

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES March 12, 2002

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rundell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2002, 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
Val DeFever
Sue Gamble
I.B. ?Sonny? Rundell

Carol Rupe
Bill Wagnon
Janet Waugh
Bruce Wyatt

Mr. Bacon arrived shortly after the meeting began, at 10:08. Mr. Voth was not present, but was representing the Board at a meeting of the Kansas State High School Activities Association Executive Board.

The Board stood for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Rundell asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. Gamble asked that item 14 h., petitions for two new charter schools, be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Wyatt asked that 14 j., a contract with the University of Kansas Center for Research and Learning, be pulled. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Rundell indicated he had a correction to make to the minutes of the February meeting. He noted he had left the meeting prior to the end of the executive session and Vice Chairman Waugh had adjourned the meeting. He asked for any other changes or correction. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. Waugh, that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried.

Mrs. Gamble asked for a point of privilege and expressed her appreciation for the Board's support of her request for the displays of art by Kansas school children in the Board Room. She also expressed her appreciation to staff for implementing her request.

STATUS REPORT ON BOARD GOALS

Dr. Tompkins reviewed his written report. He discussed the inflexibility in the federal law regarding the deadline for sending in school, district, and state report cards. He indicated Kansas would not meet the August requirement in the first year because the current system is set up to produce them in January. He reported the Department is working with the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation on parent reports for student assessment results. He reported that the current plan was to have the information available on a disc from which districts could print and disseminate the reports in May. Dr. Tompkins reported that Dr. Pochowski had been chosen as one of twenty-three individuals in the nation for the negotiated rulemaking for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and was attending a meeting in Washington, D.C. He also gave an update on the Graduation Requirements Taskforce; the status of the fingerprint background checks for applicants seeking initial teaching certificates; the Qualified Admissions issue regarding middle school algebra; and the schedule for the April Board meeting in Salina. He also indicated the 2000-01 Accountability Report had been printed and copies were included in the materials passed out to the Board prior to the meeting.

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UPDATE FROM COMPUTER INFORMATION AND COMPUTER SERVICES TEAM

Sal Tayani, Team Leader for the Computer Information and Computer Services Team, presented a brief review of the CICS Team's organization, goals and objectives, major projects, and educational technology initiatives in Kansas. The discussion that followed included agency internet security and whether there was a

need for assisting local school districts in developing policy options for the use of technology and associated security issues. Mr. Hal Gardner, Director of the KAN-Ed project was introduced, as was Mr. Larry Wheelles, responsible for the Kansas Academy of Leadership Technology. Mr. Wheelles reported on the first two academies that had been held. Mrs. Gamble reported she had attended one of the academies and hoped that at least three Board members would participate in the next one. Virtual classrooms and asynchronous learning opportunities were also discussed.

CITIZENS? OPEN FORUM

Chairman Rundell opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 10:40 a.m. Those addressing the Board were: Sen. Chris Steineger, Kansas City; Duane Whitbeck, representing early childhood programs at Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg; Brad Anderson, Salina, Rosie Riordan, Shawnee Mission, and Joyce Huser, Overland Park, representing the Kansas Art Education Association; Cynthia Bracker, representing University of Kansas music education students, Lawrence; Eva Horn, Early Childhood Education at the University of Kansas, Lawrence; and Mary DeLuccie, Early Childhood Education at Kansas State University, Manhattan. Chairman Rundell declared the open forum closed at 11:08 a.m.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING DIRECTOR OF THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Tompkins introduced Mrs. Kim Rasmussen, Department Education Program Consultant. She introduced Dr. Ramon Powers who was retiring at the end of the week after serving for fourteen years as the Director of the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) and as the Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Kansas. Mrs. Rasmussen outlined his many accomplishments and the contributions he has made to the teaching of Kansas History during his tenure. Among his accomplishments was the creation of a division of education within the State Historical Society to address the needs of school children and educators as it relates to Kansas history and the formation of a collaborative relationship with the Kansas State Department of Education to promote and support the teaching of Kansas history in the schools. This collaborative relationship included involvement by his staff in the writing of the state social studies standards, the teacher licensure standards for history, and as trainers for the state's Social Studies Academy. She reported that Dr. Powers had also endorsed a comprehensive plan for creating materials for the teaching of Kansas history based on state standards that addresses not only history, but reading and writing standards, as well. Dr. Powers spoke briefly of the pride he had in the relationship between the KSHS and the Department of Education and of his hope that the collaborative relationship would continue. He also spoke of his hope that a firm grounding in Kansas history education would instill in Kansas students a sense of place and connectedness that they could carry with them into the future. Chairman Rundell and Commissioner Tompkins stood for pictures with Dr. Powers and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

The Board took a break from 11:16 a.m. until 11:23 a.m.

BOARD REPORTS

Chairman

Chairman Rundell reported he had received a call for nominations for the three annual awards presented by NASBE to education leaders. He reported that he would like the support of the Board in nominating Mrs. DeFever for the NASBE Distinguished Service Award. Mrs. Waugh made a motion, with a second by Dr. Wagon, that the Board nominate Mrs. DeFever. The motion carried.

Chairman Rundell also asked for volunteers to read Byrd Scholarship applications. Dr. Wagon, Mrs. DeFever, Mr. Wyatt and Mrs. Gamble volunteered.

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Board Policy Committee

Dr. Abrams, Chair of the Board Policy Committee, reported that the Committee would be meeting in the near future to begin its review of the policies of Kansas State School for the Blind and Kansas State School for the Deaf.

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles reviewed his written report which contained an update on the Marsh employment termination; the state and federal school finance litigation; and the personal injury case arising from a pedestrian/vehicle accident involving a student at the School for the Deaf. Dr. Wagon moved, with a second by Mr. Wyatt, that Mr. Biles' fees for services for the month of February be approved for payment as submitted. The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Mrs. DeFever reviewed her recent activity with the legislature on behalf of the Board. She reported that there was discussion of a bill that would encourage school district mergers by offering financial incentives. She also reported that there was a school reform bill that had been proposed that mirrored the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation, but that with the budget deficit, there was no money for funding. Mr. Wyatt, Assistant Legislative Coordinator, reported that some legislators have begun to accept the need for the Board's budget

proposals and goals and had made a move to provide in the future for weighting for early childhood and extended learning opportunities. Mrs. DeFever reported that she had attended the NASBE Legislative conference and had met with the education staff of all the members of the Kansas Congressional delegation. She reported that there was a growing awareness at the federal level of the states' budget problems and how they would affect compliance with ESEA. She also noted that there was discussion of special education funding issues and the impact on it and possible over-identification issues because Title I has not been fully funded.

Other Board Member Reports

Mrs. Waugh reported that she had attended a Financial Fitness Workshop for high school seniors at Turner High School conducted by Carol Rupe and that she had been impressed with the content. She indicated it provided the kind of information it would be important for all students graduating from high school to have. She reported that in recent visits to schools in her districts a great deal of concern was expressed about what programs and staff will have to be cut because of the budget deficit. Mrs. Waugh also reported on her experience with Read Across America this year and how pleased she, and the students she read to, were with the book that had been donated by KNEA.

Dr. Wagnon reported he had attended a presentation of senior projects at Rock Creek High School in St. George. He reported that this was the first year for the projects, which have not been well received by parents in the district. He reported that many parents felt the projects put too much pressure on the students. He talked of needing to create a mindset that the students not only needed to learn the skills necessary to be successful with their projects, but also needed to learn that they are capable of learning them.

Carol Rupe reported on her attendance at a recent Early Childhood Stakeholders meeting. She noted that the feeling existed that the Board had done the right thing in its recent action to approve an early childhood endorsement level of birth through age eight, but there was almost universal concern at the universities about being able to provide the programs to support it because of funding difficulties. She stated the Board would need to monitor the situation carefully.

Mrs. DeFever reported on attending the NASBE Healthy Schools meeting in Washington. She indicated she would be sharing some of the information she had received with the Commissioner for distribution to the Board in upcoming Friday letters. She also reported on her Read Across America experience in Wichita and thanked Carol Rupe for the opportunity.

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Mrs. Gamble reported that she had attended the NASBE low-performing schools study group and that Kansas seemed to be working well ahead of some states in strategies being used to address the achievement gap. She also reported on creative approaches being used in other areas of the country.

BOARD MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Wagon requested that the Board investigate the need for assisting local school districts in developing policy options for the use of technology and associated security issues.

The board recessed for lunch at 11:45 a.m. to attend the Public Education Forum luncheon. They reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR SITE COUNCILS

Steve Adams, Team Leader for School Improvement and Accreditation, reported the results of a longitudinal study conducted in 2001 to determine the quality and degree of parental involvement on site councils in Kansas. He reported that the establishment of site councils was a part of the legislation that instituted QPA in 1992. Site councils were to provide advice and counsel in evaluating state, school district, and school site performance goals and objectives, and to determine the methods that should be employed at the school site to meet those goals and objectives. The recommended guidelines included the following considerations.

Recommendations regarding *membership* were 1) that local site councils be composed of at least six to twelve members, including the principal, teachers, other school personnel, parents of students attending the school, members of the business community and other community groups; 2) that they be representative of the demography the school serves, and on which community membership exceeds school staff membership with special attention given toward underrepresented groups; and 3) that there be local school board policies that clearly delineate site council member selection, rotation, terms of service, eligibility for service and selection of leadership.

Meetings should be 1) at regularly scheduled times agreed upon by site council members; 2) held at

least six times annually, but optimally once a month during the school year; and 3) with agendas that are limited to discussion of student learning, educational programs, school improvement planning, and accreditation issues.

Guidelines for the establishment of agendas, how the meetings are conducted, communication with the local board and community, council member training and other QPA related activities were also recommended. In the discussion that followed, how to include the effectiveness of the local site council as a factor in QPA was explored. How a site council communicated with its local board was also discussed.

REPORT ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES

Mrs. Kathy Boyer, Department Education Program Consultant for Staff Development, presented the "Kansas Professional Development Rubric for District/School Assessment" which had been developed as part of the Board's goal for improving teacher quality. The rubric was developed in order to meet the objective of designing models of high quality professional development and is intended to be used as a tool to identify model staff development practices. She reported that the Kansas rubric is based upon the National Staff Development Council Standards for Staff Development and provides a foundation for understanding what quality staff development entails. Mrs. Boyer reviewed some of the changes in how staff and professional development is viewed by educators as it has become more sophisticated, more results-based, and connected to the school improvement process. She reported that a staff development

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summit, co-sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, the Kansas Learning First Alliance, and the Kansas Staff Development Council, was held in October 2001 to bring teams of teachers, curriculum specialists, and administrators together to gather input on the proposed rubric. She indicated that the 100 participants from 29 districts represented the various school populations in Kansas. Each district team assessed their own professional development status using the twelve national standards. In addition to being a tool to identify high quality staff development models, Mrs. Boyer indicated that the rubric also helps to define the necessary school and district level structures, systems and processes that need to be in place to support the planning and implementation of effective staff and professional development practices. Mrs. Boyer reported that a Kansas Learning First Alliance subcommittee has continued to work with the data collected during the Summit. Additionally, a modification of the Kansas rubric will be used to survey administrators and teachers from schools who meet the Kansas Academic Standard of Excellence in one or more of the content areas. The survey results are intended to provide further information in the identification of model practices of high quality professional development in the state. After the Kansas rubric is introduced to other schools and districts from across the state at the Kansas Department of Education/Staff Development Council Conference in May, it will be disseminated to all schools and districts in Kansas for use as a tool in developing comprehensive staff development programs that result in improved student learning

and to begin identifying sites that model effective professional development practices.

The highest target set in the rubric regarding resources devoted to staff development at the district level was questioned and in the discussion that followed, Mrs. Boyer indicated that the goal of 25 percent of the educator's workday used for staff learning and 10 percent of a district's budget dedicated to staff development could include cost neutral job-embedded opportunities such as how the school day is organized and how much time is given to collaborative planning. How job-embedded opportunities would be assessed for the professional development points required for licensure was also questioned. Mrs. Boyer indicated that piloting the rubric would help refine the process. There was additional discussion about whether districts would be required by regulation to use the rubric as an assessment tool. Dr. Tompkins noted that the rubric had been developed to assist schools, not to create a tool with which to grade them. Dr. Abrams asked that it be clarified that the "Rubric for Kansas Professional Development" was a suggested assessment tool.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR REVISIONS TO TEACHER LICENSURE REGULATIONS

Dr. Martha Gage, Team Leader for Certification and Teacher Education, reviewed the changes that had been incorporated into proposed teacher licensure regulations. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, that a public hearing be set on the proposed amendments to teacher licensure regulations 91-1-200, 91-1-201, 91-1-202, 91-1-203, 91-1-204, 91-1-205, and 91-1-207; and proposed new regulations 91-1-212, 91-1-213 and 91-1-214 on June 11, 2002, at 1:30 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, in the Board Room of the State Education Building, 120 S.E. Tenth Avenue, Topeka. The motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis reported to the Board on the projected deficit in state general fund balances and the impact on the FY 2002 and FY 2003 state budgets. He indicated that the balance at the end of FY 2002 was predicted to be \$43.1 million, or 1 percent of the state budget, 6.5 percent less than required by law. Mr. Dennis also reported that further downward revisions would probably be made after a review of Social and Rehabilitation Services caseload projections. Mr. Dennis reviewed with the Board the House Appropriations Subcommittee's FY 2002 and FY 2003 budget recommendations as they compared to those made by the Governor and the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Areas where the subcommittee did not agree with one or both included general state aid for Parents as Teachers. There the subcommittee did not concur with the Ways and Means recommendations that the Governor's recommendation be reduced by \$500,000. The subcommittee concurred with the Ways and Means

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Committee's recommendation to reduce the Governor's recommendation for juvenile detentions facilities to reflect the reduction in base state aid per pupil; and added to the Governor's and Ways and Means recommendation for special education, bringing it up to 85.4% of excess cost. The subcommittee restored recommendations made by the Governor for \$500,000 for a grant for Reading Recovery; \$500,000 for school violence prevention; and a \$100,00 increase in the vision study grant. The subcommittee also concurred with the Governor and deleted \$205,000 recommended by Ways and Means to fully fund the state assessment program, essentially eliminating the social studies assessment in 2003.

Mr. Dennis gave a brief review of the status of education related legislation. He also handed out an interim report by Augenblick and Myers, Inc. on the study regarding what constitutes a suitable education. Mr. Dennis handed out a memo on revised state general fund estimates, and copies of a performance audit report on school district budgets, and a proposed budget format using the USD 501 budget as an example. Findings in the report discussed inconsistencies in the way budget items were reported or mis-categorized across districts, and how two state laws are causing districts to overstate or exclude reporting certain expenditures. Discussion concerned the performance audit recommendations and other strategies that would help district budget documents be more uniform for comparison and reporting purposes and be more understandable to the public. Mr. Dennis discussed the cost to the districts and the Department that would be associated with developing a budget method such as the one suggested in the post audit report. He suggested that there may be other ways to accomplish the same goal. He handed out an example developed by the Department to graphically illustrate district budgets. Mr. Bacon asked that it be made available on the Department's website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Gamble had pulled item 14 h., regarding petitions for two new Kansas charter schools. Dr. Freden, Team Leader of State and Federal Programs, shared information with the Board about the two, one in Stockton that would be an adult high school diploma program; and one in Augusta, designed as a drop-out prevention and recovery program aimed at the middle school population in the whole county. Mrs. Gamble thanked Dr. Freden for the information, but requested that the item be voted on separate from the rest of the consent agenda. Mr. Wyatt indicated that his questions regarding item 14 j. had been addressed. Carol Rupe moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the consent agenda be amended and approved without item 14 h. The motion carried.

Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the charter school petitions from USD 271, Stockton, and USD 402, Augusta, be approved as requested. The motion carried 7-2, with Mr. Wyatt and Mrs. Gamble voting ?no?. Mr. Wyatt indicated his ?no? vote was based on the fact that under current law the Board had no input on the criteria used to approve charters. Mrs. Gamble concurred.

In the consent agenda the Board:

? Received the monthly personnel report.

? Approved school construction plans for USD Wichita, 259 (3 projects); Ellsworth, USD 327; Blue Valley, USD 229; Oskaloosa, USD 341; Leavenworth, USD 453; Hugoton, USD 210; Ellinwood, USD 355; and Bluestem, USD 205.

? Approved accredited status for USD 237 Smith Center: Smith Center Elementary and Smith Center Junior/Senior High; USD 254 Medicine Lodge: Medicine Lodge High; USD 259 Wichita: Jardine/Edison Middle; USD 383 Manhattan: Theodore Roosevelt Elementary and Eugene Field Elementary; USD 464 Tonganoxie: Tonganoxie High; USD 512 Shawnee Mission: Oak Park Elementary, South Park Elementary, Crestview Elementary, Apache Elementary, and Hocker Grove Middle; and St. Paul Lutheran School (Haven).

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? Approved a request from Cherryvale Middle/High School, USD 447, for waiver of an accreditation regulation to extend the school's accreditation cycle by one year (until 2004) to coordinate its school improvement efforts with the other district school.

? Approved requests for waivers for individuals to serve outside their area of endorsement in districts as follows: *Behavior Disorders*: Ann Terry, USD 512, *Biology, Physiology, Phys Ed (extend days on e-sub)*: Linda Gobin, USD 496; *Business Education*: Darla Long, USD 243, and James McFarland, USD 351, *(extend days on e-sub)*; *Chemistry*: Terrance Nech, USD 238; *Early Childhood Special Education*: Sharon Skinner, USD 333, Melissa Wright, USD 336, Christi Oakley, USD 383, Melissa Wells, USD 490, Cynthia Houtwed, IL 605, Pat Dienst, IL 611, Liz Moore, IL 613, Donna Roberts, IL 613, Robin L. Olson, IL 610, and Dawn Jones, Mary Lippert, and Ronda Seiwert, Rainbows United; *Elementary (extend days on an e-sub)*: Kathy Baragary, USD 464, and Jayne Rucker, USD 496; *French*: Jon Melugin, USD 375; *Gifted Education*: Denise Hanson, USD 259, and

Jessica LaFollette, USD 500; *Interrelated Special Education*: Barbara McClain, USD 202, Jean Frank, USD 244, Linda Baty, Brad Culver, Stephen Hogan, Michele Loeb, Stacie Morris, Kimberly Ott-Steele, Terri Phillips, Gregory Plumlee, Steven Stoffregen, Michael Stovall, Karen Wichael, and Thelma Woerz, USD 259, Katherine Putman, USD 261, Deboran Young, USD 290, Sarah Geiger, Rachel Lehmann, and Kathleen Vernon, USD 305; Amy McCoy, USD 315, Janiece Sizemore and Lisa Wunderle, USD 333, Christine Kaempfe, USD 368, Jeff Warner, USD 379, Brian Kearn, USD 382, Nancy McAllister, USD 428, Lionel Giger II, USD 465, Kim Gibbs, USD 480, Nancy Lundy, USD 489, Greg Aytes, Barbara Dunn, Lisa Guerra, Erica Holland, David Miles, and Gayan Stanley, USD 501, Misty Kuhn, Milton Moore, and Michelle Wood, IL 605, Andrea Bevis, Linda Crist, and Jennifer Eitel, IL 611, Carla Arvidson and Kathy Gemaehlich, IL 613, Linda Miller, IL 616, Scott Miller, IL 617, Janna Shuck, IL 620, and Emily Blank and Cheryl Hardy, IL 636; *Learning Disabilities*: Sherri Bertrand, USD 333, Teresa Barnes and Paula Smith, USD 500, and Donna McMillen and Joel Varndell, USD 603; *Library Media Specialist*: Amber Hardacre, USD 238, Julia Tempelmeyer, USD 390, Linda Donelson, USD 416, and Sandy Arnold, USD 419; *Mathematics*: Natalea Hoeper, USD 246; *Mentally Retarded*: Julie Westmacott, IL 613; *Social Studies*: Christi Bolton, USD 394; and *Spanish (extend days on an e-sub)*: Michael Patterson, USD 436.

? Approved local inservice education plans from Anthony-Harper USD 361, Haysville USD 261, Argonia USD 359, Elkhart USD 218, Galena USD 499, Rose Hill USD 394, Moundridge USD 423, and Iuka Center for Excellence in Education.

? Accepted the recommendations of the Certification Review Committee in cases 1942, 1950-1951, 1953-1956 and 1960-1961.

? Approved the modification of the McPherson County Special Education Cooperative Agreement. As requested.

? Approved a Carl Perkins Statewide Leadership Grant to Arkansas City Schools in the amount of \$43,288 to improve the Arkansas City Agricultural Education Facility to provide a state-wide model and to provide local students and adults with work-based skills to succeed in their community.

? Approved increases in Parents as Teachers awards as follows: USD 209, Moscow, \$954; USD 216, Deerfield, \$5,000; USD 321, Kaw Valley Schools, \$6,667; USD 382, Pratt/USD 438, Skyline, \$1,300; USD 469, Lansing, \$62; and USD 470, Arkansas City, \$6,923; and approved reductions in the amount of \$5,157 for Northwest Kansas Education Service Center and \$17,794 for Northeast

Kansas Education Service Center.

? Issued an order granting the applications from USD 232, DeSoto, USD 395, LaCrosse, USD 417, Council Grove, USD 460, Hesston, and USD 466, Scott County, for authority to hold elections on the question of issuing bonds over the school districts? bond debt limitation.

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Contracts Approved

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to:

? to continue the contract with the Center for Research and Learning, University of Kansas, to implement a statewide professional development plan using an electronic format, in an amount not to exceed \$60,191;

? to continue the contract with the Front Range Community College of Denver, Colorado to provide post-secondary training for nine educational interpreters, who are employed in Kansas public schools, in an amount not to excess contract is \$120,000; and

?

? to enter into a contract with Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center, as part of a consortium of states, to collaboratively establish and maintain a regional assessment system (RAS) for educational interpreters, in a contract amount not to exceed \$36,250.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Members reviewed the composite travel request. Dr. Abrams, Carol Rupe, and Mr. Bacon asked that the Enhancing Teaching Quality Seminar scheduled for April 25th be added to their requests. Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Carol Rupe, that the travel requests be approved as amended. The motion carried. Discussion followed about self-monitoring of the Board travel budget.

The Board took a break from 4:20 to 4:30 p.m.

BOARD DISCUSSION ON SYSTEM REDESIGN

As part of the State Board of Education's continued focus on the third goal, to "redesign Kansas schools and learning environments for a new century," the Board held a discussion about system redesign. The question used to guide the discussion was: "What changes need to be made in our schools to ensure every student learns the knowledge and skills needed to be successful?". Members shared ideas about changes that might be necessary at the elementary and secondary levels, as well as system changes. Commissioner Tompkins recorded Board suggestions and distributed a written copy to the Board on Wednesday. At the conclusion of the discussion, a retreat on the Monday prior to the May Board meeting for further discussion of future educational delivery systems was proposed. This would allow members to complete their regional forums and gather input from their districts.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Rundell adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

I.B. Rundell, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary

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Meetings at the Special Schools

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KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Annual Visit

Board members Chairman Rundell, Vice Chairman Waugh, Dr. Abrams, Carol Rupe, Mrs. Gamble, Dr. Wagnon, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Wyatt, gathered with staff of the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) in the student cafeteria at 9:00 a.m. for the Board's annual visit. Superintendent Daugherty began the presentations by introducing members of the Kansas School for the Blind Foundation and Advisory Board who were present. He also reviewed the KSSB quarterly report and answered questions.

KSSB/KSSD TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE

Superintendent Daugherty reviewed the request for KSSB and the Kansas School for the Deaf to have separate salary schedules, noting that it would allow more flexibility to increase funding for teacher pay when their budgets allow. He indicated it would also allow the schools to design pay scales that spread the available funding over the faculty in a way that best meets each school's need to attract teachers, hold onto teachers or reward teachers with long tenure. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. Gamble, that KSSB and KSSD be allowed to develop separate salary schedules. The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

The Board heard presentations that highlighted areas covered in the quarterly report. The presentations included updates from KSSB staff on the KSSB assistive technology program; Students Training in Real-Life Skills (STARS) program; career education, transition planning issues and mentoring; QPA; and statewide outreach activities. In addition to the STARS update, the Board was entertained by the students in the program who shared a song they had written with KSSB music teacher, Della Molloy, that illustrated the functional academics, daily living skills, and vocational skills that are the focus for students in the program. Transition services staff discussed many of the issues that need to be addressed and skills that need to be learned for students to have a successful transition into the world of work or into additional postsecondary learning opportunities. Key factors contributing to high unemployment in the adult blind population on which strategies are being focused include poor social skills, lack of early work experience, inadequate self-help skills, poor travel skills, and self-concepts that are inconsistent with the realities of the workplace. Strategies include mobility training; helping parents to develop realistic expectations and goals for their children; and assessing what skill deficits exist that need to be addressed on an individual basis. In addition, a third QPA target area was being added to Cycle III to address student problems with poor study and organizational skills. How essential it is to begin to address social skills, self-help skills and mobility skills in early childhood was discussed by staff members and the Board. Mr. Daugherty reported that KSSB had made overtures to Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to develop a partnership arrangement to help families with visually impaired infants and young children. He noted that, to date, the school had been unsuccessful in developing a working relationship with SRS for early intervention activities. Also discussed was the lack of teachers statewide for the visually impaired. It was noted that one-third of the current teaching pool will be retiring in the next few years and that the number being trained in Kansas postsecondary institutions would not be adequate to meet future needs.

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ACCESSIBLE ARTS AWARDS

Mr. Daugherty introduced Martin English, Executive Director, Accessible Arts, Inc., who welcomed participants and thanked the State Board of Education for its support of Accessible Arts, Inc. Mr. English introduced Bob Ault, and Chairman Rundell presented him with the 2001 AAI Distinguished Service Award in Arts and Disabilities. Chairman Rundell presented Lanell Finneran with the 2001 Educator of the Year in the Arts and Disabilities Award. Each recipient made brief remarks. At the conclusion of the presentations the Board had lunch with KSSB students and staff before traveling to Olathe for the annual visit at the Kansas State School for the Deaf.

KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Annual Visit

State Board members Rundell, Abrams, Gamble, Rupe, Waugh, Wyatt and Bacon met at 1:00 p.m. at the Deaf Culture Center for the Kansas State School for the Deaf annual visit. Superintendent Robert Maile welcomed Board members and introduced Ken Clark, Director of the Deaf Culture Center and the Marra Museum. Mr. Clark brought the Board up to date on the how the idea for the culture center and the museum came about, its current status and plans for the future.

Mr. Maile reviewed highlights of the quarterly report. Julie Theel, Service Learning Coordinator, updated the Board on the school's new service learning program. In its first year of implementation, seniors are required to perform a total of 26 hours of service, thirteen on campus and thirteen in the community, as one of the prerequisites for graduation. She reviewed types of projects the students had undertaken and noted that it was hoped the program could be expanded to other grade levels.

Three elementary students, Tiffany Dykes, Adriana Gonzales and Andrea Magathan recited poems they had written on what deafness meant to them. Their recitations were followed by a presentation and demonstration of the new Shared Reading program being implemented to help parents of deaf or hard of hearing children read to their children using sign language.

Presentations were made on current language issues, including bilingual education, and the pros and cons of cochlear implants. The Board also heard a report on outreach activities including the Deaf Mentor Program, being piloted during the 2001-2002 school year, on an early childhood home intervention model for bilingual and bicultural education for families with deaf or heard of hearing young children.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

I.B. Rundell, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary