

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 1997, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

ROLL CALL

All members were present:

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 AGENDA

Chairman Gilmore asked for any changes in the proposed agenda. Dr. Abrams asked that item 15 n., concerning Educational Excellence grants, be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Hill also wanted further information on item 15 n. Mrs. Brown asked that item 15 q., concerning a request for a waiver of the driver education regulation, be pulled from the Consent Agenda. There being no further changes, Mrs. Brown moved approval of the agenda as amended. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Gilmore asked for approval of the minutes. After a typographical error was noted in the meeting date on the first page of the minutes for October 8, 1997, Dr. Abrams moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried.

EXTERNAL REVIEWERS FOR CURRICULUM STANDARDS

Assistant Commissioner Freden gave a report on staff progress in contracting with potential external curriculum standards reviewers. A request for proposals (RFP) had been prepared according to Board criteria for revision of standards and several groups had been contacted to determine their interest in receiving the RFP. Dr. Freden noted the advantages of contracting with a single group in order to adhere to the tight timeline for completion of the work and indicated the Board would act on selection of the contractor at the December Board meeting with the contractor's recommendations due back to the Board in April. The groups contacted were Council of Basic Education, North Central Regional Education Laboratory (NCREL), Mid-continent Regional Education Laboratory (McREL), the Fordham Foundation, the American Federation of Teachers, and Achieve, Inc. Dr. Freden reviewed the background and content of the RFP and asked Board members for suggestions about other groups to contact. Chairman Gilmore suggested that the consultants present at the August Board retreat be contacted for their recommendations.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Mr. Lanny Gaston, Personnel Director, introduced new Kansas Department of Education staff. Those present were Dennis Hasson, Education Program Consultant, Student Support Services Team, Linda Spaulding, Office Assistant III, Technical Education Team, Carla Koelzer, Secretary I, Student Support Services Team, Irene Storrer, FHA/HERO Education Program Consultant, Technical Education Team, Angela Funk, Secretary II, Certification and Teacher Education, and Gary Vinson, Systems Software Programmer/Analyst II, Computer Information and Communications Services.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Proposed 1998 Kansas Education Legislation:

Special Education Legislation

Department of Education General Counsel, Rod Bieker, reviewed the need for legislation to amend Kansas law to conform to recent amendments to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. After discussion, the Board agreed to recommend that legislation be drafted to address the needed changes and that the Kansas Department of Education's legislative recommendations include a request for an interim study of the fairness and adequacy of special education funding.

Proprietary School Act

Mr. Bieker reviewed the need to update the Kansas Proprietary School Act which was originally enacted in 1971. After discussion, the Board agreed to continue its endorsement of HB 2004 (1997) which contained the changes in the law recommended by the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission.

State General Fund

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis reviewed projected FY 1998 state general fund balances based on increases over projected estimates for FY 1997 and 1998 and a corporate income tax windfall from a Western Resources stock sale. He indicated a conservative estimate for the end of FY 1998 would be \$266.2 million over original estimates and that this year would be a favorable time for positive legislative action on behalf of the state's schools.

Charter Schools

Mr. Hill reviewed with the Board a proposal for Opportunity Charters he had handed out to Board members. He proposed that an additional ten charter schools in Kansas be authorized, raising the number to twenty-five. This expansion in the number of schools would be for schools performing in the lower third on state assessments and having seen little or no improvement in scores over the past five years. To be eligible for consideration, a school would have to have support of the charter concept by sixty-five percent of the staff or fifty-five percent of the patrons of the school. Applications would be evaluated on instructional merit. Discussion followed concerning local board approval for the additional charter school applications and the need for innovative programs.

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Chairman Gilmore opened the Citizen's Open Forum at 11:12 a.m. One person addressed the Board:

Marceta Reilly, Chair of the Communication Arts Curricular Standards Committee, advised the Board of the work and timeline for her committee's review and revision of Kansas standards in this area.

The proposed revised standards would go to schools by January 19, 1998. The committee would review them in light of suggestions and comments from schools at its February 10th meeting and a public hearing would be set for sometime in March, 1998. Chairman Gilmore thanked Ms. Reilly for reporting to the Board and offered her the opportunity to be put on the agenda to report further on the committee's activity. Ms. Reilly indicated she would like to report at the December Board meeting.

Chairman Gilmore closed the forum at 11:18 and called a brief recess.

Charter Schools (continued)

Discussion continued on Mr. Hill's charter school proposal with the Board unable to reach consensus on the issue of by-passing local school boards to apply for a charter.

Transportation Mileage Limitation

The Board discussed the proposal to lower the transportation mileage limitation for students eligible for

transportation state aid. It was noted that some schools districts already transport students who live less than the state limitation of 2.5 miles and fund it out of instructional dollars. Several changes in the proposal were discussed and it was the consensus of the Board that the transportation mileage limitation legislative proposal with a .5 mile per year drop in limitation distance from 2.5 miles to 1 mile be approved. Chairman Gilmore asked that language be drafted that would add an exemption from the limitation when transportation was deemed necessary for safety reasons.

Proposed Community College State Aid Plan

Deputy Commissioner Dennis handed out a community college state aid plan being discussed by the Special Committee on Community Colleges. The proposal would eliminate out-district tuition; move the local mill levy rate to 15 mills; and retain out-district state aid. The formula was based on funding from the general fund, vocational education and community college funds. The budget is now funded by state aid at twenty-six percent and this aid would increase to thirty-nine percent. The overall budget would increase seven percent over actual expenditures over two years. Board discussion followed and Mr. Dennis noted the proposal was very different from the Kansas Department of Education recommendations. It was stressed that Board members should attend the remaining meetings of the Interim Committee on Community Colleges. The Board expressed no objections when asked if they supported the proposal.

1998 and 1999 Budget Recommendations

Mr. Dennis reported that the Governor's proposed budgets for KSDE, KSSB and KSSD would not be available to the Department until November 7, 1998. The Department and the Board would have the opportunity to appeal the cuts to the Governor on November 18, 1998. Chairman Gilmore and Mr. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, indicated they would be present for the appeal meeting with the Governor.

Mr. Dennis reviewed the dates of the next meetings of the Special Committee on Community Colleges, the Legislative Educational Planning Committee and the Special Committee on Education.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:35 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - Motorcycle Safety Courses and Drivers Education K.A.R. 91-5-14

The Board reconvened at 1:35 p.m. and opened the public hearing on K.A.R. 91-5-14 which specifies the requirements for approval of motorcycle safety courses and advanced drivers education. Sixteen persons addressed the Board: Tracy Franklin, ABATE of Kansas, District 11; Virgil E. Martin II S.M.A.R.T., Inc., MSF; E.J. Bock; Jeanie Christenberry, S.M.A.R.T., Inc.; Rose Cook, S.M.A.R.T., Inc., ABATE of Kansas, District 8; Connie Gillespie, ABATE of Kansas, District 8; Ron Hennenburg, S.M.A.R.T., Inc.; Rick Shipman, S.M.A.R.T., Inc.; Terry Weldin, USD 244; Sandra Spencer, USD 259; Barbara Oldham, MSF; Carry Catchpole, ABATE of Kansas, District 4; Anna I. Barker, ABATE of Kansas, District 15; Bill Thompson, ABATE of Kansas, District 8; Steve Christenberry, S.M.A.R.T.,

Inc.; and David Chall, Topeka Harley Davidson. Additionally, prior to the hearing, written testimony was received from Patty Mills, Board of Trustees, American Motorcycle Association, and the national headquarters of the American Motorcycle Association. Chairman Gilmore closed the hearing at 2:00 p. m.

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL CERTIFICATION REVIEW COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Mr. Ken Bungert, Team Leader, Certification and Accreditation, presented a list of suggested nominees to fill the position of building administrator on the Certification Review Committee. Mrs. McMillon nominated Cathryn Grube with a second by Mrs. Specht. There being no further nominations, Cathryn Grube was appointed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Bungert presented a list of suggested nominees to fill the position of classroom teacher on the Certification Review Committee. Mrs. Morrison nominated Nanci Dain with a second by Mrs. Specht. Mrs. Brown nominated Judy Park with a second by Mrs. Holloway. A vote was taken by signed ballot with no majority. Nanci Dain received the majority of the votes on a second signed ballot. Wanda Morrison moved that the Board appoint Nanci Dain to the Certification Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Specht and the motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Hill, that the State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of the Professional Practices Commission and they approve the recommendations of the Commission in case numbers 97-FC-02, 97-FC-03 and 97-FC-04, concerning Matthew Fenwick, Bobby Stroud and James Moore, respectively. The motion carried unanimously.

VISITING SCHOLAR CERTIFICATION

Mr. Bungert reviewed revisions made at the request of the Board to the Visiting Scholar certification application and position statement. Board questions and discussion followed. Mr. Hill moved with a second by Mrs. Specht, that the Board approve the revisions in the application form and position statement for the Visiting Scholar Certification. The motion carried.

RECOGNITIONS

Vocational Student Award Winners

Ms. Merlyne Hines-Starr presented Kansas vocational students who were gold medal winners in national skills contests. Ms. Hines-Starr also introduced adult sponsors of the groups. Chairman Gilmore presented each student with a certificate commending them for their outstanding achievement.

Business Professionals of America - BPA

BPA gold medal winners were Kristy Falk, Northeast Kansas AVS, for Postsecondary Verbal Communications, and Kathy Higbee, Pratt Community College, for Postsecondary Medical Concepts. Also recognized were BPA national officers: Karen Wilks, Wichita Area Technical College, elected Postsecondary National Executive Vice President, and Amanda Jones, Columbus High School, elected Secondary National President.

Future Business Leaders of America - FBLA

FBLA gold medal winners present were Scott Roney, Abilene High School, for Entrepreneurship; and Cristina Smith, Annie Wampler, Nickie Perry and Kristy Bertels, Oskaloosa High School, for American Enterprise Project. Jill Kirk, Jackson Heights High School, recognized as the FBLA National Vice President, was unable to be present. Other gold medal winners unable to attend were Matt Rassette and Angela Lyons, Abilene High School, and Shawna Dennett from Oskaloosa High School.

Future Homemakers of America - FHA

FHA gold medal winners present were Kristen Thorsell and Becky Boggs, Wamego High School, for Jr. Applied Technology; Nate Bihlmaier and Dennis Bohm, Osborne High School, for Sr. Applied Technology; April Clayton and Jacque Thompson, Osborne High School, for Jr. Chapter Service Project Display; April Thetford and Tracy Moran, Mission Valley High School, for Sr. Chapter Service Project Manual; Jill Hadley and Laurie Kendig, Osborne High School, Sr. Chapter Showcase Display; Jessica Burns and Jessica Dietrich, Wamego High School, Jr. Chapter Showcase Manual; Carolyn Mick and Brock Nichols, Osborne High School, Sr. Focus on Children; Celaine Bloomer, Osborne High School, Sr. Illustrated Talk; Amy Doane, Beth Koops and Megan Ozlar, Downs High School, Sr. Interpersonal Communications; Theresa Vopata, Wabaunsee High School, Jr. Job Interview; Tiffany Grieve and Katie Reinert, Osborne High School, Jr. Skills for Life; Dawn Kramer, Jefferson West High School, Sr. Skills for Life; Shala Bloomberg, Amy Giersch, Chelsie Schwarz, Rachel Smith, Brooke Swisher, Jami Torske and Michelle Wilson, Southeast of Saline High School, Jr. Parliamentary Procedure; Katrina Korb and Courtney St. Clair, Tonganoxie High School, Sr. Parliamentary Procedure; and Jasey Harrold and Jiana Wilson, Ulysses High School, Sr. Manual.

In addition, Angie Schultze, Amber Geist, Kristie Hartzler and Chris Brubeck, Osborne High School; Tonya Jacobs, Leslie Miller and Amy Soyez from Goessel High School; Megan Bretthauer, Kate Cronemeyer, Chloe Downey, Megan Gripka, Lindsay Novotney and Jocelyn Wakeman, Tonganoxie High School; and Jamie Fink, Amy Reed, Tracy Sierman, Lacey Palmer, Dana Sims and Alanna Sharp from Fredonia High School, all FHA gold star winners, were unable to attend.

After all introductions were made, the Board recessed for a short reception with the students and their sponsors.

REDESIGN OF LICENSURE OF KANSAS EDUCATORS PROJECT

Dr. Karen Gallagher, Chair of the Professional Standards Advisory Board, and Dr. Barbara Palmer, Professional Standards Board member representing Special Education Administrators, were present for the discussion of educator licensure redesign. The five issues presented for Board discussion were: 1) What concerns exist regarding non-categorical special education versus the current categorical special education preparation? 2) What concerns exist regarding the four levels of licensure? 3) What changes or issues, if any, should be referred to the Professional Standards Board? 4) What issues or concerns exist regarding the elimination of dual licensure requirements for school nurses, social workers, speech pathologists and audiologists? and 5) What concerns exist regarding vocational certification at the middle school, high school and post-secondary levels?

The Board had no questions regarding the issue of categorical versus non-categorical special education preparation. The issue pertaining to the proposed four levels of licensure versus the current six levels raised questions of concern from Board members regarding the loss of flexibility for schools and teachers to cross age and grade levels; whether the levels proposed, i.e., infancy through early childhood; late childhood through early adolescent; early adolescent through late adolescent/adulthood; and early childhood through late adolescent/adulthood were realistic age groupings; and the development stages and needs of children for learning.

Concerning issues or changes to be referred to the Professional Standards Board, discussion included whether counselors should be certified at the elementary level and the status of the Professional Standards Board's work on dispositions.

Dr. Gallagher provided the Board with background on the proposal to eliminate dual licensure requirements and pointed out that the professions in question all had their own licensing boards. Board discussion included guaranteeing that the Board's responsibility for what happens in schools is not abandoned and that the state's standards continue to be met.

Dr. Palmer brought an additional issue to be Board: whether school psychologists should also be required to be licensed as teachers. Board concerns included whether requiring licensure as a psychologist and a teacher would limit the number of qualified individuals available to work in schools.

Chairman Gilmore called for a short break from 4:10 p.m. until 4:15 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Gilmore asked if Mr. Hill and Dr. Abrams had obtained the information they were seeking regarding item 15. n pulled from the consent agenda at the beginning of the day. Discussion followed regarding the Education Excellence grant program. Judi Miller, program consultant for the grant program reviewed the legislation with the Board and explained the program goals. Staff was asked to develop suggestions for gathering program impact data on the effect of one-year Educational Excellence grants with the focus to include student achievement results. Mrs. Brown indicated that item 15. q,

which had been of concern to her, could be rein-stated for consideration with the rest of the consent items. Dr. Wagon moved approval of the consent agenda; seconded by Dr. Abrams. The motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Appointed Steve Adams as Team Leader of the School Improvement and Accreditation Team, effective no later than July 1, 1998 at an annual salary of \$68,310.
- Appointed Jeannette Nobo as Acting Team Leader, School Improvement and Accreditation, at a biweekly salary of \$2,435 effective August 10, 1997.
- Approved school construction plans for Shawnee Mission USD 512, Jewell USD 279, Prairie View USD 362, Ottawa USD 290, Marmaton Valley USD 256, Topeka USD 501, Wichita USD 259, Cherryvale USD 447, Cimarron Christian School - Cimarron, Valley View Christian School - Greensburg, Buhler USD 313 (2), Barber County North USD 254, Blue Valley USD 229, Auburn/Washburn USD 437, Cloud County Community College and Syracuse USD 494.
- Approved Charter School Petitions for the 1998-99 school year for USD 250 Pittsburg and USD 458 Basehor -Linwood.
- Received the first quarterly report of FY 98 (July 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997) from the Kansas State School for the Blind.
- Received the first quarterly report of FY 98 (July 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997) from the Kansas State School for the Deaf.
- Approved funding for 1997-98 Educate America Act year two, three, and four local reform subgrants in the amount of \$6,000 each for USD 377 Atchison County Community Schools - Effingham, USD 410 Hillsboro, USD 227 Jetmore, and USD 496 Pawnee Heights; new local reform subgrants in the amount of \$6,000 for USD 207 Ft. Leavenworth, USD 208 Wakeeney, USD 274 Oakley/Monument, USD 300 Coldwater, USD 337 Royal Valley and USD 395 LaCrosse; new (FY 98) local reform subgrants for USD 202 Turner (\$11,739), USD 229 Blue Valley (\$42,800), USD 443 Dodge City (\$15,324), USD 450 Shawnee Heights (\$10,500), USD 512 Shawnee Mission (\$94,660), Southeast Kansas Education Service Center 609 (\$17,361) and Education Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas 622 (\$9,753); new (FY 98) preservice teacher education/professional development subgrants in the amount of \$25,000 for USD 315 Colby Public Schools, USD 320 Wamego, USD 428 Great Bend, USD 461 Neodesha, USD 482 Dighton, North Central KS Educational Service Center 602 and South Central KS Education Service Center 628; and new (FY98) preservice teacher education/

professional development subgrants for USD 415 Hiawatha (\$6,000) and USD 453 Leavenworth (\$14,271).

- Approved the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee of the Teaching and School Administration Professional Standards Advisory Board for accreditation and program approval as follows:

One teacher education program at the University of Kansas was recommended as “*Approved*”: Social Studies (major and minor) (U, 7-12).

Five teacher education programs at Kansas State University were recommended as “*Approved*”: English as a Second Language (U/G, K-9, K-12, 7-12); Middle-Level Mathematics (U, 5-9); Middle-Level Science ((U, 5-9); Middle-Level Home Economics (U, 5-9) and Middle Level English (U, 5-9) “*Approved*” with citation of weakness. One teacher education program at Kansas State University was recom- mended as “*Approved with Stipulation*”: Middle-Level Social Studies (U, 5-9).

Nineteen teacher education programs at Washburn University were recommended as “*Approved*”: Art (U, K-12); Business Education (U, 7-12) (Bookkeeping, Business Law, Data Processing, Business Econo- mics, Shorthand, Typing, Office Practice, Comprehensive); Compu- ter Studies (U, 7-12); Early Childhood Education (U, EC), Elementary Education (U, K-9); English (U, 7-12); Mathematics (U, 7-12); Music (U, K-12); Physical Education (U, K-9, K-12, 7-12); General Science (U, 7-12); Biology (U, 7-12); Chemistry (U, 7-12) Physics (U, 7-12); U.S. History, U.S. Government and World History (U, 7-12); Comprehensive Social Studies (U, 7-12); Building Administrator (G, EC-9, EC-12, 7-12); Reading Specialist (G, K-9, K-12, 7-12); School Nurse (U, K-12) and Special Education, Early Childhood Handi- capped (G, EC) “*Approved*” with citation of weaknesses. Six teacher education programs at Washburn University were recommended as “*Approved with Stipulation*”: Foreign Language-French (U, 7-12); Foreign Language-Spanish (U, 7-12); Foreign Language-German (U, 7-12); General Mathematics (U, 7-12); Journalism (U, 7-12); and Special Education, Interrelated (G, K-9, K-12, 7-12). Psychology (U, 7-12) Second Field Endorsement was recommended “*Not Approved.*”

- Approved accredited status for: USD 500 Kansas City - Lindbergh Elem; USD 229 Blue Valley - Stanley Elem, Valley Park Elem; USD 512 Shawnee Mission Public Schools - Shawanoe Elem, South Park Elem; USD 233 Olathe - Mahaffie Elem, Pleasant Ridge Elem; USD 246 Northeast - Northeast Elem.
- Approved the Quality Performance Accreditation waiver requests from USD 212 Northern Valley and USD 219 Minneola Jr. High to conduct athletic practice during the school day.
- Approved the Quality Performance Accreditation waiver request from USD 316 Golden Plains to allow a teacher not specifically endorsed in English to teach 10-12 English.

- Accepted the recommendations of the Certification Review Committee.
- Received the Summary Report of the 1996-97 Educational Excellence Grant Program.
- Received the Abstracts for the 1997-98 Educational Excellence Grant Program.
- Approved the recommended funding priorities for the 1998-99 Educational Excellence Grant Program.
- Approved an Ed-flex waiver request for USD 424 Mullinville to operate a “schoolwide program” with Title I funds.
- Certificates of Approval under the Kansas Proprietary School Act were issued to: Denver Institute of Technology, Denver, CO; The Reece Institute, Overland Park, KS; Universal Technical Institute, Phoenix, AZ; Real Estate School of Lawrence, Lawrence, KS; U.S. Dent, Inc., Olathe, KS; Office Edge Learning Center, Fairway, KS; Stroud Truck Driving Academy, Inc., Elwood, KS; and Wichita Area Builders Assn. & Real Estate Development Institute, Wichita, KS.
- Approved a request to waive K.A.R. 91-5-2, a driver education regulation, to allow for implementation of a performance-based driver education curriculum in USD 388 Ellis.

Contracts Approved:

- The Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Blind was authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Sheli Helm, Ph.D., and Ron Wilson, LSCSW for the purpose of providing counseling and evaluation follow-up services to KSSB students during the 1997-98 school year with the contract rate not to exceed \$60.00 per hour.

Dr. Sharon Freden, Assistant Commissioner, introduced Steve Adams, whose appointment as Team Leader, School Improvement and Accreditation, had been approved on the Consent Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:30 Mr. Hill moved that the Board go into executive session for thirty minutes, ending at 5:00 p.m., to discuss non-elected personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Dr. Abrams and carried unanimously.

At 5:00 p.m. Chairman Gilmore called a recess for the day.

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 1997, 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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Holloway, with a second by Mrs. Brown, moved that the agenda be approved. Discussion followed. Dr. Wagon arrived during the discussion of the agenda. Upon a vote, the motion carried 6-4 with Dr. Wagon, Mr. Rundell, Mrs. McMillon and Mrs. Specht voting "no."

RESULTS OF THE 1997 GALLUP POLL ON EDUCATION

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Dr. Lowell C. Rose, Executive Director Emeritus of Phi Delta Kappa, who reported on the findings of the 29th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll. Dr. Rose gave a history of the Gallup Educational Poll and Phi Delta Kappa's involvement in the process. He reviewed the research procedures used including the sample size, method of contact, and demographics of those surveyed. Dr. Rose discussed how findings of the poll are used, stressing the fact that all polling is subject to interpretation, that the polling group has no control over the interpretation or use of the data, and that polls record the public's perceptions regarding the subject polled rather than reality. Dr. Rose's

discussion of the findings included comparisons of responses for the different demographic groups surveyed. Dr. Rose also reported on the trends reflected in the Gallup education polls conducted over the last thirty years. Board questions and discussion followed.

FINNEY COUNTY CAREER AWARENESS PROJECT

Representatives of the Finney County Learning System met with the Board via a video conference to discuss the mission, goals and progress of the program and to answer Board questions regarding their request for approval of a contract with Garden City Community College to develop a model career awareness curriculum. Present from Finney County were Dr. Tangeman, President, Garden City Community College, Dr. Milton Pippenger, Superintendent USD 457, Garden City, Dr. Daryl Pruter, Superintendent USD 363, Holcomb, Dr. Gary Jarmer, Dean, Technical Education, Garden City Community College and Sue Lee, Curriculum Development Coordinator. Because of confusion regarding the method for funding the curriculum development which arose from the merger of the Community College and Technical Education teams within the Department of Education, Board members were not provided with the appropriate materials for discussion of the contract and the item was tabled until the December Board meeting.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COURSES AND DRIVERS EDUCATION REGULATION - K.A.R. 91-5-14

KSDE General Counsel Rod Bieker presented options for action on the proposal to amend K.A.R. 91-5-14 as a result of the public hearing November 4, 1997. Those options were: 1) adopt the regulation with the proposed amendment; 2) further amend the regulation which would require resubmittal of the proposal to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General for review; 3) abandon the efforts to amend the regulation and leave it in its current form; or 4) take no action now, but ask staff to gather additional information the Board may need to determine whether to amend the regulation. Mr. Hill, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, moved approval of the proposal to amend the regulation. Discussion followed and staff was asked to investigate the Motorcycle Safety Foundation training to determine its suitability and make a comparison of that program with the state motorcycle safety training. Dr. Abrams, with a second by Mrs. Brown, moved to table the motion until the December meeting. The motion to table carried, with Dr. Wagnon voting "no."

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mary Ellen Welshon, Chair of the State Advisory Council For Special Education, reviewed for the Board the role of the Advisory Council which primarily involves providing advice to the State Board, the Department of Education and appropriate state agencies in the formulation and implementation of the state plan for special education and consideration of the special concerns of the State Board of Education and the public regarding special education. She reported the Council's current priorities are educating its membership in its role as a tool to the State Board of Education and educating the public about its advisory role.

EVALUATION OF THE PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM

Judy Pfannenstiel, Research and Training Associates of Overland Park, Kansas, presented the findings of the recent evaluation of the Parents as Teachers Program which focused on whether the program prepares children for school. The two Kansas Parents as Teachers programs used for the evaluation were the Kansas City Parents as Teachers (PAT) Consortium, which includes seven urban and suburban school districts, and the Northeast Kansas Education Service Center PAT program, which includes twenty-four rural communities. Ms. Pfannenstiel reviewed how the evaluation project had been structured using children who had been enrolled in PAT as infants and had attended kindergarten during the 1996-97 school year. The progress of these children was compared to a randomly selected group of children who also attended kindergarten during the 1996-97 school year. From the responses to written surveys of parents and teachers, study findings indicated that PAT participation 1) assists parents in becoming the first and most important teachers of their children; 2) encourages activities in the home that support early literacy development; 3) promotes school readiness; and 4) promotes greater parental involvement in schools when children are of school age. Board discussion followed concerning a proposal to charge a fee on a sliding scale for participation in PAT.

Chairman Gilmore called for a short break at 11:20 a.m. and the Board reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

PRESENTATIONS

Criteria for Effective English Language Arts/Reading Standards

Dr. Sandra Stotsky, Research Associate, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Co-chair of the Massachusetts review and assessment committees for English language arts, gave a presentation on her review of the English language arts/reading standards of twenty-eight states, including Kansas, commissioned by the Fordham Foundation. She also shared nine areas where she believed the Kansas standards could be improved: 1) clarity of language, so the standards could be understood by the public; 2) standards should be measurable academic standards, not only of content, but measurable qualitatively and quantitatively; 3) standards should be improved in the way they lay out the progressive development of skills; 4) a strong vocabulary strand needs to be part of the K-12 standards; 5) Kansas should work on integrating literary specifics - not necessarily specific titles, but indicators of levels of literary difficulty; 6) the standards should incorporate a strong research strand; 7) they should employ the use of established criteria for reading, writing and speaking; 8) a serious effort should be made to avoid negative criteria, i.e., the requirement that asks students to relate what is read to personal experience; and 9) the standards need to emphasize a strong use of phonics. Board discussion and questions followed.

Core Curriculum

Dr. E.D. Hirsch, Jr., found of the Core Knowledge Foundation and Linden Kent Professor of English and Professor of Education and Humanities at the University of Virginia, made a presentation on the use

of a core curriculum in schools. Dr. Hirsch stated that education policy makers should be careful to use consensus research to support choices when making curriculum decisions and stressed that consensus research supports the use of an early elementary core curriculum to form the building blocks for future learning. Dr. Hirsch stated that core systems are more equitable because learning built on learning compensates for home disadvantages. He pointed out that the vague connection between curriculum and practice in the classroom was a hindrance to all students being able to achieve equally. Board discussion followed. When asked for his recommendations to state policy makers, he outlined three areas the state should address. The state should 1) try to set general content guidelines grade by grade; 2) develop an approval mechanism for curriculum used at the district level; and 3) have a correlation between the state assessments and curriculum.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Members reviewed the composite travel request and several Board members made additions. Added were: the attendance of Mrs. Holloway at the Special Committee on Community Colleges meeting November 20th and 21st with Mr. Gilmore, Mrs. Specht, Mrs. Morrison and Mr. Rundell attending on the 21st. Dr. Abrams added a Cowley County Community College legislative dinner on November 6th. Mrs. Brown added mileage to the request for her visit to Butler County Community College on November 17th. Mrs. McMillon added USD 464 Legislative Day on November 17th. Mrs. Brown moved with a second by Dr. Abrams that the travel requests be approved as amended. The motion carried.

REPORTS

Board Member Reports

Mrs. Holloway reported on the Professional Standards Board which has broken up to work in small groups and will come back together to report in January. She also indicated she would like to be on the NASBE study Group for Teacher Improvement. Board members agreed.

Dr. Wagon reported on his attendance at the National Conference on History Education which included a presentation on the connection between how teachers are trained and what curriculum standards are used. He stated he would like to see a study done on this in Kansas and asked the Commissioner and staff for their help in developing it. Dr. Wagon also reported on a civic summit in Topeka which looked at local children and education issues and resulted in the recommendation that every child should have the opportunity to develop to his or her fullest potential. In light of the abundance of state dollars available, as outlined by Mr. Dennis when he addressed the Board Tuesday, November 4th, Dr. Wagon stated the Board should take advantage of the opportunity by adding to the Children and Families Trust Fund and by fully funding Parents as Teachers, Head Start and Healthy Start. Commissioner Tompkins indicated a resolution could be drafted asking the Governor to implement those recommendations. Dr. Wagon asked that the Department also look at mentors-in-schools programs in other states to see how Kansas could implement a similar program in Kansas with the goal that every child have a mentor. Dr.

Wagnon also stated the Board needs to be concerned about students who have become the responsibility of the Juvenile Justice Authority and, further, needs to work with the Authority to see that the educational needs of those students are met.

Dr. Abrams reported on the progress the Policy Committee was making in its review of the Board policies. He stated they had worked through the policy book and were into the guidelines. Dr. Abrams said the Committee had spent a lot of time on travel guidelines with the intent of making them easier for Board members to abide by. He indicated the Committee's work would be ready to come to the Board in February or March.

Mrs. Morrison reported she had attended the annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Community Colleges Trustees and communication with that group was very timely in light of the issues being studied by the Special Committee on Community Colleges.

Chairman Gilmore reported on his attendance at the NASBE annual meeting and the proposed restructuring of the association. He indicated the Board will be voting on nominees for area directors. Dr. Abrams indicated he has been asked to chair the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee to serve for two years. Board members had no objections.

Board Attorney

Mr. Dan Biles presented a report of his activities for the month of October, 1997. He reported that a new federal lawsuit had been filed against the State Board, the Commissioner, and the Larned, Salina and Topeka school districts. He indicated the suit was aimed at how the Kansas State Board of Education administers the special education law. Mrs. McMillon moved with a second by Mrs. Specht that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for October be paid as presented. The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Mr. Hill stated the Special Committee on Community Colleges hearing November 21st was very important. He also reported that there was interest in the Special Committee on Education in conducting an interim study just for special education. Mr. Hill expressed his appreciation for the expansion of legislative issues and stated the need for all Board members to participate. He also indicated he felt the charter school issue was not dead and he invited dialogue with Board members on the subject.

Commissioner

Commissioner Tompkins reported to the Board on the work of a broad-based committee charged with developing a proposal to provide health insurance to the estimated 60,000-90,000 children and youth uninsured in Kansas. Dr. Tompkins asked Board members to look at their schedules for possible dates for a strategic planning session. He suggested a Monday prior to a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Dr. Tompkins also reported on the integration of Board comments and advice into the design for the

study of the school accreditation process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Gilmore adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.