

# KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 1997

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 1997, in the education building of the Kansas State Board of Education, 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. Mrs. McMillon asked that item 15 d. concerning charter schools be pulled from the consent agenda. Dr. Abrams asked that item 15 i. concerning special education waivers be pulled. Mrs. Brown asked that item 15 k. concerning visiting scholar certificates be pulled. There being no further changes, Dr. Abrams moved approval of the agenda as amended. Mr. Rundell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Wagnon questioned the recorded outcome of the vote for appointments to the Professional Standards Advisory Board. Discussion followed and the consensus was that Susan Gronquist tied with Susan Rosell and both were declared receiving a majority on the first ballot and that Shawn Kovacik received a majority on the second ballot. A check of the ballots confirmed the vote. Dr. Wagnon then noted

absence from the minutes of his comments on 1) the Cultural Heritage Center in Dodge City, KS 2) his request for a staff presentation on future Department of Education preparation for the celebration of the sesquicentennial of Kansas territorial status and statehood and 3) his request for a future agenda item to address Board concerns about functional illiteracy. Mrs. McMillon noted that the vote on the Kansas Department of Education budget was not unanimous. Because of the extensive changes requested, Chairman Gilmore asked that the vote to approve the minutes be postponed until the next day, September 10, 1997, to allow time for preparation of an alternate section to include Dr. Wagon's remarks.

## **PRESENTATION OF STATEWIDE ACT RESULTS**

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Mr. Dallas Chapman, ACT Assistant Vice President and Regional Manager, and Ernest Valdez, ACT Director of Elementary and Secondary Services. Mr. Chapman made brief remarks about ACT's sixteen-state Western Region and commented on the growth in student achievement. He then turned to Mr. Valdez to share with the Board the Kansas 1997 summary report. Mr. Valdez noted in his presentation and in response to questions that the percent of those graduating from Kansas high schools who take the test rose from 71.4% in 1993 to 74.4% in 1997. He compared that to 29% of all graduates in the Western Region taking the test. The 1997 composite mean score for Kansas was 21.7, placing Kansas second highest in the Western Region. It was pointed out that in the state which ranked first, with a mean score of 21.9, only 55.1% of all those graduating had taken the test. 75% of Kansas students take the ACT test during the fall semester of their senior year and 36% of students taking the ACT retake it at a later date; 15.1% of those retaking the test saw a rise in their composite score of three points. The mean composite score for males was 21.8 compared to 21.6 for females, but there was a narrowing of the gender difference in Kansas; females scored higher in English and reading and males scored higher in math and science. Scores across ethnic groups in Kansas continued to rise above national averages; students who took a core, or college preparatory, program scored higher than those who did not; and socio-economic status was a major predictor of test scores.

Asked why the number of Kansas students taking the test was so high, Mr. Valdez replied that those who use the ACT believe achievement measures which are curriculum based are important to the counselor and student in assessing and planning completion of a student's coursework. He further indicated that ACT has been working on a study for the past three years to develop data which would be useful in developing a descriptive narrative of the body of knowledge reflected in a score of 21. Asked about using the ACT as a judge of the quality of the education offered and as a comparison to other states, he indicated that it was one indicator to be used with other measures and that it is used for guidance and placement in college admissions.

Other questions addressed how one registered for and took the test; the effect of any changes in test setting on scores; if the degree of difficulty had remained the same over the years; how ACT develops the test year to year, integrating the latest and best test practices; how accurate self-reported information provided by students was; and why students are allowed to use calculators when taking the test.

## **CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Gilmore opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 11:05 a.m. Two people addressed the Board:

- Dawn Olney, Prairie Village, KS
- Deb Larson, Reading Specialist, Berryton, KS

Chairman Gilmore closed the Forum at 11:12 a.m.

## **AMERICANS ALL PROGRAM**

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Dr. Leonard Wesley, former Assistant Superintendent of Schools for Desegregation/Integration and Federal Projects for the Wichita Public Schools, now retired, who presented an overview of and shared his experience with the Americans All Program. Dr. Wesley explained that as the United States moves to a more ethnically diverse population, the need for a more inclusive way to teach history will become more important. He reported on the pilot program for Americans All in which he participated in San Diego, CA and noted that San Diego's population mix reflected the direction toward which the Wichita school district, which now uses the program, had started moving. Dr. Wesley explained that the program tells the story of all Americans and honors the diversity of those who populated the country. He noted the very positive effect this approach to history had on young students who participate in the program. He currently works to help other school districts integrate the program into their curriculum. In response to Board members' questions, he stressed the program provides supplementary K-12 material to teachers and is not intended as a replacement for a specific course, but can provide adjunct material for existing history and language arts programs. He noted that the Kansas City, Kansas school district is also using the program.

Chairman Gilmore called a short break at 11:35 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 11:44 a.m.

## **EDUCATION ISSUES FOR THE 1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Deputy Commissioner Dennis reported that the State General Fund balance was up \$27.53 million over estimates. He then provided Board members with an agenda for the Special Committee on Education which included committee member names, meeting dates and study topics.

Mr. Hill reported on a recent meeting of the Special Committee on Education which examined the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Mr. Gilmore reported on a recent meeting of the Special Committee on Community College Governance and that there was a need to look for ways to work with the legislature. Mr. Dennis added that out-district tuition, the need for cooperation and coordination, and lowering the mill levy were all concerns of many legislators on the committee. Discussion followed.

## **FISCAL YEAR 1999 BUDGET:**

### **Kansas Department of Education**

Because there were no changes in the FY 1999 budget which was tentatively approved at the August Board meeting, Mr. Rundell moved with a second by Mr. Hill, that the FY 1999 budget for the Kansas Department of Education be approved as submitted. Mrs. McMillon questioned whether there was Board interest in providing funding for the Kansas Office for Community Service. Comments on the program indicated the belief that it didn't address the needs of a large enough number of students and that its focus went beyond education to issues that should be addressed by the legislature and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Further discussion of the budget included questions about the increased cost of assessments and the assumptions made to arrive at the cost. Dr. Wagnon stated he would vote against the motion to approve the budget because 1) local districts were being asked to pay more and 2) the Kansas State Board of Education was not providing the level of funding per student, \$4,000, which he believed it should. The Chairman called for a vote and the motion passed 6-4. Voting "no" were Mrs. McMillon, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Specht and Dr. Wagnon.

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

Mr. Gerald Johnson, Superintendent, asked for Board approval of his FY 1999 budget. He noted that the enhancement package reflected increases for technology improvement. Mrs. Specht moved to approve the budget for Kansas State School for the Deaf with a second by Mrs. Holloway. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Bill Daugherty, Superintendent, asked for Board approval of his FY 1999 budget. He noted that the enhancement package included a 5% increase for staff salaries to work toward pay equity with the State School for the Deaf. It also included increased funding for technology improvements. Mrs. McMillon moved to approve the budget for Kansas State School for the Blind with a second by Mrs. Morrison. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Gilmore called a break for lunch at 12:09 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:18 p.m.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE**

### **Introduction of Special Advisory Council for Special Education**

Mr. Mike Remus introduced members of the 1997-1998 Advisory Council for Special Education: Valorie DeFever, Independence, Floyd Hudson, Kansas City, Past Chair Joseph Meyers, Spring Hill, Ray Petty, Lawrence, Greg Renter, Beloit and Mary Ellen Welshon, Hoxie, the new Chair. Randy Proctor, Topeka, and Teresa Beaudry, Deerfield, were unable to attend. The Council position for a

representative of the Medical Field was vacant and was to be filled later in the Board meeting. Mr. Remus then introduced the Special Education Advisory Council Associates and Technical Council members. Chuck Laster, Catherine Cooke and Sheila Friedman, representatives of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs were also introduced and Mr. Remus explained that they were in Topeka helping Kansas develop its state plan which would address the June amendments to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

## **IDEA Reauthorization Update**

Mr. Remus gave the Board an update on the amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and their impact on Kansas special education programs. He indicated the need in the upcoming session for legislative changes to Kansas special education statutes so that the state will be in compliance with federal mandates. In discussing federal funding, Mr. Remus reported that Kansas hoped to receive \$29 million and that the federal government was desiring more accountability for dollars spent. He added the U.S. Department of Education had been having the same concerns about student improvement and assessment as those expressed at the state level. Several funding issues discussed were: determining equity between state school and local district students in the types and quality of services offered; that Kansas special education programs be neutral based with the absence of a bias that would encourage separation of special education students from other students; and that local districts had to keep absorbing the difference in cost and the funding of government mandates.

Highlights of other items covered include:

- State Special Education Advisory Council - membership mandated to be at least 51% family members of individuals or individuals with disabilities;
- Personnel Standards - more flexibility with allowance for three-year provisional certification when there is a shortage of qualified personnel;
- Discipline - more detail provided in law - the Department may ask for changes in Kansas law;
- Student Re-evaluation (done every three years) - need not start over each time - may include data already gathered on a day-to-day basis;
- Private Schools - teachers may be sent into the private school setting or private school students may be served in one location;
- IEPs - will require more information; and
- Mediation - a less formal conflict resolution system for which training will begin in September.

Asked by Mr. Hill about possible conflict in the new IDEA law and state statutes, Mr. Remus indicated the task of evaluating Kansas statutes had already begun.

## **DISCUSSION OF ASSESSMENT PLANS**

### **Curricular Standards Committees**

As background for Board discussion on development of new curricular standards committees, Assistant Commissioner Sharon Freden presented a brief update on the status of current curricular standards committees in communications and mathematics. Included in the material provided to the Board was a list of suggested criteria for use in developing new committees. Dr. Freden indicated that meetings for the new committees had been tentatively scheduled and stressed the time commitment that would be required of committee members. Board discussion centered on concerns about whether the committees would be Board or staff committees and to whom the committees would ultimately report; the size of the committees; how to broaden representation on the committees and expand public engagement in the standards; and the necessity of adhering to the timeline adopted at the August Board meeting. Dr. Abrams made a motion that the selection of curricular standards advisory committees be as follows: The committees will be composed of nineteen members; nine selected by the Commissioner and one each selected by each Board member with the provision the Board members would select their appointees first. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion which failed. Mr. Wagnon moved that there be a continuation of the existing committee structure with the provision that it be broadened to include parents, business and other relevant representatives. Mr. Rundell seconded the motion. Mr. Gilmore stated he was not in favor of the status quo and could not vote for the motion. Mr. Hill stated in Board action taken at the last meeting he had voted on a long-range plan for change and he would not support the motion. Chairman Gilmore called for a vote and the motion failed 5-5.

### **National Comparative Test Data**

Dr. Freden reviewed terms of the current assessment contract which would allow for the aggregation of results from standardized norm-referenced tests currently in use in Kansas schools. Resulting data would allow for comparison of results of all Kansas students participating in the tests with norming groups used by the testing companies. There would be no additional cost other than what would be needed to purchase results from testing companies and that needed to have the aggregation completed. She pointed out that participation in NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) would not add to the Education Department's budget because current staff could be assigned. Participating school districts would incur some teacher training costs. Board discussion followed and included questions about the random selection of the 2500 students per grade level per subject area and whether the results might show a bias because of the lack of an adequate number of school districts volunteering to participate. Concern was expressed about the cost to local districts to participate and whether the Department of Education could help defray the cost. Chairman Gilmore asked Dr. Freden for the cost in dollars and time for NAEP participation.

Because of a lack of time, Chairman Gilmore deferred agenda item 11, School to Careers, to Wednesday.

### **APPOINTMENT TO STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Chairman Gilmore asked for nominations to fill the vacancy on the State Advisory Council for Special Education. Mrs. Morrison nominated Katharine Smith, with a second by Mrs. McMillon. Mr. Rundell

nominated Marilyn Peterson, with a second by Mr. Hill. Mrs. Brown nominated Sally Robson, with a second by Mrs. Holloway. The vote was conducted by signed ballot and it was reported that Katharine Smith had received the majority of votes. Mrs. Morrison moved that Katharine Smith be appointed to the State Advisory Council for Special Education to represent the medical field. Dr. Wagnon seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### **APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCY ON THE TEACHING AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD**

Dr. Martha Gage, Coordinator of Teacher Education, presented the names of three individual for nomination to fill a vacancy on the Teaching and School Administration Professional Standards Advisory Board. Mrs. McMillon nominated Dr. Sandra VanHoose; seconded by Dr. Wagnon. Mr. Hill nominated Dr. Bill Neuenswander; seconded by Mr. Rundell. Having received a majority vote on the first ballot, Mr. Hill made the motion that Dr. Bill Neuenswander be appointed to serve on the Teaching and School Administrators Professional Standards Advisory Board as a representative of the faculty or administration of the four-year private colleges or universities for a term from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 2000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Morrison and passed unanimously.

### **TRANSFER STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM PROPOSAL**

Commissioner Tompkins presented background information on the transfer student information system proposal which is being considered by the Joint Committee on Governance. Three groups have indicated an interest in participating in the pilot program which will gather data for aggregation on students transferring between post-secondary institutions in the state. Mrs. Morrison moved that the Board approve the transfer student information system proposal and pilot projects. Mrs. Specht seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Gilmore asked if Mrs. McMillon, Dr. Abrams and Mrs. Brown had obtained the information they were seeking regarding the items pulled from the consent agenda at the beginning of the day. Mrs. McMillon questioned the authority of the Northeast Kansas Educational Service Center to submit a charter school application for a district for which an authorizing signature did not appear on the request. In discussing the issue, several other questions arose about charter schools, including the need of a district or districts to ask for approval to establish a school when no program waivers are being requested. It was suggested that Board policy on charter schools needed clarification and that the Board should ask the legislature for more authority over the establishment of charter schools. Regarding the special education waiver requests, Dr. Abrams asked if there were any follow-up studies that measured the effect of previous waivers. Staff assured Dr. Abrams they would make those results available to him. Mrs. Brown inquired if the Visiting Scholar certificate requested for Elizabeth Siebert to teach sign language in Hays USD 489 would be for classes used to fulfill a foreign language requirement. Assured they would not, Mrs. Brown dropped her objections to the request. Mr. Hill asked why the Certification

Team had recommended denial of Mr. Mai's Visiting Scholar certificate request to teach Spanish in Lincoln USD 298. It was noted by staff that Mr. Mai's request was based on advanced course study or extensive training and that Mr. Mai's actual course hours in Spanish amounted to barely a minor in Spanish. Further Board discussion of the visiting scholar issue centered on Board responsibility and the program's structure and guidelines. Mrs. McMillon moved approval of the entire consent agenda; seconded by Mrs. Holloway. The motion carried 9-1 with Dr. Abrams voting "no."

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the appointment of Darrel Lang to the unclassified special projects position of Education Program Consultant under the AIDS and Human Sexuality Grant, effective September 9, 1997.
- Approved school construction plans for USD 229 Blue Valley, USD 486 Elwood, Southwestern College, USD 425 Highland, USD 503 Parsons, USD 249 Frontenac, USD 262 Valley Center, USD 470 Arkansas City, Tabor College, and Elyria Christian School.
- Approved Charter School Petitions for the 1998-99 school year for USD 416 Louisburg, USD 249 Frontenac, USD 341 Oskaloosa and USD 361 Anthony-Harper.
- 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 438 Skyline, USD 442 Nemaha Valley, USD 301 Nes Tre La Go, USD 381 Spearville, USD 374 Sublette and USD 231 Gardner/Edgerton/Antioch; and preservice teacher education/professional development subgrants for Southeast Kansas Education Service Center 609-Girard (\$25,000), USD 308 Hutchinson (\$8,685), Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center 602-Oakley (\$101,850), Burlington USD 244 (\$25,000), Ness County County Consortium USD 303 (\$25,000) and USD 337 Royal Valley (\$24,810).
- Approved \$914,637 in grant awards for the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities program for 1997-98 as follows: USD 457 Garden City (\$113,776.05); USD 442 Seneca (\$17,750.81); USD 259 Wichita (\$127,736.01); USD 289 Wellsville (\$19,037.47); Educational Service Center 629-Smoky Hill representing USDs 239, 298, 328, 481 and 487 (\$56,715.69); USD 500 Kansas City (\$169,680.57); USD 262 Valley Center (\$46,190.93); USD 233 Olathe (\$83,660.37); Newton USD 373 Consortium representing USDs 369, 439, 440 and 460 (\$128,000.63); and USD 475 Junction City (\$152,088.47).
- Approved requests for waivers of state special education regulations to gather data for changes in regulations to conform with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act during the 1997-1998 school year for programs for USD 229 Blue Valley, USD 232 DeSoto, Northeast Kansas

Education Service Center 608, USD 497 Lawrence and USD 233 Olathe.

- Granted a 1997-98 Visiting Scholar Certificate for Elizabeth Siebert to teach sign language in grades 9-12 in USD 489 Hays.
- Denied a 1997-98 Visiting Scholar Certificate for John Mai to teach Spanish to elementary and secondary students in USD 298 Lincoln.
- Approved the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee of the Teaching and School Administration Professional Standards Advisory Board for program approval with stipulations for the geography program (U, 7-12) at Fort Hays State University.
- Approved accredited status for: USD 102 Cimarron-Ensign - Cimarron Elem, Cimarron High; USD 200 Greeley County Schools - Greeley County High School; USD 223 Barnes - Linn Elem, Linn High; USD 227 Jetmore - Jetmore Elem, Jetmore High; USD 229 Blue Valley - Oxford Middle, Blue Valley North High, Morse Elem, Stilwell Elem, Mission Trail Elem, Leawood Middle School; USD 251 North Lyon County - Northern Heights; USD 254 Barber County North - Medicine Lodge Middle School; USD 259 Wichita - Griffith Elem, Washington Accelerated Learning Elem; USD 260 Derby - El Paso Elem, Oaklawn Elem, Paul B Cooper Elem, Swaney Elem, Wineteer Elem, Carlton Learning Center; USD 282 West Elk - Severy Elem; USD 308 Hutchinson Public Schools - Avenue A Elem, Graber Elem, Liberty Middle; USD 337 Royal Valley - Royal Valley Elementary; USD 345 Seaman - Indian Creek Elem; USD 353 Wellington - Roosevelt Elem; USD 365 Garnett - Mont Ida Elem, Westphalia; USD 409 Atchison Public Schools - Atchison High School; USD 470 Arkansas City - C 4 Elem, I X L Elem; USD 500 Kansas City - Banneker Elem, Silver City Elem, Douglass Elem, Mark Twain Elem, Bethel Elem, Claude A Huyck Elem, John F Kennedy Elem, Welborn Elem; USD 512 Shawnee Mission Pub Sch - Dorothy Moody Elem, Ray Marsh Elem, Nall Hills, Elem, Rising Star Elem, Trailwood Elem, Westridge Middle, Indian Hills Middle, Trailridge Middle.
- Approved conditional accreditation status for: USD 246 Northeast - Northeast Elementary; USD 283 Elk Valley - Longton Elementary and Longton High; USD 352 Goodland - Goodland High; and Z0028 Dodge City Catholic Diocese - Sacred Heart Elementary in Pratt.
- Approved Inservice Education Plans from USD 232 DeSoto, USD 347 Kinsley-Offerle, USD 348 Baldwin City, USD 465 Winfield and USD 507 Satanta.
- Approved recommendations from the Certification Review Committee.
- Certificates of Approval under the Kansas Proprietary School Act were issued to: Johnson County Board of Realtors, Inc., Overland Park, KS; Century Learning Center, Overland Park, KS; Graham School, Inc., Garnett, KS; The Travel Academy, Lenexa, KS; High Technical Institute, Phoenix, AZ; Grand Island College, Grand Island, NE.

- Approved requests for waiver of the driver education regulation for three school districts, USD 419 Canton-Galva, USD 229 Blue Valley and USD 239 North Ottawa County, to implement a performance-based driver education curriculum.
- Approved grants for Kansas Internships for teachers from Kaw Area Technical School, Salina Area Technical School, Kansas City Area Technical School, Northwest Kansas Technical School, Colby Community College, Flint Hills Technical College, North Central Kansas Technical College, Cloud County Community College and Cowley County Community College.
- Issued orders to USD 338 Valley Falls, Jefferson County, and USD 458 Basehor-Linwood, Leavenworth County, granting them authority to hold elections on the question of the districts' general bond debt limitation.
- Approved the Nutrition Education and Training Program State Plan for Fiscal Year 1998.

***Contracts Approved:***

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to:

- Negotiate and enter into a contract with Washburn University for coordinating development and implementation of special education mediator and due process training with the contract amount not to exceed \$24,000; and
- Negotiate renewal of the contract with Emporia State University for the ESOL/Bilingual Education Lending Library, with the contract amount not to exceed \$7,000.
- Negotiate and enter into a contract with the Kansas Department of Human Resources to conduct a study on jobs availability with the contract amount not to exceed \$15,000

The Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Deaf was authorized to negotiate the renewal of a contract with:

- American Rehabilitation Clinics, Inc. to provide physical therapy for the period August 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998, with the contract amount not to exceed \$23,000;
- American Rehabilitation Clinics, Inc. to provide occupational therapy for the period August 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998, with the contract amount not to exceed \$32,000; and
- Joy S. Wylie, D.D.S., to provide student dental services for the period July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998, with the contract amount not to exceed \$7,200.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Abrams moved that the State Board of Education go into Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel for one hour beginning at 4:55 p.m.; seconded by Dr. Wagnon. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting resumed at 5:55 p.m. Dr. Abrams made a motion to extend the Executive Session for the same purpose until 6:15 p.m. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and it passed.

At 6:15 p.m. Chairman Gilmore called a recess for the day.

# **KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 1997**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 1997 in the board room of the Kansas State Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members 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 THE AGENDA**

Chairman Gilmore added item 3 a. under item 3, approval of the agenda, to include approval of the minutes which had been carried over from the previous day. He asked to split item 6 into 6 a., Executive Session, and 6 b. appointment of the Assistant Commissioner for Lifelong Learning. Chairman Gilmore also asked that the Board add items a., Appointment to State Advisory Council for Special Education, and b., School to Careers Update, to New Business. Dr. Abrams moved that the agenda be approved as revised; Mrs. Brown seconded, and the motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Each Board member having been provided with a copy of substitute language adding items requested by Dr. Wagnon to the minutes, Mr. Hill moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

## **REDESIGN OF LICENSURE OF KANSAS EDUCATORS PROJECT**

Ken Bungert, director of Certification and Teacher Education, Dr. Karen Gallagher, Chair of the Professional Standards Board, and Dr. Tes Mehring, member of the Regulations Committee, were present for the discussion of teacher licensure redesign. The discussion questions for the session were: 1) What should the Board assess before granting a license? 2) When should these assessments take place? 3) How should these assessments be done? Mr. Bungert presented a performance assessment matrix and explained where it would fit into the three phase continuum for professional preparation as illustrated in the redesign draft. Discussion followed on the type of assessment instruments to be used and the skills to be assessed.

Chairman Gilmore called for a short break at 10:05 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

## **STUDY SESSION FOR SCHOOL CHOICE**

Assistant Commissioner Freden introduced panelists who would be participating with Board members in a discussion on school choice. Each panelist represented different types of school choice and Dr. Carol Furtwengler from Wichita State University began with an overview of the subject. Dr. Furtwengler described the most common choices beginning with the least controversial public and private school choices: where one lives, magnet schools, district level choices, alternative schools, vocational schools and post secondary classes, denominational or non-denominational schools and home schools. The more controversial choices included charter schools, privatization, school voucher and tuition tax credits.

Dr. Ted Kolderie, Center for Policy Studies, St. Paul, MN, addressed charter schools. He emphasized that choice exists for those who have the resources to pay for it. The charter school program extends choice to persons lacking private resources. He also noted that charter schools can change the role of local boards of education from that of owner-operators of schools to purchasers of education on behalf of the community. Charter schools provide districts with the opportunity for new and innovative, accountable educational programs.

State Representative Kay O'Connor, Olathe, KS, discussed the voucher system. She described privately and publicly funded voucher programs already in existence. She indicated there are three reasons people support school vouchers: 1) money - it costs less to educate in private school than it does in a public school, thus saving tax dollars; 2) competition - the idea that more competition will require public schools to improve; and 3) parental control over instruction.

Mr. Austin Kent Vincent, Topeka, spoke about home schools. He reported that the three reasons people chose home education are academics, safety and religious conviction. He shared some of his family's experience with home schooling and emphasized the importance of parental responsibility.

Mr. Charles Jedele, Chair, Kansas Association of Non-Government Schools, spoke on private schools.

He listed six reasons parents choose non-government schools for their children. They are 1) values they believe in; 2) academic excellence; 3) teachers who teach a spiritual curriculum; 4) a safe environment conducive to education and positive discipline; 5) responsiveness to parents; and 6) belonging to a supportive community with which they identify. He stated the private schools he represents take any students who wish to enroll and are willing to provide education for learning and physically disabled students as well, but it would be necessary for the federal dollars available to follow the students where they attend instead of where they live.

General discussion followed with the Board asking questions of the panelists with a special interest in charter schools.

Chairman Gilmore called for a 10 minute break at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Hill moved that when the Board returned at 12:10 p.m. they go into executive session until 12:20 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. The motion was seconded by Dr. Wagon and carried unanimously.

### **APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

Mr. Rundell moved that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint Dr. Joe Birmingham to the position of Assistant Commissioner, Division of Lifelong Learning, effective January 2, 1998 at an annual salary of \$83,000. Mrs. Specht seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL**

Members reviewed the composite travel request list. Mrs. Holloway noted that her attendance at the Professional Standards Board meeting on September 14, 1997 had been omitted and should include salary, per diem and mileage. Mrs. McMillon requested that per diem be replaced with actual expenses for her meeting October 26-27, 1997. Mr. Hill asked that salary and mileage for a September 2, 1997 media appearance in Salina be added under undesignated meetings. Mrs. Holloway moved with a second by Mrs. Specht that the travel requests be approved as amended; motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Chairman Gilmore reported on the QPA Advisory Council and indicated that two Board members would be sitting with the group to select new Council members.

Mr. Dan Biles, attorney to the Board presented a report on his activities for the month of August, 1997. He reported that a final order of dismissal had recently been issued in *Clark v. the State Board of Education*. The Shawnee County District Court has recently denied the Dodge City school district's request for reconsideration of the court's order upholding a decision of the State Board regarding Dodge City's desire to withdraw from its present special education cooperative. The Dodge City school district has until October 3, 1997, to appeal. If they do appeal, there is the possibility the Supreme Court might take the case immediately. Mrs. Specht moved with a second by Mrs. Brown that Mr. Biles' fees for

services and expenses for August be paid as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hill, reporting as the Board Legislative Coordinator, advised Board members of the need for their input on legislative issues for the upcoming legislative session.

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed plans for the October Board meeting to be held at the Johnson County Community College. He reported on plans for interviews with schools which have been all the way through the accreditation process to determine if any modifications need to be made. He expressed the hope to have recommendations to the Board by the end of the year. He also reminded the Board of their previously expressed desire to review the Board mission and strategic directions.

Dr. Abrams, reporting as Chairman of the State Board Policy Committee, shared with the Board progress on the policy review the Committee is undertaking. He reported that most of the changes they intend to bring to the Board will not have substantial changes in content, but will deal with clarification. He asked Board members for areas they would like to have examined and indicated the Committee hoped to bring the recommended changes to them in November or December. He announced the Committee's next meeting will be held 5:30 p.m., October 6th, the evening before the next Board meeting, in Johnson County.

Dr. Wagon reported on a Colmer & Zigler (COZI) Award ceremony he had attended at Ross Elementary School in Topeka. He urged the Board to find an opportunity to invite Dr. Zigler to make a presentation to the Board on bringing community service into schools to improve learning.

Mr. Hill reported on attending the Wheat Bowl in Ellinwood and indicated that the money raised through the event will go into educational college scholarships.

Mrs. McMillon announced she would be attending the Education Commission of the States meeting in Denver on September 11th.

## **CURRICULAR STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

The Board resumed its discussion of the selection criteria for the curricular standards committees. Chairman Gilmore moved that the criteria for the selection of curricular standards advisory members shall be as follows: Each Kansas State Board of Education member may appoint one member to the curricular standards advisory committee. The remaining members shall be appointed at the discretion of the Commissioner with the objective of obtaining representation on the committee from a broad stakeholder base. Dr. Abrams seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Appointment to State Advisory Council for Special Education**

Mrs. Morrison made a motion to reconsider agenda item 12 from the Tuesday meeting. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion which carried on a 9-1 vote. On a re-vote, Katharine Smith received a majority. Mrs. Morrison made a motion that Katharine Smith be appointed to the State Advisory Council on Special Education. Dr. Wagnon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

### **School to Careers Program**

Chairman Gilmore asked that the School to Careers presentation be moved to a future meeting.

Mrs. Brown moved with a second by Mrs. Specht that the December Board meeting be held a week earlier. The motion was defeated 3-7.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Gilmore adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.