**Kansas Commission on Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery**
**Meeting Minutes**

November 15, 2010- Kansas National Guard Building, Topeka KS

**Commission members in attendance:**
Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker, Acting Secretary John Mitchell, Jessica Noble, Harriett Johnson, Senator Anthony Hensley, James Mireles, Jana Shaver, Malissa Martin-Wilke, Miriam Krehbiel, Nancy Keel, Tanya Keys, Nicolette Geisler, Christine Downey-Schmidt, Deputy Secretary Roger Haden, Acting Commissioner Casarona, Lt Col Mike Erwin, Denise Wren, Keil Eggers, Judge Tom Webb, Representative JoAnn Pottorff and Brian Black

**Support personnel, proxies and presenters:**
Julie Ford, Kathy Hund (for Secretary Thornton), Kevin Riemann (for Blake West), and Steve Williams

**Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Agenda:**

- Commissioner Dr. DeBacker welcomed everyone and introduced KDHE Acting Secretary John Mitchell. Special thanks to Lt Col Erwin and the Kansas National Guard for hosting today's meeting and to the Kansas Department of Labor for sponsoring today's lunch.

- Motion to approve minutes as presented moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Malissa Martin-Wilke. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adoption of Recommendations from Last Meeting:**

- Steve Williams, CCSR Facilitator, led the group in a review of the four recommendations from the 10-22-10 meeting. (Red indicates original recommendation) (Blue indicates adopted recommendation) (If no changes were made to the original recommendation, it will only appear in blue)

1. A State of Kansas diploma should be awarded to students who are under state custody and who have achieved the 21 required core credits. A State of Kansas diploma should be awarded to students who are under the custody of the Secretary of SRS or the Commissioner of JJA on or after their 17th birthday and who have achieved the minimum state credit requirements.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Representative Jo Ann Pottorff. Motion passed unanimously.

2. A State of Kansas diploma should be awarded to students who have documented instructional barriers and who have achieved the 21 required core credits. (This diploma should require an application to be approved by KSDE.) The Commission supports local district policies to award a diploma to students who have achieved the minimum state credit requirements (KAR 91-31-35).
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Brian Black and seconded by James Mireles. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Different diploma options should be developed for post-secondary education-bound and

career-bound students. In addition to the minimum state graduation requirements, the Commission recommends diploma endorsements be developed around the Kansas Career Clusters Model.

- Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Judge Tom Webb. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Every high school student should be tested on a nationally recognized college entrance exam (e.g., ASSET, COMPASS, Accuplacer, WorkKeys) prior to his/her sophomore year and again prior to his/her senior year to ensure that the student and his/her parents/guardians understand the student's readiness for postsecondary education, training, and/or employment.
    - Motion tabled until next Commission meeting to allow for additional consideration.

5. New Recommendation: The Commission recommends the Kansas State Board of Education review the differences between state and local district graduation requirements.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as presented moved by Judge Tom Webb and seconded by Representative JoAnn Pottorff. Motion passed unanimously.

**Small Group Work:**

- The large group divided into the following two small groups:

  Group One: Reviewing state and local policies around attendance, retention and promotion
    - Presentation and discussion led by: Jessica Noble, KSDE with input from James Mireles, Garden City High School and Denise Wren, Wichita Public Schools

  Group Two: Identifying opportunities for multi-sector collaboration
    - Discussion led by: Steve Williams, CCSR with input from Malissa Martin-Wilke, Communities In Schools of Kansas and Miriam Krehbiel, United Way of Greater Topeka

- Each group was given time to work on their topic before they reported out their recommendations to the large group.

- Group One Recommendations:
    - Stakeholders should participate with school districts in developing programs that provide an alternative to suspending students for attendance-related issues.
    - The Kansas State Department of Education should provide guidance on what constitutes an excused absence.
    - The Commission recommends that schools create an attendance council to identify students with chronic absences and create an action plan for addressing absenteeism.
    - Target and educate parents, community and school staff on the importance of regular attendance.
    - Students who are actively engaged in school activities are more likely to have regular attendance; therefore support should be given to continuing extra-curricular activities.

- Group Two Recommendations:

- The Commission's collaborative work should be continued under the format of the P-20 Council with the Council's membership broadened to include representatives from communities and other agencies.
- Identify and establish public/private sector partnerships.
- Look at established collaboration models that have been successful particularly involving rural areas.
- Provide the opportunity for every student in Kansas to take the Kansas Career Pipeline Assessment and be counseled about career opportunities that are available. Include representatives from the schools, community, business, industry, and agencies in the counseling process.
- Recommend and support the sharing of appropriate data across all agencies.

- Voting on these recommendations was postponed to the next meeting to give Commission members an opportunity to study the materials and reflect on the recommendations.

**Public Comment:**

- No public comments were made

**Closing Remarks:**

- Next meeting date: Dec. 10, 2010 at Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 540, Topeka KS 66612