Kansas Commission on Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery
Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2010- Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Room 530, Topeka KS 66612

Commission members in attendance:
Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker, Secretary Rod Bremby, Jessica Noble, Keil Eggers, Harriett Johnson, Senator Anthony Hensley, Blake West, Denise Wren, Donnovan Karber, James Mireles, Jana Shaver, Representative Barbara Ballard, Malissa Martin-Wilke, Miriam Krehbiel, Nancy Keel, Commissioner Russ Jennings, Tanya Keys, Lt. Col. Mike Erwin, Judge Tom Webb, Secretary Thornton and Nicolette Geisler

Support personnel, proxies and presenters:
Dianne Glass (for Christine Downey-Schmidt), Dr. Terry Rolfs (for Linda Kotich), Robin Harris, Susan Symons, Gayla Randel and Amy Delamaide

Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Agenda:

- Commissioner Dr. DeBacker and Secretary Bremby welcomed everyone. Introductions were made of all representatives. Amended versions of the directory were passed out. The Kansas Enrichment Network was thanked for sponsoring today's lunch.

- Motion to approve minutes as presented moved by Secretary Thornton and seconded by Blake West. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Recommendations from Last Meeting:

- Amy Delamaide, CCSR Facilitator, led the group in a review of the 12 recommendations from the 8-12-10 meeting. (Red indicates original recommendation) (Blue indicates adopted recommendation) (If no changes were made to the original recommendation, it will only appear in blue)

Recommendations from Group One: 21st Century Skills:

1. Statewide implementation of KSDE 21st century skills model.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as presented moved by Blake West and seconded by Denise Wren. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Support and foster For Youth, By Youth projects and initiatives in the classroom and beyond (Kansas Enrichment Network). Support and foster projects and initiatives in the classroom and beyond, such as For Youth, By Youth.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Blake West and seconded by Donnovan Karber. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Redesign school accreditation around 21st century skills. Redesign school accreditation to include a focus on the 21st century skills model.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Blake West and seconded by Denise Wren. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Redesign state assessments to emphasize performance based, curriculum embedded, higher order skills.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as presented moved by Blake West and seconded by Nancy Keel. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Focus professional development on 21st century skills (assumes modeled instruction for teachers). Focus professional development on the 21st century skills model.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Denise Wren and seconded Blake West. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Develop positive community and business relationships to support implementation of 21st century learning skills. Expand and enhance positive relationships among stakeholders, including but not limited to businesses, communities, educators, families and students, to support implementation of the 21st century skills model.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Nancy Keel and seconded Miriam Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Secure and provide resources and funding for technology and professional development. Ensure availability of technology and professional development necessary to implement the 21st century skills model.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded Blake West. Motion passed unanimously.

Recommendations from Group Two: Alternative Education Opportunities

1. Explore the possibility of funding schools on course completion rather than seat time.
    - This recommendation was referred to an upcoming small group that will focus on funding.

2. Inventory and identify all educational programs in Kansas that serve adults over 16 who lack a high school diploma or GED and research what, if any, improvements can be made to the service delivery model. Identify and inventory all educational programs in Kansas that serve adults 16 and over who lack a high school diploma or GED and research what, if any, improvements can be made to the service delivery models.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by James Mireles and seconded Keil Eggers. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Investigate whether Kansas can receive a waiver from the American Council in Education to allow for dual enrollment in high school and GED preparatory program. Investigate whether Kansas can receive a waiver from the American Council on Education to allow for dual enrollment in high school and GED testing.
    - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by James Mireles and seconded Denise Wren. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Explore how to align the GED and the high school diploma.
    - This recommendation was referred to an upcoming small group that will focus on graduation requirements.

5. Research the possibility of administering a universal test for graduation (i.e. student passes a test and can receive their diploma).
    - This recommendation was referred to an upcoming small group that will focus on graduation requirements.

Small Group Work:

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

  Group One: Reviewing state and local policies around discipline
    - Presentation and discussion led by: Jessica Noble, KSDE; James Mireles, Garden City High School and Denise Wren, Wichita Public Schools

  Group Two: Expanding the definition of structured learning time to include internships and work-study programs
    - Presentation and discussion led by: Robin Harris and Gayla Randel, KSDE and Susan Symons, Kansas Department of Commerce

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

- Group One Recommendations:
    - The state should provide additional guidance to local school districts in the development of their discipline policies. Specifically, the state should discourage local school districts from suspending students for attendance-related issues.
    - Implement a systemic approach to collecting and reviewing discipline data and evaluating the effectiveness of discipline procedures.
    - Support statewide implementation of MTSS model.
    - Districts should offer professional development in order to help staff work with students using developmentally and culturally appropriate strategies.
    - Schools should foster relationships with families and communities from birth through graduation.
    - Expand the definition of family engagement.

- Group Two Recommendations:
    - Include school-to-registered apprentice programs, internships and work and experience-based learning programs in "structured learning time".
    - Execute/implement policies set forth in Career and Technical Education policy initiatives of Kansas State Board of Education.
    - Launch a marketing and communication campaign to showcase the critical role of career and technical education and transforming the way education is delivered to all students and to underscore the positive economic impact it provides for individuals and our state.

- 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:

- Commissioner Dr. DeBacker thanked the Commission members for their continued hard work.

- Jessica Noble asked for volunteers to serve as editors as she begins to draft the Commission report. Malissa Martin-Wilke, Miriam Krehbiel, Blake West and Nicolette Geisler volunteered.

- Next meeting date: Oct. 22, 2010 at SRS Learning Center, 2600 SW East Circle Drive South, Room D, Topeka KS 66612.