

# KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 1999

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 1999, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

## ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams	Linda Holloway
John Bacon	I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Mary Douglass Brown	Harold Voth
Val DeFever	Bill Wagnon
Scott Hill	Janet Waugh

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Holloway asked for approval of the agenda. Dr. Wagnon asked that item 14 c., school construction plans, and item 14 o. 1), a request from USD 230 Spring Hill to hold a bond election, be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Mr. Rundell asked to have consideration of his participation in a NASBE study group on teacher education be added to the agenda. Chairman Holloway suggested it be added after the discussion of the science standards. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Holloway asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes of the November meeting. Dr. Wagnon asked that the wording "local control" in his comments regarding the statewide infrastructure proposal be changed to "local responsibility". Chairman Holloway provided a substitute statement regarding her report on the DARE program which was contained in her Chairman's report. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried.

## VIDEOTAPE AND DISCUSSION OF TEXTBOOK ERRORS

Board members viewed a taped segment of a CBS "20/20" broadcast on errors found in textbooks used by school districts nationwide. Discussion followed after the viewing. Mrs. Brown stated Board members should let their constituents know about the problem and how extensive it was. Commissioner Tompkins suggested the department could alert local districts through department publications. Mrs. DeFever suggested that the information should also be shared with NASBE, KNEA and other

organizations to help get the word out to teachers, districts and other states. Mr. Hill stated the problem pointed out the need for well-prepared teachers.

### **CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Holloway declared the Citizen's Open Forum open at 10:32 a.m. Appearing to speak before the Board were Douglas Ruden, Lawrence, representing ROUND; Dave Raffel, Shawnee, representing Save Our Schools; Jack Krebs, Lawrence, John Van Keppel, Leawood, Adrian Melott, Lawrence, representing Kansas Citizens for Science; David Penny, Lawrence; Steven Case, Lawrence; and Ken Bingman, Spring Hill. Chairman Holloway declared the open forum closed at 11:02 a.m. and called for a five minute break.

The Board meeting resumed at 11:10 a.m.

### **STUDY SESSION ON ENROLLMENT TRENDS**

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis opened the study session by administering a short test on Kansas school district enrollment to Board members. The answers indicated that the smallest district in the state had an enrollment of 71.5. The median-sized school district was 568.4 and the largest had an enrollment of 45304.6. Also indicated were districts with the highest enrollment declines and highest growth. Mr. Dennis reported that the biggest factors in enrollment increases or declines were the birthrate and jobs. Mr. Dennis also reviewed the issue of out-of-district enrollment, currently averaging about 14,000 students, and Board discussion followed on the factors that lead to it, including distance from the schools in the local district. Dr. Wagon asked why the headcount for students had dropped during the current year. Mr. Dennis indicated that the graduation rate was higher than the birth rate and he predicted that the headcount and FTE enrollment would remain flat over the next few years. Dr. Wagon asked what the Board should suggest to the legislature to provide adequate funding. Mr. Dennis stated that the problem was going to be compounded by the lack of teachers because of low salaries. Discussion included the estimated number of children for K-12 in Kansas including private schools, home school, and non-accredited private schools. Mr. Dennis indicated that there were approximately 520,000 children between the ages of 5 and 18 in the state, with an estimated 50,000 in accredited and non-accredited private schools. Mr. Dennis reviewed enrollment data by district and also handed out a thematic map showing growths or declines in Kansas districts. After reviewing those with the largest growth, Mr. Dennis indicated that increases were generally due to growth in jobs, short driving distances, and the closure of schools in adjacent districts.

Dr. Wagon asked how the Board could use the data to approach the Governor and the legislature to deal with enrollment trends. Mr. Dennis responded that the boundary line study would be available for the 2001 legislature, but that it would require an interim study for any legislation to come out of the information available. He also explained that extra costs created by the consolidation of districts in rural areas because of the distances involved would cut into any savings in salaries. Dr. Tompkins added that presently Kansas has one of the most liberal declining enrollment provisions of any state. Mr. Dennis explained the effects of low enrollment/ correlation weighting on the funding received by schools losing enrollment. Dr. Wagon suggested that the Board needs to identify schools which are doing well at educating children and provide direction and assistance for those schools which are not doing well. Dr.

Tompkins and Mr. Dennis replied that delivery efficiency would be the point of interest to the legislature, not how well the district was doing in providing an education. Mr. Hill asked what the critical enrollment size of a school was to remain open. Mr. Dennis indicated that if it dropped below 100 it would be very difficult. He also discussed other factors such as meeting students' needs for advanced classes and the quality of the facility. Mr. Hill also asked what the Board could do to assist the very small schools. Mr. Dennis indicated that the technology plan and the development of the statewide infrastructure was one of the best things the Board could do. Dr. Abrams mentioned satellite technology being an answer to distance learning in isolated areas.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 1:30 p.m.

## **LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

### **Kansas State School for the Deaf**

Gerald Johnson, Superintendent, Kansas State School for the Deaf, reviewed the impact of the cuts in his FY 2001 budget recommended by the Division of Budget. The 6.3% decrease would result in the elimination of salary increases, the loss of four positions, an increase in shrinkage to 5.1%, and a \$44,401 decrease in other operating expenditures. Mr. Johnson indicated that his budget appeal included reinstatement of the four positions, and \$31,000 for an increase in funding for students attending Johnson County Technical Education Cooperative for vocational and transitional programs. Mr. Johnson reviewed the impact of the proposed cuts on his programs.

### **Kansas State School for the Blind**

Mr. William Daugherty, Superintendent, Kansas State School for the Blind, reviewed the impact of the cuts in his FY 2000 and FY 2001 budgets recommended by the Division of Budget. He noted that his budget appeal included the reinstatement of \$20,000 in FY 2000 and \$16,000 in FY 2001 in the recommended increase in shrinkage to cover temporary positions needed to provide coverage during periods of absence by full-time staff in support services, primarily dietary and security personnel. Mr. Daugherty also indicated that restoration of \$20,000 in match for the Technical Loan Library in FY 2000 had been requested, as well as \$100,411 in potential programs fees and donations received for the library in FY 2001. Mr. Daugherty also reported that restoration of \$105,000 to fund the school principal and the principal's secretary positions had been requested, as had \$20,000 for professional fees and services in the instructional program.

### **Kansas Department of Education**

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis provided an update on the Governor's FY 2000 budget reduction and the Department's budget appeal. He indicated that after revising estimates based on revised enrollment figures, property tax, motor vehicle tax, federal impact state aid and all other revenue sources used to fund schools, as well as carryover funds, that the drop in state aid per pupil will be \$13 instead of the \$31 originally predicted. He also reviewed the amounts by which the other programs would be cut. Mr. Dennis next reviewed the Governor's recommendations for the department's FY 2001 budget and discussed the amounts appealed at the hearing before the Governor and the Division of Budget November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Reports on Special Committee on Education and Proposed Congressional Legislation**

Mr. Dennis provided Board members with copies of the reports on the interim studies conducted by the Special Committee on Education during the summer and fall of 1999. He indicated the Committee had adopted the KAN-ED plan to develop a state education technology backbone and had requested that a bill be drafted for introduction in the 2000 session. Mr. Ken Gentry, Team Leader, Supplemental and Consolidated Programs, handed out and briefly reviewed a summary of FY 2000 federal education appropriations.

## **SCHEDULE AND PUBLIC HEARING DATES ON EDUCATOR LICENSURE REGULATIONS**

Department General Counsel Rod Bieker briefly discussed the transition between the old licensure system and the new one being considered. He indicated that all the regulations would have to go into effect at the same time and that two of the old regulations would have to be retained for that reason. Mr. Ken Bungert, Team Leader for Certification and Teacher Education, reviewed the proposed public hearing schedule and locations, including which Board members would be in attendance at the hearings. Mr. Bungert indicated that two standards board members would be on the panel and one staff member. He also reported that notice of the hearings would go out right away and the proposed regulations would be posted on the Department's website. Copies of the proposed regulations would be mailed for receipt when schools return to school after the Christmas break. Mr. Bungert also reviewed how the hearings would be conducted. Mrs. Brown stated she didn't like the negative connotation of the phrase "deficiency plan". Mr. Hill moved that the hearing schedule be adopted with the following changes: that Shawnee Mission High School be changed to Shawnee Mission West High School and that Mrs. Waugh replace Mrs. DeFever at the Shawnee Mission West High School hearing. Mr. Bacon seconded the motion and the motion carried. Dr. Wagon moved approval of the proposed educator licensure for public comment. Mr. Rundell seconded the motion. During the discussion that followed Mr. Bacon noted a discrepancy in the way the grade point average of 3.25 was referenced in 91-31-203, indicating that in other areas of the regulations grade point averages had been qualified by wording such as "a minimum grade point average of?" or "a grade point average at least?". It was decided that Mr. Bacon's concern should be included with other comments received from the public hearings and did not affect the motion on the floor. The vote on the motion carried.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION ? DISCUSSION OF CLASS-SIZE/CASE LOAD ISSUES**

Dr. Alexa Pochowski, Team Leader of Student Support Services, gave a brief overview of class-size/caseload provisions in current regulations and the changes in how those provisions would be handled upon adoption of the proposed regulations. She reported that historically, assigned class sizes have been based on categorical labels, the age of students, or whether a paraprofessional was provided. Not considered were the individual needs of students, the intensity of services needed, the miles driven by the teacher or the number of buildings served, the multiple and variable needs of the students, or the actual FTE of each student. Dr. Pochowski noted that IDEA with its focus on consideration of the regular educational environment first with appropriate supports and services provided, was also prompting states to take a different approach to determining class-size/caseload. IDEA regulations are also based on developing services and strategies to address the actual needs of each individual child, rather than determining services based on categorical labels, further motivating change in how class-size/

caseload is determined. Dr. Pochowski reviewed a formula approach that could be used in determining class-size/caseload. The methodology included consideration of total head count, the number of buildings served, the total FTE and the average FTE, the age range of the students and the number of miles driven. It was also noted that to allow districts the flexibility necessary to address their unique needs, it was being proposed that staffing ratios be moved from regulation to guidelines. Board questions followed. Mr. Hill asked that the Board be provided with the guidelines in writing prior to adoption of the proposed regulations. The point was made by Mrs. DeFever that even though there are more special education students moving into regular classrooms settings, that teacher training was not keeping up with the increased demand for teachers with more special education training. Dr. Pochowski agreed that broader training was needed at the university levels, as well as more opportunities for professional development for classroom teachers.

### **VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Merlyne Hines Starr, Team Leader, Technical Education, presented the Fiscal Year 1999 Kansas Vocational Education Performance Report, required by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act Amendments of 1990. Ms. Starr indicated that the report was a review of how the Carl Perkins funds had been used for the reporting period. Board questions followed. Mrs. DeFever asked what progress was being made to replacement obsolete technical equipment. Ms. Starr noted that there was an increasing focus on outreach to businesses to enhance resources. She also indicated that it was anticipated that in Perkins III, more funding would be available.

### **BOARD COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE PLAN**

Mrs. DeFever asked for approval of the communication plan which was submitted to the Board at the November meeting. She reported that the plan would include the development of a network of key communicators throughout the state to help channel accurate information on Board and department educational initiatives and actions and that cooperation from Board members in identifying those key people would be required. Mrs. Brown asked if members could recommend individuals from outside their own districts and it was agreed they could. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the Communication Plan be approved. The motion carried.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 1:30 p.m.

### **REPHRASED CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR SCIENCE**

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed two versions of rephrased curriculum standards for science which had been presented to Board members for their consideration. Dr. Abrams asked what procedure should be followed since the standards had been listed as a discussion item. Dr. Tompkins indicated that the Board could decide to bring it to a vote if they chose. Mrs. DeFever, after reading a section from the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade standards, said she was unhappy with how the standards read and, because of all the changes, would like to have them put out for an external review. Mr. Rundell and Mrs. Waugh agreed. Mrs. Waugh also stated she would like Board members who participated on the science standard subcommittee to respond to some statements which had been made that claimed portions of the rephrased standards contained language from Dr. Abrams initial draft submitted to the Board and reportedly written by Tom Willis. Subcommittee members Hill, Voth and Abrams, as well as Steve

Adams who facilitated, reviewed how the changes were made to the science writing committee's document and stated that no other documents were used in making those changes. Mrs. Waugh pointed out that much of the introduction had come from Dr. Abrams version. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever that an external review be done on the standards. Discussion followed. Dr. Abrams made a motion to amend, adding the adoption of Option One, and deleting language on page 4, "In so doing, science distinguishes itself from other ways of knowing and from other bodies of knowledge. Explanations based on myth, personal beliefs, religious values, mystical inspiration, superstition, or authority may be personally useful and socially relevant, but they are not scientific." Mr. Hill seconded the motion. Chairman Holloway called for a vote on the motion to amend, which passed on a vote of 7-3, with Mrs. DeFever, Mrs. Waugh and Dr. Wagnon voting "no". The vote on the amended motion carried 9-1, with Dr. Wagnon voting "no". Chairman Holloway indicated the external review would probably take place in February. Mrs. DeFever requested that in order to avoid confusion in the future regarding motions with amendments, that they be written out and displayed on the screen in the Board Room. Mr. Rundell agreed.

### **PARTICIPATION OF MR. RUNDELL IN NASBE STUDY GROUP**

Mr. Rundell reported that he had an opportunity to participate in a NASBE study group on coordination and accountability of teacher education. He requested Board support of his participation so that he could receive reimbursement for travel to the quarterly meetings of the study group. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the Board approve Mr. Rundell's participation in the requested NASBE study group. The motion carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Wagnon indicated he had item 14 c., school construction plans, and item 14 o. 1), a request from USD 230 Spring Hill to hold a bond election, pulled from the consent agenda in order for him to request a study session on capital improvements requiring bond issues and the appropriate Board role in examining and acting on such requests. Brief discussion followed and several other Board members agreed with Dr. Wagnon. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the consent agenda be approved as submitted. The motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the appointment of H. Corine Frankland to an unclassified special projects Education Program Consultant position under IDEA, School Improvement Grant, effective December 1, 1999, at a biweekly pay rate of \$1477.60.
- Approved school construction plans for Bethel Life Center, Wichita; USD 380 Vermillion; Sacred Heart School, Ottawa; USD 283 Elk Valley; USD 309 Nickerson; USD 222 Washington; USD 498 Valley Heights; USD 267 Renwick; USD 512 Shawnee Mission (2 projects); USD 308 Hutchinson; Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Wichita; USD 450 Shawnee Heights; and

## USD 402 Butler.

- Received a draft of the year 2000 month-by-month agenda and proposed schedule of meetings and meeting locations.
- Approved Cycle I accredited status for Rainbow Mental Health Center; Wichita Catholic Diocese: St. Jude Catholic Elementary and St. Cecilia Elementary; USD 233 Olathe: Westview Elementary and Rolling Ridge Elementary; USD 383 Manhattan: Woodrow Wilson Elementary; and USD 259 Wichita: Cessna Elementary, Horace Mann/Irving Foreign Language Magnet, L'Ouverture Computer Technology Magnet, McLean Science/Technology Magnet Elementary, Horace Mann/ Park Foreign Language Magnet Elementary, Horace Mann Foreign Language Elementary Magnet; Mead Middle School and Robinson Middle School.
- Approved requests for waiver of state QPA regulations for the 1999-2000 school year from USD 297, St. Francis Community High School, to allow the school to target an affective area domain as its third target area; USD 480 Liberal to shorten the accreditation cycle to a 4-year cycle for South Middle School, Garfield Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, MacArthur Elementary, McDermott Elementary, Southlawn Elementary, and Washington Elementary; USD 500 Kansas City to allow an extension of time from December 30, 1999 to April 2000 for the Cycle II on-site visit and submission of the school improvement plan for Noble Prentis Elementary; USD 284 Fredonia to allow a six month extension of time for the submission of school improvement plans for all district schools; USD 491 Eudora Public Schools to shorten Eudora Middle School's Cycle II accreditation to a 4-year cycle and extend Eudora West Elementary's Cycle II to a six-year cycle; USD 259 Wichita to utilize the services of Jennifer Ruckman to teach Early Childhood Special Education, Simona Klein and Cecilia Fry to teach secondary Interrelated Special Education at the middle school level, Kathy Hirshler and Regina Miller to teach middle school Interrelated Special Education, Marcia Johns, Dawn Miller, Tamara McDonald and Jean Darby to teach elementary Interrelated Special Education, and Andrea Piros to teach elementary Gifted Education; USD 381 to utilize the services of Jon Mages to teach secondary Psychology; Beloit Special Education Cooperative to utilize the services of Reigan McGraw to teach Early Childhood Special Education; Butler County Special Education Cooperative to utilize the services of Cathy Lore and Lynn Smith to teach middle school Interrelated Special Education; Prairie Hills Interlocal #635 to utilize the services of Kim Aebi to teach elementary Interrelated Special Education; Sedgwick County Area Educational Interlocal Cooperative to utilize the services of Larry Mark to teach Gifted Education K-12 and Kelly Hein and Curtis Wells to teach Interrelated Special Education at the secondary level; USD 202 Turner to utilize the services of Brenda Larson to teach secondary Mentally Retarded; USD 232 to utilize the services of Mike Runyan to teach secondary Technology Education; and Leavenworth County Special Education Cooperative to utilize the services of Jason Grider to teach secondary Learning Disabilities.
- Approved Ed-Flex waivers on the provision for 30-day notice to the public of Reading Excellence Act grant eligibility for USD 208 Wakeeney, USD 216 Deerfield, USD 221 North Central, USD 222 Washington, USD 224 Clifton-Clyde, USD 228 Hanston, USD 233 Olathe,

USD 283 Elk Valley, USD 286 Chautauqua County, USD 303 Ness City, USD 316 Golden Plains, USD 324 Eastern Heights, USD 345 Seaman, USD 346 Jayhawk, USD 348 Baldwin City, USD 372 Silver Lake, USD 374 Sublette, USD 403 Otis-Bison, USD 406 Wathena, USD 435 Abilene, USD 442 Nemaha Valley, USD 450 Shawnee Heights, USD 486 Elwood, USD 490 El Dorado, and USD 496 Pawnee Heights.

- Approved the request for a Visiting Scholar Certificate from Kala Kimple to teach secondary Spanish at Andover High School.
- Approved Parents as Teachers expansion grants for Northeast Kansas Education Service Center 608 in the amount of \$3,467; USD 435 Abilene in the amount of \$933; USD 457 Garden City in the amount of \$46,667; and Kansas City Area Parents as Teachers Consortium USD 233 in the amount of \$55,573.
- Approved FY 1999-2000 Educate America Act Excellence in Teaching \$2,000 subgrants for: USD 214 Ulysses; USD 224 Clifton-Clyde; USD 230 Spring Hill (4 grants); USD 232 DeSoto; USD 244 Burlington; USD 251 North Lyon County; USD 252 Southern Lyon; USD 253 Emporia (2 grants); USD 257 Iola (2 grants); USD 259 Wichita (3 grants); USD 261 Haysville; USD 265 Goddard; USD 266 Maize; USD 275 Triplains; USD 282 West Elk; USD 284 Chase County; USD 286 Chautauqua County Community; USD 289 Wellsville; USD 307 Ell-Saline; USD 308 Hutchinson; USD 313 Buhler (6 grants); USD 314 Brewster; USD 320 Wamego (2 grants); USD 325 Phillipsburg; USD 346 Jayhawk; USD 353 Wellington (3 grants); USD 354 Claflin; USD 363 Holcomb; USD 368 Paola; USD 375 Circle; USD 383 Manhattan/Ogden (2 grants); USD 385 Andover; USD 392 Osborne County; USD 402 Augusta; USD 405 Lyons; USD 409 Atchison; USD 413 Chanute; USD 419 Canton-Galva; USD 421 Lyndon; USD 435 Abilene; USD 446 Independence; USD 454 Burlingame; USD 461 Neodesha; USD 465 Winfield; USD 466 Scott County; USD 470 Arkansas City; USD 473 Chapman (2 grants); USD 480 Liberal; USD 489 Hays; and USD 497 Lawrence.
- Approved FY 1999-2000 Educate America Act Local District Individual Building School Improvement Initiatives \$15,000 subgrants for USD 305 Salina, Sunset Elementary; USD 479 Crest, Crest High School; and USD 482 Dighton, Dighton High School.
- Approved funding of 1999-2000 Kansas Character Education Program grants as follows: Partnership grants in the amount of \$11,650 to USD 259 and USD 609, Southeast Kansas Education Service Center; Pilot Site grants in the amount of \$6,000 to USD 621 North Central Kansas Education Service Center, USD 624 Iuka Center for Excellence in Education, USD 627 Three Lakes Education Cooperative, USD 628 South Central Kansas Education Service Center, USD 629 Smoky Hills Education Service Center, and USD 635 Prairie Hills Interlocal; and district/school grants in the amount of \$2,650 to USD 104 White Rock School District, USD 203 Piper School District, USD 204 Bonner Spring- Edwardsville Elementary, USD 205 Leon-Leon Elementary, USD 229 Blue Valley School District, USD 230 Spring Hill School District, USD

231 Gardner-Edgerton-Nike Middle School, USD 233 Olathe School District, USD 265 Goddard School District, USD 274 Oakley School District, USD 283 Elk Valley School District, USD 286 Sedan-Sedan Elementary School, USD 298 Lincoln-Lincoln Elementary, USD 300 Comanche County-South Central Middle School, USD 303 Ness City School District, USD 305 Salina Public Schools, USD 306 Southeast of Saline School District, USD 313 Buhler Public Schools, USD 320 Wamego School District, USD 345 Seaman School District, USD 347 Kinsley-Offerle School District, USD 348 Baldwin-Baldwin Junior and Senior High Schools, USD 357 Belle Plaine-Belle Plaine Middle School, USD 367 Osawatometie-Osawatometie Middle School, USD 405 Lyons-Central Elementary, USD 409 Atchison Public Schools, USD 411 Goessel School District, USD 426 Pike Valley-Pike Valley High School, USD 440 Halstead-Bentley Primary School? USD 444 Little River School District, USD 457 Garden City Public Schools, USD 460 Hesston School District, USD 470 Arkansas City School District, USD 474 Haviland School District, USD 475 Geary County School District, USD 482 Dighton School District, USD 490 El Dorado School District, and USD 494 Syracuse-Syracuse Elementary School.

- Approved a contract for the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center to provide vocational/technical education to USD 458.
- Approved FY 2000 Commercial Driver Training School Licenses from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 for: Behind the Wheel, Inc., Overland Park; Behind the Wheel Defensive Driving School, Wichita; Cyr's Driving School, Inc., Wichita; Drive Right School of Wichita; HyPlains Driving School, Inc., Scott City; Kansas Driving School, Inc., Overland Park; Little Apple Driving School, Inc., Manhattan; Midstate Driving School, Salina; Midwest Driving School-Lawrence; Midwest Driving School-Topeka; Royal Driving School, Salina; Swartz Driving Academy, Leavenworth; Topeka Driving School; Twin City Driver Education, Overland Park; Varsolona Driving School, Frontenac; and Wichita Collegiate School.
- Issued orders for Spring Hill USD 230, Gardner-Edgerton-Antioch USD 231, and Neodesha USD 461 granting them authority to hold an election on the question of the districts' general bond debt limitation.
- Approved the procedures and criteria for the 2000-2001 School Breakfast Program waivers.
- Received for preliminary review the Management and Administration Plan for the Summer Food Service Program.

## RECESS

There being no further business, Chairman Holloway recessed the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Linda Holloway, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary

## KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 1999

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 1999, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Topeka, Kansas.

### ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams	Linda Holloway
John Bacon	I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Mary Douglass Brown	Harold Voth
Val DeFever	Bill Wagnon
Scott Hill	Janet Waugh

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Holloway asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. DeFever moved, with a second by Mr. Hill, that the agenda be approved. The motion carried.

### PRESENTATION BY NEW AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL AWARD WINNER

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis introduced Mr. James McNiece, Principal of the Northeast Magnet High School in Wichita. Northeast Magnet High School was recognized with a 1999 New American High School Award because it provided its students with academically rigorous study that incorporated visual arts, science and law magnet themes along with real-world connections. Mr. McNiece reported that the school had received the award because of the vision, hard work and credible efforts of key staff hired in 1989 prior to the opening of the school in 1990. He noted that though the focus of the school was in science, art, and law, students received a high quality education with a strong core curriculum in math, science, English and history, preparing them for whatever step they would take after graduation. As a recipient of the award, the school was now a model for other schools. Mr. McNiece noted that all New American High Schools had a theme that provided a focus to give students purpose and meaning to their education. Mr. McNiece reported on what made the school unique, including the integration of the focus areas into other subject areas; support programs for students in required subjects; the fact that there are no remedial programs and only one advanced placement class; the requirement that all students do a magnet project prior to graduation; weekly student progress reports; community partnerships with

businesses, government and civic groups; and a commitment by the students to having a safe school. He also answered Board questions. In response to a question to how students were chosen for the school, he indicated that had been on a first-come first-served basis, but would be changing to a lottery system for the 2000-2001 school year because of the high number of applications that were being received.

### **REPORT ON 4-YEAR OLD AT-RISK STUDY**

Dr. Sherrill Martinez reported on the two-year four-year old at-risk program which is now in its first year. She reported on how data was collected, what other services children in the at-risk program were receiving, and how children were identified as at-risk. She also reported on the instrument chosen to measure growth and progress in the age group being studied. She indicated that the Developmental Checklist of the Work Sampling System was chosen because it measures multiple levels and the students in the program would be studied through the second grade; has good supporting materials for training; would measure a child at multiple points in time; and was valued by teachers. She reported that the results of the first year indicated that levels of proficiencies showed significant growth. Dr. Martinez noted that though it could not be determined whether growth was because of normal maturation or because of the effectiveness of the program, a study of effect sizes by socioeconomic groups indicated that some progress was probably attributable to the program. She indicated that the next year of the study would include a control group for comparison purposes. Board questions followed.

The Board took a short break from 9:52 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Mr. Rundell left the meeting at the break to attend another meeting.

### **PRESENTATION ON ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION AND THE USD 512 READING PROGRAM**

Dr. Marge Kaplan, Superintendent of the Shawnee Mission School District introduced Mr. Ron Bates, Principal of the Alternative Education Program, Dr. Bev Nichols, Coordinator of Evaluation and Assessment, and Ms. Judy Davis, Coordinator of Staff Development who were present to discuss the reading program and alternative education program (AEP) in the district. Dr. Kaplan reported that the AEP program had been well received by students, but that tests scores for students in the school were very low. Mr. Ron Bates was hired five years ago as principal and was charged with the task of improving the academic program of the school. Dr. Kevin Singer, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum, gave a brief overview of the changes that had been implemented in the district after a district-wide evaluation of test scores showed the need for improvement in core areas.

Judy Davis gave an overview of the reading program in the district which included the Open Court program for primary students which encompasses the Six-Traits writing program, a strong foundation with language components, the use of authentic literature, and the use of phonics. She also reviewed the Breaking the Code used for the upper grades. She reported on additional skills for reading success which were also included.

Ron Bates reported on the implementation of the Breaking the Code reading program in the Alternative School. He indicated the reading program provided a very good foundation for reading improvement and

that the entire staff had received training in using the program. He reported that the school provided a sustained silent reading period for all students every day, and noted that the school's emphasis on reading had made a major difference. He noted that each student is tested for reading skills when entering the school and provide the instruction necessary to assist those that need improvement.

Dr. Bev Nichols reported on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills scores in the core areas in AEP over the last five years. She noted how pleased the district was with the increase in the reading scores and how the increase in reading proficiency had impacted scores in different subject areas. Dr. Nichols also reviewed scores in the elementary schools over the time period that the new reading programs had been implemented. She noted the same growth had not yet been seen in the AEP school for the reading and mathematics scores on the state assessments.

Dr. Kaplan closed the presentation and noted that because reading was such a foundational skill to success in all other academic areas, the district had become committed to providing reading assistance at all grade levels. Board discussion and questions followed. Several items were of particular interest. Those included whether there was longitudinal data to support the use of the Open Court/Breaking the Code programs as foundational programs that showed sustained results in keeping students up to grade level in reading over time. Dr. Abrams asked how the programs compared to the Reading Recovery Program and Dr. Kaplan noted that it was a very expensive program, with slow gains, even though it was a good tutorial program. Questions also concerned why the state assessment scores were not rising. Dr. Nichols indicated that the district was studying the issue. Other questions concerned how students were screened for reading assistance at the middle school level; how students were identified for the AEP school; whether students having difficulty reading upon entering high school could be required to take a reading class; and if the district had focused on other core areas such as mathematics. The screening process at the middle school level was explained by Dr. Kaplan, who indicated that all middle school students were required to take two language arts classes in middle school, and that students were screened on what type of reading assistance they would need by initial test scores and put into the appropriate class. Dr. Kaplan indicated that high school students had not yet been required to take a reading class, but did have to meet a basis competency in reading prior to graduation. Dr. Nichols reported that the district was not graduating any students who were unable to read, but Dr. Kaplan noted that the minimum competency level was not as high as the district would like. Dr. Kaplan also indicated that most teacher training institutions did not provide enough training in reading and that new teachers were not ready for the reading problems they encountered in the classroom without additional training. Mr. Bates reviewed that students were chosen for the AEP program based on school counselor recommendations and parent requests. He indicated that the program did not work for students who showed no interest in continuing with their education, but that the program welcomed all who were.

he Board took a short break from 11:05 am. to 11:15 am.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **Board Chairman**

Before beginning her report, Chairman Holloway asked Board members about interest in attending training for the Department's new GroupWise program in conjunction with the January meeting. It was

agreed that the training would be scheduled on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. Chairman Holloway reported on her visit to Lakewood Elementary School in her district and an interest expressed by the principal for having something similar to the Principal's Academy being part of the recertification process for principals. She also reported on a meeting with a superintendent from Chile who was interested in charter schools, the Kansas science standards, teacher preparation and financial incentives to keep good teachers in the classroom.

### **Board Attorney**

Mr. Biles reported on his recent activity on behalf of the Board. He noted that most of his activity was related to the copyright issues on the science standards. He also reported he was expecting a ruling from the court on motions filed in the school finance litigation. He also reported that he would try to contact Board members by e-mail prior to Board meetings. He cautioned that e-mail was not totally secure, but was a tool that could be used for communication between meetings. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for November be paid as presented. The motion carried.

### **Legislative Coordinator**

Mr. Hill asked Board members when they wanted to have the legislative brochures available. It was agreed that to have them by the January Board meeting would be soon enough. He indicated the most important issue on the Board's legislative agenda was the technology plan. He also reported that he would not be as available during the session as in the past and requested assistance from all Board members to help pick up the slack.

### **Commissioner**

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed his written report and indicated that the Department now had enough schools for participation in the NAEP assessment. He noted that he didn't think participation would be doable in the future without some incentives. Dr. Tompkins also reported on state assessment issues. He indicated that the mathematics test would have only one pilot, the one conducted during the fall of 1999, and the only area of difficulty appeared to be at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. He indicated that the test measured the standards, but that specific intervention would be necessary to help districts adjust their curriculum to address the content of the standards. Dr. Tompkins suggested that a task force be put together to come up with recommendations to address the problems at the 10<sup>th</sup> grade level. Discussion followed about why the state assessments in reading and mathematics were not improving at the high school level. Dr. Tompkins recommended that the Board hold a study session on assessments to particularly look at the problems of high school assessments, the alignment of local curriculum with state standards, and end-of-class testing. Dr. Tompkins also noted that the external assessment advisory committee would be meeting January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and asked if Board members would like to meet with them on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Tompkins asked Mr. Tayani to briefly describe the new e-mail system that training would be offered for January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Member Reports**

Mrs. DeFever reported on her visit to Pittsburg State University in November. She stated she would like

a panel from the universities that provide teacher training make a presentation on what they're doing and on national board certification. Mrs. DeFever also asked that Board members be informed of press conferences ahead of time and to have press releases before they are published in the newspaper or reported over the air.

Dr. Abrams reported that the Policy Committee would have the Committee's recommendation on boardsmanship at the January meeting and had begun its biennial review of Board policies as required. He also reported on his attendance at a National State Boards of Education technology conference in November and some of the things he had learned regarding virtual classes and distance learning, electronic student record keeping and communication with parents; and satellite delivery of classes. He made information available to all Board members who were interested.

Mrs. Brown reported that she had attended the Education Leaders Council meeting and would provide a report at the January meeting.

Mrs. DeFever also reported that NASBE had asked her to serve on the Governmental Affairs Committee. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the Board support Mrs. DeFever's participation.

#### **APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL**

Mrs. Holloway asked to add salary for an interview by KU on press fairness. Dr. Abrams asked that salary and mileage be included for attendance at the public hearing on educator licensure in Wichita on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Wagnon asked that salary and mileage for the ESSDACK luncheon meeting in Hutchinson on December 15, 1999 and attendance at the Northeast Kansas legislative meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup> be included. Dr. Abrams and Mr. Voth also asked that salary and mileage for their attendance at the ESSDACK meeting be added. Attendance at the State of the State address was also added for all Board members. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the travel requests be approved as amended. The motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Linda Holloway, Chairman

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Penny Plamann, Secretary