

Kansas Commission on Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2011 - Kansas National Education Building, Topeka KS

Commission members in attendance:

Acting Secretary John Mitchell, Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker, Jessica Noble, Harriett Johnson, Senator Anthony Hensley, James Mireles, Jana Shaver, Malissa Martin-Wilke, Miriam Krehbiel, Nicolette Geisler, Deputy Secretary Roger Haden, Denise Wren, Keil Eggers, Judge Tom Webb, Linda Kotich, Donovan Karber, Lt Col Mike Erwin, Dr. Blake West and Representative JoAnn Pottorff.

Support personnel, proxies and presenters:

Dr. Julie Ford, Kathy Hund (for Secretary Thornton), Randy Bowman (for Acting Commissioner Casarona) and Steve Williams

Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Agenda:

- Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker and Acting Secretary John Mitchell welcomed everyone. Special thanks to KNEA for hosting today's meeting and lunch.
- The following individuals were recognized for having perfect attendance at the previous six meetings: Harriett Johnson, Miriam Krehbiel, Malissa Martin-Wilke, James Mireles, Jana Shaver, Jessica Noble and Tanya Keys.
- Motion to approve 12-10-10 minutes as presented moved by Dr. Blake West and seconded by Judge Tom Webb. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve 12-21-10 minutes as presented moved by Representative JoAnn Pottorff and seconded by Donovan Karber. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Recommendations from Last Two Meetings:

- Steve Williams, CCSR Facilitator, led the group in a review of the eleven recommendations from the 12-10-10 and 12-21-10 meetings. (Red indicates original recommendation) (Blue indicates adopted recommendation) (If no changes were made to the original recommendation, it will only appear in blue)
1. Develop a long-range (ten-year) strategic plan for funding education linked to implementation of the Commission's recommendations.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as presented moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Dr. Blake West. Motion passed unanimously.
 2. Leverage the positive/collaborative education community in Kansas to attract external funding in support of the Commission's transformational recommendations. (e.g., Federal dollars, private national foundations such as Gates Foundation). Leverage the positive/collaborative education community in Kansas to attract external funding in support of the Commission's transformational recommendations. (e.g., Federal dollars, private foundations such as Gates, Annie E. Casey and Kauffman Foundations).

- Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Denise Wren and seconded by James Mireles. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Identify key champions in the state to facilitate meaningful collaboration among stakeholders. Identify key champions in the state to facilitate meaningful collaboration among stakeholders to ensure that all students graduate.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Judge Tom Webb and seconded by Malissa Martin-Wilke. Motion passed unanimously.
 4. KSDE should develop an Early Warning Indicator System that includes K-12 students and focuses on prevention rather than remediation.
 5. The Early Warning Indicator System should place the least amount of burden on the schools.
 6. The Early Warning Indicator System should encompass a school and community-based intervention component.
 7. Identify key markers at each grade level that would indicate a need for intervention. The Kansas Department of Education should develop an early warning system with key P-12 grade level indicators targeted at accurately predicting students likely to drop-out. This system should focus on dropout prevention, utilizing school- and community-based intervention components.
 - These four recommendations were merged into one. Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Keil Eggers. Motion passed unanimously.
 8. Schools should be recognized for their efforts in graduating all students. Develop a recognition program to highlight schools that show exemplary progress toward graduating all students.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Dr. Blake West and seconded by Representative JoAnn Pottorff. Motion passed unanimously.
 9. Identify and reduce the barriers to graduation that currently exist within the state (i.e. reporting, funding). Identify and reduce the barriers to graduation that currently exist within the state (i.e. policy, reporting, funding and mobility).
 - Motion to approve recommendation as amended moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Denise Wren. Motion passed unanimously.
 10. A statewide effort should be organized to help schools ensure that all students graduate.
 - The group felt this recommendation was a repeat of number three above.
 11. Resources should be provided to schools so that they can engage current students as well as students who've dropped out to ensure that they all graduate.
 - The group felt this recommendation was a repeat of previous recommendations.
 12. Communities, families and schools should work together to implement the PTA National Standards for Family School Partnerships to support student success.
 - Motion to approve recommendation as presented moved by Donovan Karber and seconded by Miriam Krehbiel. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Previously Adopted Recommendations

- The Commission was given the opportunity to review all of the previously adopted recommendations, including the mission, vision and guiding principles, to determine if any changes needed to be made. (Red indicates original recommendation) (Blue indicates adopted recommendation) (If no changes were made to the original recommendation, it will only appear in blue)
1. The Kansas State Department of Education should collect and track data from the parental consent form which allows children age 16 or 17 to be exempt from compulsory attendance requirements. The Kansas State Department of Education should standardize, collect and track data from the parental consent form which allows children age 16 or 17 to be exempt from compulsory attendance requirements.
 2. By 2020, the graduation goal should be 95% as measured by ESEA. By 2020, the graduation goal should be 95 percent as measured by the four-year adjusted cohort rate.
 3. By 2015, the dropout rate should be cut in half. By 2015, the dropout rate should be cut in half (reduced from current 1.4 percent to 0.7 percent).
 4. Kansas should develop a state method for calculating the graduation rate that captures late graduates and GED completers. Additionally, Kansas should develop a more accurate method for reporting and tracking dropouts.
 - This recommendation was deleted. Motion to delete recommendation moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Representative JoAnn Pottorff. Motion passed unanimously.
 5. Statewide implementation of KSDE 21st century skills model. Support statewide implementation of the Kansas State Department of Education 21st century skills model.
 6. Support and foster projects and initiatives in the classroom and beyond, such as For Youth, By Youth. Support and foster youth-led projects and initiatives in the classroom and beyond.
 7. Redesign school accreditation to include a focus on the 21st century skills model.
 8. Redesign state assessments to emphasize performance based, curriculum embedded, higher order skills.
 9. Focus professional development on the 21st century skills model.
 - This recommendation was deleted. Motion to delete recommendation moved by Denise Wren and seconded by Judge Tom Webb. Motion passed unanimously.
 10. Expand and enhance positive relationships among stakeholders, including but not limited to businesses, communities, educators, families and students, to support implementation of the 21st century skills model. Expand and enhance positive relationships among stakeholders to support implementation of the 21st century skills model.

11. **Ensure availability of technology and professional development necessary to implement the 21st century skills model.** Ensure availability of technology and focused professional development necessary to implement the 21st century skills model.
12. Identify and inventory all educational programs in Kansas that serve adults 16 and over who lack a high school diploma or GED and research what, if any, improvements can be made to the service delivery models.
13. **Investigate whether Kansas can receive a waiver from the American Council on Education to allow for dual enrollment in high school and GED testing.** Seek a waiver from the American Council on Education to allow for dual enrollment in high school and GED testing.
14. Stakeholders should participate with school districts in developing discipline policies and programs that keep students in attendance at school.
15. Support statewide implementation of Multi-Tier Systems of Support model.
16. Districts should offer professional development to help staff use developmentally and culturally appropriate strategies when working with students.
17. **Relationships should be fostered between schools, communities, and families to support children from birth through graduation in order to prevent disciplinary issues.** Foster relationships between families, schools and communities to support children from birth through graduation in order to prevent disciplinary issues.
18. **Encourage all school districts to include school-to-registered apprentice programs, internships, and work- and experience-based learning programs in “structured learning time.”** Encourage all school districts to include school-to-registered apprentice programs, internships, and work- and experience-based learning programs in structured learning time.
19. **Implement the Career and Technical Education policy initiatives of Kansas State Board of Education.** Implement the Career and Technical Education policy initiatives approved by the Kansas State Board of Education.
20. Support a marketing and communication campaign that showcases the critical role of career and technical education in transforming the way education is delivered to all students and underscores the positive economic impact it provides for citizens and our state.
21. A State of Kansas diploma should be awarded to students who are under the custody of the Secretary of SRS or the Commissioner of JJA on or after their 17th birthday and who have achieved the minimum state credit requirements.
22. **The Commission supports local district policies to award a diploma to students who have achieved the minimum state credit requirements (KAR 91-31-35).** Support local district policies to award a diploma to students who have achieved the minimum state credit requirements (KAR 91-31-35).
23. **In addition to the minimum state graduation requirements, the Commission recommends diploma endorsements be developed around the Kansas Career Clusters Model.** In addition

to the minimum state graduation requirements, develop diploma endorsements around the Kansas Career Clusters Model.

24. **The Commission recommends the Kansas State Board of Education review the differences between state and local district graduation requirements.** The Kansas State Board of Education should review the differences between state and local district graduation requirements and determine the need for a change in state requirements.
25. Stakeholders should participate with school districts in developing programs that provide an alternative to suspending students for attendance issues.
 - This recommendation was deleted. Motion to delete recommendation moved by Miriam Krehbiel and seconded by Dr. Blake West. Motion passed unanimously.
26. The Kansas State Department of Education should provide guidance on what constitutes an excused absence.
27. Schools and stakeholders should work together to establish an attendance council that will create a school wide action plan for addressing absenteeism and develop individual action plans for students with chronic absences.
28. Educate students, parents/guardians and the community on the importance of regular attendance (this could be accomplished by the school attendance council).
29. **Schools should be provided the resources to continue and develop extra- and co-curricular activities and all students should be encouraged to participate.** Provide schools with the resources to continue and to develop extra- and co-curricular activities and encourage all students to participate.
30. **The Commission's collaborative work should be continued under the format of a P-20 Council with the Council's membership broadened to include representatives from communities and other agencies.** Continue the Commission's collaborative work under the format of a P-20 Council with the Council's membership broadened to include representatives from communities and other organizations.
31. **Identify, develop and engage public/private sector partnerships to support individual student success for graduation.** Examine successful public/private sector collaboration models, particularly involving rural areas, in order to develop and engage such partnerships in support of individual student success for graduation.
32. Examine established public/private sector collaboration models that have been successful particularly involving rural areas.
 - This recommendation was deleted. Motion to delete recommendation moved by Dr. Blake West and seconded by Keil Eggers. Motion passed unanimously.
33. **Provide the opportunity for every student in Kansas to take the Kansas Career Pipeline Assessment and be counseled about career opportunities that are available. Provide access to representatives from the schools, community, business, industry, and agencies in the**

counseling process. Provide the opportunity for every student in Kansas to take the Kansas Career Pipeline Assessment and be counseled about available career opportunities.

34. **Recommend and support the secure sharing and appropriate use of data across agencies.** Encourage and support the secure sharing and appropriate use of data across agencies.
 35. **Every high school student should be given the opportunity to be tested on a national exam prior to his/her junior year to ensure that the student and his/her parents/guardians understand the student's abilities and readiness for postsecondary education, training, and/or employment to develop an action plan for skill enhancement.** Give every high school student the opportunity to be tested on a national exam prior to his/her junior year to ensure that the student and his/her parents/guardians understand the student's abilities and readiness for postsecondary education, training, and/or employment to develop an action plan for skill enhancement.
- **Mission:** The Commission will establish clear and measurable recommendations that engage all key stakeholders in comprehensive solutions to ensure the graduation of all Kansas P-12 students. The Commission will establish clear recommendations that engage all key stakeholders in comprehensive solutions to ensure the graduation of all Kansas P-12 students.
 - **Vision:** By 2020, all Kansas students will graduate from high school with the skills to be successful.
 - **Guiding Principles:**
 - **All students are capable and deserve and should receive a high school education.** All students are capable, deserving and should receive a high school education in order to earn a high school diploma.
 - Multi-sector collaboration is essential to success.
 - Recommendations must speak to equal, equitable access to resources and support.
 - Current regulations and barriers can be changed.
 - Policies and regulations must support the creation of positive and engaging learning environments.
 - **Parental, student and community involvement is essential.** Student, family, school and community involvement is essential.
 - Schools must demonstrate cultural awareness and responsiveness.
 - Stakeholders, particularly policy-makers, must provide the necessary financial support and other resources to implement the commission's recommended solutions.
 - **The public/community, businesses, parents and policy-makers need a deeper understanding of the challenges and needs of students, schools and the connection between school investment and the economic future of the community and Kansas.** Stakeholders, particularly policy-makers, need a deeper understanding of the connection between school investment and the economic future of the community and Kansas.
 - Our recommendations must be realistic/finite yet impactful and measurable.
 - Our recommendations must be systemic in nature.
 - The Commission will be sensitive to and take into account cultural differences.

Public Comment:

- No public comments were made

Closing Remarks:

- The Final Commission report will be delivered to Governor Parkinson on Thursday January 6, 2011.
- The Commission report will be available on the Kansas DropINs website on Friday, January 7, 2011.
- Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker and Acting Secretary John Mitchell thanked all of the Commission members for their hard work over the past six months. Special thanks to Steve Williams, Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research, for his superb facilitation services.