

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 1998

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 1998, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams

Mildred McMillon

Mary Douglass Brown

Wanda Morrison

Kevin Gilmore

I.B. "Sonny" Rundell

Scott Hill

Mandy Specht

Linda Holloway

Bill Wagnon

Commissioner Tompkins invited Board members to a luncheon at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Gilmore asked for approval of the agenda. Dr. Abrams indicated he would like to pull item 12 f., accreditation waiver requests, from the consent agenda. Mrs. Holloway asked that items 12 s., concerning the school breakfast program, and 12 u., the summer food service program, be pulled. There being no further changes, Mr. Rundell, with a second by Dr. Abrams, moved that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Gilmore asked for approval of the minutes of the November meeting. Mr. Hill moved that the minutes be approved. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Dr. Freden, Assistant Commissioner, Learning Services, introduced Margie Hill, Chair of the Mathematics Curriculum Standards Writing Committee. Other committee members present included Pam Tipton, Betsy Wiens, Donna Drogge and Sarah Meadows. Ms. Hill reviewed the committee's work to date, including work on the development of additional indicators or modification of existing indicators for standards for grades K-8; redefinition of what students should know and be able to do at the seventh and tenth grades based on recommendations resulting from the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS); and incorporation of the application benchmarks and indicators into the content standards. Ms. Hill handed out a draft of examples of how one benchmark for a standard would be presented to include possible knowledge-based indicators for grades other than the grades assessed and how the application indicators would be incorporated, as well. Ms. Hill also summarized the scope of review by the field the current revisions had undergone to date. Board questions followed.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Gilmore opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 10:28 a.m. Mary Kay Culp, Lenexa, KS, Associate Director of Education for the Kansas Catholic Conference, addressed the Board regarding the effect of possible changes in the Kansas special law on non-public schools. Ann Stein, Shawnee Mission, KS, Legislative Chair of the Association for the Gifted, also expressed concern about possible changes in the special education law. Christy Levings, Topeka, KS, Vice President of KNEA presented information on new publications available from KNEA for staff development to address intimidation and harassment issues in schools. Chairman Gilmore declared the open forum closed at 10:43 a.m.

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QUALITY PERFORMANCE ACCREDITATION

Presentation on Results-Based Staff Development

Dr. Steve Adams, Team Leader, School Improvement and Accreditation introduced Kathy Boyer of the Department staff to give a presentation on results-based staff development (RBSD). Ms. Boyer reviewed the history of inservice education requirements in Kansas and what was currently being asked of schools as part

of the Quality Performance Accreditation process. She reported that results-based staff development was defined as what teachers can know, do and apply in order to address student needs identified by a school in its school improvement plan. She also reviewed the components of effective training strategies. Ms. Boyer responded to questions from the Board regarding funding sources available; what statutory requirements existed in Kansas; research which connected staff development and its effect on student scores; and how schools of education were included in improving professional development of teachers. Later in the meeting, Ms. Boyer provided the Board with research findings on staff development programs in Texas and Georgia. Dr. Freden also gave Board members copies of the Kansas Inservice Education Opportunities Act.

Proposed Revisions to Quality Performance Accreditation Regulations

Dr. Adams presented proposed revisions to Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) regulations that incorporated suggestions from the Board. He indicated that levels of proficiency for student performance on the state assessments had been added and suggested that if the Board felt those levels might change, they should be eliminated from regulation. Mr. Rundell, with a second by Mrs. Morrison, moved that the Board approve the submission of the revised QPA regulations to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General for review. Dr. Abrams noted a typographical error which substantially changed the limitation of time a person holding a Kansas teaching certificate could substitute teach in the same assignment for which they were not endorsed to teach. Mr. Hill moved that the motion be amended to correct the typographical error in 91-31-19 (b)(2) and to delete "results-based staff development" from the definitions contained in 91-31-16. Further, the definition should be added to the requirement for results-based staff development in regulation 91-31-18 (c)(1), which would read, "Each school shall include in its school improvement plan the areas targeted for improvement. These targeted areas shall reflect the state standards established by the state board. Each school improvement plan shall include a results-based staff development plan *which means staff instruction or training which focuses on the results of the instruction or training for individuals and schools*". Dr. Abrams seconded the motion and the motion to amend carried. The vote on the amended motion carried. Additional discussion followed on the issue of sanctions for schools not meeting accreditation requirements.

PRESENTATION

Greenlawn Elementary Charter School

Dr. Don Derrick, Superintendent for Greenlawn Elementary Charter School in Columbus, Kansas, was introduced to give a presentation on the school, which was the first to be granted a charter school petition. He reported on how the school differed as a charter school from its pre-charter status. Elements incorporated included a commitment to having students able to perform at grade level in reading, writing and arithmetic when exiting grade three. In addition to the strong emphasis on the three basic skills, character education had been incorporated into every grade level. The desire of parents for students to be self-reliant was also considered in developing the curriculum. Dr. Derrick indicated that attendance had improved at the school to a 99% level for one reporting period. Board questions followed. Asked by Dr. Wagon why it was felt the school needed charter status, Dr. Derrick responded that schools were asked to address many problems and that a waiver from providing sex education was symbolic of their desire to focus on the basic skills and that other statutorily required subjects were being addressed incidentally. Also present for the discussion were Judy Shoemaker, a teacher, and Laura Atkinson, a parent.

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The Board recessed for lunch at 12:28 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m.

KANSAS CHARTER SCHOOL PHASE II IMPLEMENTATION SUBGRANTS

Dr. Freden reviewed the funding cycle for charter schools and asked for approval of the Phase II subgrants. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that 1998-99 Kansas Charter School Phase II Implementation subgrants be approved as presented. The motion carried. It was recommended that charter schools make routine presentations to the Board on their progress.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000 Budget Appeal**

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis reported on the Board's request for restoration of funding which the Division of the Budget had proposed be reduced or eliminated. He noted that Chairman Gilmore and Mr. Hill had attended the appeal hearing before the Governor and Division of Budget personnel, along with Department staff.

Report on the Legislative Budget Committee

Mr. Dennis also reported on a request from the Legislative Budget Committee for data on special education funding to districts using an alternate funding formula proposed in 1994. The formula would eliminate the current special education formula and funding would become part of the weighting formula under the School District Finance and Quality Performance Act, with allowance for catastrophic state aid, 80% of transportation costs, extra aid to districts with a higher than average prevalence of special education students, and special teachers in state institutions. Mr. Dennis indicated he had been asked to provide the information to the Senate and House Education Committees early in the 1999 session. Mr. Dennis also reported on a request from the Legislative Budget Committee for suggestions on how a proposed \$750,000 mentoring program in 50 school districts could be implemented. Mr. Dennis presented a proposed response to the request for the Board to review. He noted he would be asking for Board action at the January meeting. Discussion followed.

Additionally, Mr. Dennis reported on a recommendation from the Special Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance that the state Employee Health Care Commission develop criteria for bringing school district employees into the state's health insurance program. He noted some school districts have no health insurance program.

Legislative Brochure

Chairman Gilmore asked that action be deferred until December 2nd on the legislative brochure in order to allow inclusion of language about compliance with federal special education law; retention of current auxiliary service levels for non-public schools; and continuation of gifted education.

The board took a short break at 2:40 p.m. and reconvened at 2:56 p.m.

STUDY SESSION

Current and Proposed Certification Regulations

Mr. Ken Bungert, Team Leader, Teacher Certification, reported that the subcommittee composed of Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Hill had met on certification issues and reviewed areas which still needed to be addressed as well as areas where there was agreement. Board discussion included criminal background checks and the possible need to include all district personnel; local performance evaluations and assessments and the need for the state to have reasonable assurance that a teacher is capable and able; developmental ranges for conditional license levels; and the framework for restricted certification being Page 4

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developed by the Regulations Committee of the Professional Standards Board. Endorsement areas were also discussed, including the desire to see special education endorsements revisited by the Professional Standards Board; the large number of administrative and vocational endorsements which could be eliminated; and endorsements for areas not commonly used. Mr. Hill asked for information on the numbers of individuals certified in the current endorsement areas. (Mr. Bungert provided this information later in the meeting.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Adams provided background information on the 12 f. 3), the request from Ingalls-Edison Academy, Wichita Public Schools, for a waiver to extend its Cycle I status until March 1, 1999, as requested by Dr. Abrams. He indicated the school had been under the impression it was exempt from QPA requirements and that no preparation for an accreditation site visit had been made and cooperation with Department staff was initially lacking. He noted that new leadership in the school had improved communication with the Department and was cooperating in every way possible to get the school back on schedule. Dr. Abrams stated a sternly worded letter from the Commissioner should be sent to Edison Corporation and/or the President of the local school board informing them of unacceptable practices at the school. Dr. Abrams asked that the item be voted on separately. Dr. Abrams asked that item 12 f. 4), a request for waiver of the QPA regulation prohibition on holding athletic practice during the school day received from USD 483 for the Axtell and Berns junior high schools be voted on separately. Mrs. Holloway reported that she had received answers to her questions about items 12 s. and 12 u., regarding criteria for school breakfast program waivers and guidelines for the summer food service program. Mrs. Holloway asked that references to research in items

requiring Board approval be footnoted and that back-up material be made available to the Board. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the consent agenda, with the exception of items 12 f. 3) and 12 f. 4), be approved. The motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the unclassified special project appointments of Nicole Clark as a Secretary I at a bi-weekly salary of \$638.40, and Carolyn Clement as an Education Program Consultant, at a bi-weekly salary of \$1,463.20, both on the Consolidated and Supplemental Programs Team, and Angela Barnes as a Secretary I on the School Improvement and Accreditation Team at a bi-weekly salary of \$638.40.
- Approved school construction plans for Maize, USD 266; Olathe, USD 233; West Franklin, USD 287 (2); North Central Kansas Technical College; Waconda, USD 272; Central College of McPherson; and Great Bend, USD 428.
- Received a draft of the 1999 year-long Board agenda.
- Approved Cycle I accredited status for USD 290 Ottawa: Garfield Elementary; USD 397 Centre: Centre Elementary and Centre Jr./Sr. High School; USD 329 Mill Creek Valley: Alma Grade School; USD 501 Topeka Public Schools: Linn Elementary and Lundgren Elementary; and USD 101 Erie-St. Paul: Erie Elementary and Erie High School.

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- Approved requests for waiver of state QPA regulations from: USD 259, Wichita Public Schools, to allow Jean Ann Parker to teach special education at the elementary level; The Learning Center of Harper to allow it to extend its Cycle II timeline for two years to enable it to gather more data for school improvement for its students and to align itself with its parent district, USD 361, Anthony-Harper; USD 493, Columbus, to adjust the Cycle II timelines for 3 schools and USD 506, Labette County, to allow both districts to adjust the Cycle II timelines for 3 schools to allow each district to work on one timeline and joint improvement plan;. Northeast Kansas Education Service Center to allow Debra Gary to teach gifted special education students at the high school level; Osawatomie State Hospital to allow John Gregory Sheehan to teach special education students in grades 3-12; and Sedgwick County Area Educational Services Interlocal Cooperative #618 to allow Susan C. Hamilton to teach middle school learning disabled special education students.
- Approved the inservice education plans for USD 260 Derby, USD 307 Ell-Saline, USD 368 Paola, USD 512 Shawnee Mission and the Kansas State School for the Blind.
- Approved the requests for a visiting scholar certificate from: USD 259 to allow Phillip Robel and Kyle Bolick to teach art to grades K-9 for the 1998-1999 school year; Southwest Kansas Service Center to teach behavior disorders, K-12, during the 1998-1999 school year
- Accepted the recommendations from the Professional Standards Board to adopt the revised *Institutional Handbook for Kansas Accreditation* and the *Institutional Handbook for Kansas Program*

Approval.

- Commercial Driver Training School licenses were issued for: Behind the Wheel Defensive Driving School, Wichita, KS; Cyr's Driving School, Wichita, KS; Drive Right School of Wichita, Wichita, KS; HyPlains Driving School, Inc., Scott City, KS; Kansas Driving School, Inc., Overland Park, KS; Little Apple Driving School, Inc., Manhattan, KS; Midstate Driving School, Greenleaf, KS; Midwest Driving School-Topeka, Topeka, KS; Midwest Driving School-Lawrence, Lawrence, KS; Royal Driving School, Salina, KS; Safety First Driving School, Liberal, KS; Swartz Driving Academy, Leavenworth, KS; Topeka Driving School, Topeka, KS; Twin City Driver Education, Overland Park, KS; Varsolona Driving School, Frontenac, KS; and Wichita Collegiate School, Wichita, KS.
- Certificates of Approval under the Kansas Proprietary School Act were issued to Metropolitan Kansas City Board of Realtors, Kansas City, MO; Midwestern Real Estate Institute, Leavenworth, KS; American Institute of Baking, Manhattan, KS; Becker CPA Review Corp., Wichita, KS; J.C. Nichols Academy, Overland Park, KS; and Wyoming Technical Institute, Laramie, WY.
- Approved an FY 1999 Teachers Internship and Project grant for: Larry Short at Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative and Pratt County Community College; Kaye Lynn Hoeme at Pleasant View Home and Hutchinson Community College; Lloyd Criffield at Willbrandt Construction and North Central Kansas Technical College; and Mike Cheney at Tescott Woodcrafters and North Central Kansas Technical College.
- Approved expansion of the Practical Nursing and Dental Assisting programs at Flint Hills Technical College.
- Extended accreditation to Highland Community College as an associate degree granting institution through the 2008-2009 year.

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- Received the Kansas Vocational Education Performance Report for Fiscal Year 1998.
- Issued orders to USD 205, Bluestem, Butler County, USD 222, Washington, Washington County, USD 288, Central Heights, Franklin County, USD 323, Rock Creek, Pottawatomie County, USD 381, Spearville, Ford County, and USD 420, Osage City, Osage County, granting them authority to hold an election on the question of the districts' general bond debt limitation.
- Approved the procedures and criteria for the 1999-2000 School Breakfast Program waivers.
- Approved Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Generation WHY grants in the amount of \$15,000 each to Atchison, Baldwin, Buhler, Central, Chase County, Dexter, Derby, Elkhart, Holton, Herington/TEEN, Inman, Jefferson County North, Lincoln, Marais Des Cygnes, McPherson, Norton, Paola, Royal Valley, Russell, Sedgwick, Smith Center, Ulysses, Wamego, Wathena, West Franklin and Wheatland; in the amount of \$30,000 for Derby; and for \$45,000 each to Hutchinson, Lawrence, Manhattan/Ogden, Topeka and Wichita.
- Received preliminary review of the management and administration plan for the Summer Food

Service Program.

Contracts Approved:

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to:

- negotiate and enter into a contract with the Kansas School Nurses Association to complete the *Guidelines for Students with Special Health Care Needs, Part II* manual and provide training and technical assistance to school nurses, local education agencies' personnel and families on school health services for students with special health care needs, with the contract amount not to exceed \$65,000; and
- continue a contract with Research Training Associates, Inc. to provide evaluation services for the Kansas Educate America Act program, with the contract amount not to exceed \$20,500.

WAIVER REQUESTS

Ingalls-Edison Academy

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the waiver request from Ingalls-Edison Academy for an extension of its QPA Cycle I year, be tabled until the January Board meeting. The motion failed. Mrs. Brown moved that the waiver request from Ingalls-Edison Academy for an extension of the QPA Cycle I year be denied. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried.

USD 488, Axtell-Bern

Dr. Adams indicated that the request for waiver of the QPA regulation prohibition on holding athletic practice during the school day received from USD 483 for the Axtell and Berns junior high schools, was an initial request. Mrs. Morrison, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, moved that the waiver request be approved. After Board discussion, the motion carried on a vote of 6-4.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Gilmore recessed the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Linda Holloway, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 1998

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. on Wednesday, December 2, 1998, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams

Mildred McMillon

Mary Douglass Brown

Wanda Morrison

Kevin Gilmore

I.B. "Sonny" Rundell

Scott Hill

Mandy Specht

Linda Holloway

Bill Wagnon

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Gilmore reported that item 7, approval of additional recommendations for writing types to be assessed, was not ready for discussion, and that action to approve the legislative brochure should be

substituted in its place. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

POSTSECONDARY ISSUES

Discussion of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education Structure for Excellence

Dr. Joe Birmingham, Assistant Commissioner for Lifelong Learning, reported that the organizational model for postsecondary education provided in materials to the Board was a subcommittee draft presented to the Task Force and that the subcommittee was continuing to work to turn the diagram into a written document which would be discussed at the December 17th Task Force meeting. Dr. Wagnon, a member of the Task Force, noted that the proposed Board of Postsecondary Education would strip away supervision of community colleges and area vocational technical schools and technical colleges from the State Board of Education to balance the role of the Board of Regents. He further noted the proposal was predicated on the assumption that the current level of State Board of Education supervision was inadequate and that perhaps neither the community colleges nor the area vocational technical schools had been able to get adequate representation through the State Board for legislative funding. Dr. Wagnon further stated that the Board should listen to and be guided by its constituents and that there appeared to be widespread anxiety among them about the changes being proposed.

Dr. Birmingham introduced Mrs. Sheila Frahm, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (KACCT), for comments on the community colleges' position on the Task Force proposals. Mrs. Frahm handed out several items to Board members for their review. These included copies of KACCT's testimony presented to the Task Force November 5th and the latest draft of the *Blueprint for the Future of Kansas Higher Education* developed by Regents institution and community college presidents. Mrs. Frahm discussed the role and mission of community colleges and expressed the concern that funding is seen as inadequate to accomplish the goals and allow the colleges to be responsive to business and industry and economic growth. She reported that the twelve items included in Part V of the *Blueprint*, which dealt with the state coordinating agency for local governing board institutions, addressed areas the KACCT felt needed attention. She noted that the items included functions currently being carried out by the Kansas State Board of Education with the exception of master planning, financial assistance programs, a student information gathering system, dispute resolution, and budgeting for all of higher education. Mrs. Frahm indicated areas of foremost concern for community colleges were coordination and advocacy for postsecondary education.

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Mr. Ken Clouse, President of the Kansas Association of Area Vocational Technical Schools and Technical Colleges discussed the Task Force work from the perspective of the area vocational technical schools (AVTS) and technical colleges. He spoke of the difficulty when dealing with oversight issues relating to the AVTSs because of their unique position of having some under the direct supervision of local boards of

education as part of the K-12 education system, and some under direct supervision of the State Board. Mr. Clouse indicated the AVTSs had been caught off guard by the twelve points contained in the *Blueprint* and that even though they could accept them, an alternate plan which would be more acceptable was one which had been proposed by Rep. Tim Emert and would create a secretary of education with oversight of three boards, one for regents, one for community colleges and one for AVTSs. He reported the AVTSs had no problem with the overall philosophy of the latest Task Force plan, but were opposed to the possibility of forced mergers and noted that there was strong ownership of the institutions by local boards and communities. Mr. Clouse stated that though the AVTSs would like funding for facilities improvement and expansion into new technology, they were not dissatisfied with their relationship with the State Board. The main difficulty seemed to be that KSBE was not focused solely on postsecondary education and there was a need in higher education for a unified voice and direction.

Dr. Abrams suggested a governance structure consisting of a coordinating board made up of three State Board members, three Regents, the House and Senate Education Committee Chairmen, and a representative of the Governor's office. He suggested that community colleges and AVTSs would report to the new coordinating board which would have the same type of authority as the Kansas State High School Activities Association and would be empowered to advocate and speak for higher education. Board discussion which followed included issues related to the effectiveness of the existing Joint Advisory Committee on Governance; whether a new coordinating board should be elected or appointed; how the State Board could strengthen its role as an advocate and voice for postsecondary education; and how best to address the proposal currently being examined by the Task Force. Additionally, it was suggested that the feasibility of Dr. Abrams proposal be examined.

Funding for Non-credit Hour Business and Industry Training Courses

Dr. Birmingham presented a draft proposal for a new non-credit hour training course approval and funding model which had been developed by a committee composed of representatives of area schools and technical colleges, community colleges and department staff. Dr. Birmingham noted that the heads of the constituent institutions had not yet had an opportunity to review the draft proposal, but he planned to bring a revised proposal to the Board at the January meeting. He also stated the need to revise the guidelines for customized training course approval recently approved by the Board. Dr. Birmingham indicated the funding model for business and industry training courses would be based on a formula using an average of the previous year's operating expense per instructional clock-hour. This average would be used to determine the amount of state aid revenue to the institutions as well as the amount for employee tuition to be paid by businesses and organizations. Dr. Birmingham also reviewed additional issues to be reviewed prior to the presentation of a final proposal.

The Board took a short break from 11:04 a.m. until 11:12 a.m.

APPLICATION FOR AN INITIAL TEACHING CERTIFICATE

Staff Attorney Kevin Ireland reviewed action taken by the Board at its November meeting on the application from Janet L. Weber for an initial teaching certificate. He noted the Board had adopted the findings of fact, but not the conclusions of the Professional Practices Commission and that it was necessary for the Board to

take final action on Ms. Weber's request for a certificate. Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the Board grant the application for a teaching certificate submitted by Janet L. Weber based on recommendations and findings of fact of the Professional Practices Commission.

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Following Board discussion, the motion failed. Mr. Hill, with a second by Mrs. Brown, moved that the Board deny the application for a teaching certificate submitted by Janet L. Weber based on the Board's long-standing position and the intent of the legislature to delay the issuance of a certificate for at least five years for any person convicted of a felony. However, Ms. Weber was encouraged to reapply to the Board for a teaching certificate when five years from the date of her conviction had passed. The motion carried.

Discussion of Revisions to Kansas Special Education Regulations

Ms. Carol Dermyer, Acting Team Leader for Student Support Services was available to answer Board questions regarding proposed changes in the state special education law which would be considered during the 1999 session of the legislature. Board concern was expressed about auxiliary services provided to non-public schools and members were assured those services were covered in a separate law that was not being addressed with the proposed legislation before them. Concern was also voiced about gifted education. Ms. Dermyer indicated no changes were included under the proposed statutes. Mr. Hill remarked that it was important to protect and support gifted education in the state in the development of special education rules and regulations. Ms. Dermyer also reviewed minor changes where the word *exceptionality* would be substituted for *disability*. Dr. Wagnon moved that the Board approve the proposed changes to the state statutes concerning special education for exceptional children. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE BROCHURE

Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. McMillon, that the legislative brochures with the additional language addressing compliance with federal special education law, retention of current auxiliary special education service levels for non-public schools, and continuation of gifted education, be approved and printed in a pleasing shade of purple. The motion carried.

SECOND GRADE READING DIAGNOSTIC TEST

Commissioner Tompkins presented a proposal to address concerns from the field about the second grade diagnostic test. The proposal included accepting annual reports from schools estimating the number of children reading at their instructional level. The Department would develop a list of suggested tests that address the state standards and require assurance from each school that the test or tests being used assess the state standards and that teachers had received training in their use. The Department would also provide

ongoing training opportunities throughout the state in best practices in diagnostic reading. Additionally, data would be reviewed by the accreditation team to see how the school had responded to assist students not reading at their instructional level. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the proposal be supported.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed a draft proposal for the a state technology infrastructure which had been developed by an advisory committee composed of knowledgeable individuals from school districts, service centers, consortiums and state agencies statewide who had met to create a design for connecting all schools. The proposal contained the recommendation that internet and data transfer services be available to all school districts within the next 18 months, with the Division of Information Services and Communications (DISC) providing those services as well as the necessary support. Additionally, full motion video service for those district with the necessary equipment would also be made available during the next 18 months, with the service provider yet to be determined. Long-distance, e-mail, web page support and additional technical support would also be available from DISC on a fee-for-services basis. An additional 25 schools, agencies and/or higher education institutions would utilize a connection that

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would provide a full range of services and be responsible for conducting research and development on delivery of a variety of instructional services to schools and classrooms. The research would form the foundation of recommendations by 2001-02 to provide a full range of services to all districts. Board discussion followed.

REPORTS

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles reviewed his written report of activities for the month of November. He also noted that he had been in contact with Ken Bungert, Team Leader of Teacher Certification, about the new certification test which was being validated. He indicated that it was good to have legal counsel involved early in the process in order to provide guidance for setting the cut scores. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for November be paid as presented. The motion carried.

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Tompkins noted that the assessment external review panel would be meeting in January; the Department would be conducting a test of its Y2K readiness in March; and a new Board member orientation had been scheduled for the afternoon of January 11th, prior to the Board meeting.

Other Board Reports

Mrs. Holloway reported that she had visited the Basehor-Linwood Charter School and the Lawrence Detention Day School during the last month.

Mrs. Brown reported she had obtained tapes of all the USD 259 meeting with assessment consultant, James Popham. Mrs. Brown also read a draft of a letter suggested by staff to be sent to the Center for Disease Control in support of its grant to NASBE for activities related to the Healthy Schools Network. After brief discussion, it was decided that a further draft would be prepared for additional review.

Retiring Board Members

Mrs. McMillon, Mrs. Specht and Mrs. Morrison made brief remarks about their tenure on the State Board of Education. They expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to serve and shared their hopes for future Board activities

Chairman

Chairman Gilmore shared prepared remarks (on file in the Board office) with the Board and thanked members for the opportunity to serve as Chairman. He reviewed Board accomplishments of the last two years, shared his vision for the future of the Kansas State Board of Education, and challenged members to do what was right for the people of Kansas.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Members reviewed the composite travel request. Mrs. Holloway moved, with a second by Mrs. Specht, that the travel requests be approved as presented. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Gilmore adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Linda Holloway, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary