Inc. 21350 W 153 <sup>rd</sup> St Olathe, KS 66061 913-322-4900 x 4902 cell: 816-550-4596 aroberts@kvc.org	Foster Care Agency	3	June 2014 (2nd term)
Vicki Sharp	5209 W 68th Prairie Village, KS 66208 cell: 913-634-5330 lynn5209@gmail.com	Parent of a Child -with Giftedness *	2	June 2014 (2nd term)
Dr. Sean Smith	University of Kansas 1122 W Campus Road JRP 538 Lawrence, KS 66045 785-331-2974 cell: 785 979 6517 seanj@ku.edu	IHE Special Education *	4	June 2012 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
SueAnn Wanklyn	1461 20 <sup>th</sup> Road Frankfort KS 66427 Cell: 785-799-4531 swanklyn@yahoo.com	Parent of a child or person with a disability *	6	June 2014 (2nd term)
Bryan Wilson	USD 259 Wichita 201 N. Water Wichita KS 67202 316-973-4460 cell: 316-841-5515 bwilson@usd259.net	Local Education Official	8	June 2013 (1st term)
Deb Young	PRTF Program Director, Southeast KS Education Service Center 947 W HWY 47 Girard, KS 66062 913-780-7678 785-862-7840 deb.young@greenbush.org	Other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to exceptional children	9	June 2014 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

<sup>\*</sup> These representatives fulfill the majority requirement; persons who are individuals with a disability or parent of children with a disability and who may represent another required area.

Non-voting ex-officio member.

## Council Leadership

The officers for the 2011-2012 year were: Chair, Dr Ann Matthews; Vice-Chair, Penny Lawson. They were unanimously elected to fulfill the obligations of these positions at the April 2011 council meeting.

The 2011-2012 Executive Committee was comprised of: Chair, Dr. Ann Matthews; Vice-Chair, Penny Lawson; Past-Chair, Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer; Secretary, Colleen Riley. The executive committee coordinated prior to each SEAC meeting to establish the SEAC agenda.

### **Operational Standards**

The SEAC's 2011-2012 meeting schedule was as follows:

Meeting Date Location

July 27, 2011	Wichita Airport Hilton, Wichita KS	
September 13, 2011	KSDE – Satellite Room, Topeka KS	
November 10, 2011	KASB – KS Assoc. of School Boards, Topeka KS	
	(Combined SEAC and SICC meeting)	
December 16, 2011 <sup>†</sup>	Public Conference Call, Topeka KS	
January 10-11, 2012	KSDE, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl Conference Room, Topeka KS	
March 27, 2012 <sup>†</sup>	Public Conference Call, Topeka KS	
April 10, 2012 <sup>†</sup>	KSDE, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl Conference Room, Topeka KS	
April 18, 2012	KSDE, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl Conference Room, Topeka KS	
June, 2012 <sup>†</sup>	Public Conference Call, Topeka KS	

<sup>\*</sup>Specially Called Session

The Council must conduct a minimum of four regular meetings. The 2011-2012 year exceeded this standard by holding nine meetings, one of which was a two-day meeting.

Official minutes of the meetings were kept, reviewed at each following meeting for accuracy, and posted on the KSDE Special Education Services website at <a href="http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2466">http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2466</a>.

A public comment period was offered at each regular SEAC meeting, and written public comment was accepted throughout the year.

# Council Accomplishments

SEAC members represented the council at the annual Council for Exceptional Children Conference and annual Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Conference.

Appendix A provides a summary of the activities completed for the 2011-2012 school year by Priority Area.

#### Special Education Advisory Council Summary of Activities by Priority Area 2011-2012

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advocate for an educational system that achieves excellence, equity, and lifelong learning for students with exceptionalities in Kansas by:

- Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;
- Comment publicly on any rules and regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; and
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children and youth with exceptionalities.
- Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

Priority Area 1: Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children and youth with exceptionalities:

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
1.1 Increase awareness and understanding of provision of services from the public perspective	• Families Together • Public Comment • Written Testimony	07/11 Public comment forum.  11/11 Public comment forum.  Members received update from Families Together, Inc  12/11 Public comment forum.  01/12 Public comment forum.  Members received update from Families Together, Inc  03/12 Written testimony on ESI policy solicited from the public via email listservs, conference calls, and SEAC website.  04/18/12 Public Comment Forum

	Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
1.2	Promote the role of SEAC functions to the legislature, other advisory councils, committees, parents and organizations	<ul> <li>IEP Meetings</li> <li>Public forums</li> <li>Statewide projects</li> <li>Website</li> <li>Conferences</li> <li>TASN</li> <li>KDHE</li> <li>SICC</li> <li>KPIRC</li> <li>Families Together, Inc.</li> </ul>	Members received update from Families Together, Inc  Ongoing Continuously accepting public comment through SEAC website.  11/11 Joint meeting with SICC.  01/12 KSBE members attended annual KSBE/SEAC breakfast.  04/12 SEAC made recommendation on Emergency Safety Interventions, (including Seclusion and Restraint), to the Kansas State Board of Education.
1.3	Evaluate the working conditions of special education teachers in Kansas. Study relevant issues including licensure & endorsement and assist with dissemination of related information	<ul> <li>SPDG</li> <li>KSDE TEAL and SES teams</li> <li>E-Mentoring Project</li> <li>TASN</li> </ul>	01/12 Members were presented information on the E-Mentoring and National Mentor Network through the New Teacher Center.  Members received an up on TASN and information on how to request assistance through the TASN website.

Priority Area 2: Comment publicly on any <u>rules and regulations</u> proposed by the state regarding the education of children and youth with exceptionalities;

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
2.1 Study and provide comment on proposed federal and state laws and regulations and assist in implementation of changes.	<ul> <li>Personnel Report</li> <li>KSDE</li> <li>Testimony</li> <li>Public Comment</li> <li>Stakeholder Meetings</li> </ul>	A special session was called to consider and comment on the proposed movement of IDEA Part C Programming from KDHE to SRS. A quorum was present, and no action was taken.  01/12  Members received an update on the proposed move of IDEA Part C to SRS. While that action had been cancelled, the members felt it was necessary to go on record against such action in the future, and passed a motion to send a letter to the chair of the SICC stating the SEAC's belief that

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
		KSDE should be the lead agency for IDEA Part C.  Members received an update on a KSDE waiver request in response to OSEP penalizing Kansas for using IDEA funds for purposes other than Special Education.  Members received an update on the Kansas ESEA Flexibility Waiver request, and were asked to
2.2 Emergency Safety Interventions (including Seclusion and Restraint)	<ul> <li>KAN-DIS Data</li> <li>Personnel Reports</li> <li>Public Comment</li> <li>Stakeholder Meetings</li> <li>Disability Rights Center of Kansas</li> <li>Kansas Association of School Boards</li> <li>Families Together</li> <li>KPIRC</li> <li>Parents</li> </ul>	D1/12  Members received an update on the usage of Emergency Safety interventions, including seclusion and restraint, in Kansas. The update included information on the policies and strategies adopted by other states, and both historical and trending data on ESI use in Kansas.  O3/12  The chairperson convened a special session in order to respond to a directive from the KSBE to consider and draft a recommendation on Emergency Safety Interventions, (ESI), including Seclusion and Restraint, at the April State Board Meeting. Members were brought up to speed on the matter, and were asked to consider the matter and seek stakeholder feedback in preparation for a future meeting.  4/10/12  Members met for a special session to further deliberate on ESI recommendations to the State Board. Over 100 pages of testimony was reviewed, and after extensive discussion, the SEAC decided, in a unanimous vote, that Emergency Safety Intervention rules should be applied to all students, and not just students with exceptionalities. The SEAC then voted 10 to 1 to recommend to the State Board of Education that the SEAC drafted

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
		regulations be adopted at KSBE's
		April meeting.
		04/18/12 Members received an update on the Board's decision to pursue adoption of ESI regulations after additional revision by KSDE staff, and were told that future updates would be provided.

Priority Area 3: Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and <u>reporting on data</u> to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act;

	Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
3.1	Provide oversight of the implementation of federal and state special education laws and regulations to ensure Kansas has effective systems in place to monitor compliance and support improved achievement and outcomes for children & youth with exceptionalities	<ul> <li>Data for SPP Indicators</li> <li>Data and review of due process hearings, mediation and formal complaints</li> <li>Kansas Integrated         Accountability System (KIAS)         Data</li> <li>KAN-DIS</li> <li>KSSC</li> </ul>	07/11 Members received an update on IDEA 2004 reauthorization, and received an update on graduation rates, and students' rights to continue in high school beyond four years.  Members received information from KSSC on support for SPP indicators.  04/18/12 Members received the dispute resolution report, which included statistics on incidents, and briefs on select cases.
3.2	Assist in the dissemination of information in the area of early childhood and secondary transition to help ensure Kansas can demonstrate compliance with IDEA 2004 and regulations.	<ul><li>SICC</li><li>SEAC Members</li></ul>	11/12 Combined SEAC/SICC meeting held. Ongoing Members report back to constituency groups on the work conducted by the SEAC.
3.3	Analyze the data on the educational progress of students with exceptionalities and make recommendations to enhance their educational program, services, and achievement.	<ul> <li>Member reports</li> <li>Graduation/drop-out rates</li> <li>EC outcomes</li> <li>State Assessment Data</li> <li>Suspension/Expulsion Data</li> <li>ARP/SPP Data</li> <li>Post-secondary outcomes</li> <li>Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) Data</li> </ul>	07/11 Members received an update on graduation rates and IDEA/ESEA compatibility.

	Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
3.4	As stakeholders, assist in	EC IDEA SPP	11/11
	the interpretation of Kansas	<ul> <li>APR and SPP Data</li> </ul>	Members received update on early
	data in reporting to the		childhood indicator data. Members
	public and federal		discussed the ability to share Part
	government.		B and Part C data and whether
			there is duplication in the counts,
			and need to look at the relationship
			between this data and the Common
			Core Standards.
			04/18/12
			Members were informed the
			FFY2010 APR and SPP report had
			been revised and submitted.
			Kansas did not meet all indicators.
			Kansas did not meet LRE for
			separate settings, but is engaged in
			conversations to improve this.

Priority Area 4: Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in <u>Federal Monitoring</u> reports under Part B of the Act:

Area of Focus		Data Sources	Action Completed
4.1	As a result of the onsite	•	
	focused monitoring		
	conducted by OSEP,		
	Kansas had to make		
	changes to the KIAS in the		
	areas of secondary		
	transition and the review of		
	updated data as interpreted		
	by OSEP in Memo 09-02.		

Priority Area 5: Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the <u>coordination of services</u> for children and youth with exceptionalities.

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed	

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
5.1 Enhance school-family-community partnerships by encouraging and developing coordinated programs and/or services.	Presentation by KSSC Families Together KPIRC Family Voices	Action Completed  07/11  Members received information on Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) and Kansas Secondary Connections (KSSC) goal to increase Secondary student engagement in school through transition services and improved post-school outcomes.  11/11  Members received update on Families Together, including the Education Advocate Program, Parent Center Data, and Parent Training Information Center.  Members received information on what MTSS promotes.  Members learned KPIRC is putting together a brochure on bullying.  01/12  Members received an update of services offered and inquiries received from Families Together, Inc  04/18/12  Members received an update of services offered and inquiries received from Families Together, Inc. There was also additional discussion about what data SEAC would like Families together to provide in the future, including data on resolutions. Members also asked if there were themes or trends that have emerged in Families Together's work assisting parents. It was decided that a template would be created for reporting by

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
5.2 Improve communication & collaboration between SEAC & SICC Councils to enhance services to children & families in Kansas.	<ul> <li>SICC</li> <li>Families Together</li> <li>Family Voices</li> </ul>	11/11 SEAC and SICC held a joint meeting.  Members set a goal for the upcoming year to advise and assist the SICC and lead agencies to increase participation at local levels and to provide parent's perspective for family centered Part C to B transitions, and to collaborate with other SICC committees.  04/18/12 The SICC chairperson attended the regularly scheduled SEAC meeting.

Priority Area 6: Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

Area of Focus	Data Sources	Action Completed
Enhance education of eligible students with disabilities who have been	Member Reports	07/11 Members received update on monies received by correctional facilities and
convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.		services offered to students.  01/12
		Members received an update on graduation requirements for incarcerated youth and pending
		legislation that could change the requirements.

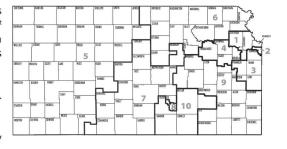


Great students. Great teachers. Great leaders. Great citizens.

The mission of the Kansas State Board of Education is to prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous academic instruction, 21st century career training, and character development according to each student's gifts and talents. To accomplish this mission the State Board has identified four goals. They are as follows:

- Provide a flexible delivery system to meet our students' changing needs.
- Provide an effective educator in every classroom.
- Ensure effective, visionary leaders in every school.
- Collaborate with families, communities, constituent groups, and policy partners.

Adopted 5/2011





Janet Waugh 715 N. 74<sup>th</sup> St. Kansas City, KS 66112 H (913) 287-5165; C (913) 620-5062 waugh1052@aol.com



• Kathy Martin 859 Valleyview Rd. Clay Center, KS 67432 H (785) 463-5463 martinkathy@yahoo.com



Sue Storm
 8145 Mackey
 Overland Park, KS 66204
 H (913) 642-3121
 sstorm717@aol.com



• Kenneth Willard 24 Dakota Dr. Hutchinson, KS 67502 H (620) 669-0498 kwillard@cox.net



John W. Bacon 14183 W. 157<sup>th</sup> Olathe, KS 66062 H (913) 660-0392 jwmsbacon@aol.com



Walt Chappell
 3165 N. Porter
 Wichita, KS 67204
 W (316) 838-7900
 chappellhq@chappell4ksboe.com



Carolyn L. Wims-Campbell Vice-Chair 3824 SE Illinois Ave. Topeka, KS 66609 H (785) 266-3798 campbell4kansasboe@verizon.net



Jana Shaver
113 Woodlane Dr.
Independence, KS 67301
H (620) 331-1452
janashaver@cableone.net



Sally Cauble
530 Lilac
Liberal, KS 67901
H (620) 624-6677
scauble@swko.net



David Dennis
 Chairman
 615 N. Rainbow Lake Rd.
 Wichita, KS 67235
 H (316) 729-1979; C (316) 650-0152
 dtdennis@swbell.net



Dr. Diane DeBacker Commissioner of Education 785-296-3202



Dale M. Dennis Deputy Commissioner Fiscal & Administrative Services 785-296-3871



Brad Neuenswander Deputy Commissioner Learning Services 785-296-2304