

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2004

Chairman Waugh called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2004, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

ROLL CALL

All members were present:

Steve Abrams	Iris Van Meter
John Bacon	Bill Wagnon
Sue Gamble	Janet Waugh
Connie Morris	Ken Willard
Carol Rupe	Bruce Wyatt

The Board stood for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Waugh asked for approval of the agenda.? Mr. Wyatt moved, with a second by Mr. Willard, that the agenda be approved as presented.? The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mrs. Gamble moved, with a second by Mr. Wyatt, that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as submitted.? The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Tompkins and the Board discussed issues being encountered related to the highly qualified teacher requirement of NCLB and the implications for teachers who are not certified in the area in which they are teaching.? Dr. Tompkins asked Board members to notify the Department immediately if contacted about problems encountered by teachers or districts.?? He updated the Board on the development of a statewide student database.? He noted that staff hoped to present more information on the project at the June Board meeting.?

At the January meeting the Board had been presented with a proposed changed in? unit accreditation regulations that would require a major or equivalent hours for students in their initial programs.? Staff? had been asked to provide additional information on whether there was a difference in the number of hours required for a Bachelor of Arts degree major and Bachelor of Science degree major in the same subject area at the institutions granting them in the state.? Dr. Tompkins handed out a summary of data that staff had collected from teacher preparation institutions, including a matrix containing the specific data that was collected.? Discussion followed about the variability in the hours required at different institutions.? During

the discussion, Dr. Wagnon suggested that the Board refrain from concerning itself with an institutional definition of what constitutes a major because the competency-based standards it has adopted already ensure that students will be qualified to teach in their content area.? Board members were asked to e-mail their questions to the Commissioner so that they could be addressed in a discussion of the issue at the March meeting.

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CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Waugh opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 10:31 a.m.? Addressing the Board was Shari Wilson, Kansas City, representing KACEE.? Chairman Waugh declared the open forum closed at 10:35 a.m.

The Board took a break from 10:36 to 10:50 a.m.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Dr. Sherrill Martinez presented the results of a study of public and private school enrollment trends. The total population in Kansas of children ages 5-17 increased by 11 percent from 1990 to 2000, with? urban centers and southwest Kansas experiencing the most growth, while much of northwest Kansas lost population. Counties that contain urban centers and several of the southwest Kansas counties showed increases in birth rates.? Many of the counties experiencing a higher birth rate have also had? higher percentages of minorities in their populations.? Dr. Martinez concluded that the county population trends for the next several years will most likely match those seen in the past decade and that the? birth rate can be used as a predictor of school enrollment increases or decreases, depending on the location.? Dr. Martinez reported that students enrolling in accredited schools are becoming more diverse and more at-risk.? In public schools, the percent of students on free and reduced price lunch increased from 28 percent in 1993-1994 to 37 percent in 2003-2004, and the percent of students who are minorities increased from 17 to 25 percent during the same time period.? An increase in the number of students on free and reduced price lunch and an increase in minority students in private accredited schools was also seen over the same period.? There was also an increase in students with disabilities in all accredited schools for the same time period.? Dr. Martinez reported that Kansas enrollment data has remained fairly consistent and mirrors national data, with 90-92 percent of the school-age population in Kansas enrolled in public and other state schools, 6 percent enrolled in accredited private schools, and 2-4 percent enrolled in unaccredited private and home schools.? Implications of the report were discussed by the Board.? It was suggested that the report would be important to share with the legislature and the Governor as a picture of the future educational needs in the state. It was also requested that the report be brought back to the Board for a discussion of it in terms of the Board?s goals.? Mrs. Morris requested that birthrate and poverty rate data be broken down by race.?

2004 TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM

The State Board heard from the eight members of the 2004 Kansas Teacher of the Year team: 2004 Kansas Teacher of the Year,? Keil Hileman, social studies and museum connections teacher at Monticello Trails Middle School, DeSoto USD 232; and 2004 Regional Teachers of the Year

?Connie Ferree, chemistry teacher at Emporia High School, Emporia USD 253; Sandy Groth, art teacher at Lakewood Elementary School, Blue Valley USD 229; Pat Lamb, science teacher at Manhattan High School, Manhattan USD 383; Greg Mittman, eighth-grade social studies teacher at Valley Center Middle School, Valley Center USD 262; Vicki O?Neal, second-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, Baxter Springs USD 508; Kim Thomas, fifth-grade teacher at McLean Science & Technology Magnet Elementary School, Wichita USD 259 and Erin Vancil, fifth-grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School, McPherson USD 418.? The teachers shared with Board members the strategies they have found to be most successful in improving student achievement in their classrooms, following which they answered questions from the Board.? It was recommended that a summary or video presentation by members of? the Teacher of the Year team about the effective classroom strategies they used be made available on the Department?s website.? The Teacher of the Year Team members received certificates of recognition and stood for pictures with the Chairman and the Commissioner.

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The Board recessed for lunch from 12:30 until 1:30 p.m.? When the Board reconvened, Mr. Wyatt was absent because of a legislative hearing.? Mr. Bacon, who was also absent, arrived at 1:38 p.m.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Kansas Charter School Annual Report

Diane Debacker, Director of School Improvement and Accreditation, presented the Department?s annual report on the 27 Kansas charter schools in existence during the 2002-2003 school year.? Her report included the geographic distribution of the charter schools, the grade configurations of each, the characteristics of each school based on their mission, and demographics on students served broken down by gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, disability, and English Language Learners.? Also included in the report was state assessment data for those charter schools which existed as a school, rather than as a program within a schools, and who had sufficient enrollment numbers for their assessment scores to be reportable.? Dr. Debacker reported that of the 27 existing charter schools, 16 had indicated they would not be seeking renewal of their charter.? She attributed this, in part, to the law requiring charters to be schools and not programs within existing schools.? Carol Rupe noted that the requirement that they must make AYP, particularly with the at-risk population served by many of the charters, could be another reason the decision to not renew had been made.? Three of the schools, Dr. Debacker reported, were still in their first three years as a charter schools, and not yet required to make a decision about renewal.? Of the remaining, she reported that eight had applied for renewal of their charters and one charter had been revoked by the Board.? Staff was asked to include on future annual charter school reports student mobility data, disaggregated by the educational mission of the school because of the high likelihood of mobility in the students served in charter schools which provide an alternative education program for at-risk students. The relevance of studying the effects of innovative charter school programs on learning in the district as a whole or studying all innovative programs was discussed.

Kansas Charter School Renewal Requests

Dr. Debacker reported on the eight charter schools that had applied for renewal of their charters.? She noted

that, as in the original 27 charters, most of those (six) seeking renewals served grades 9-12.? Dr. Debacker indicated that according to the law governing renewal of existing charter schools, a renewal request should only be approved if the charter school has demonstrated progress in achieving the program goals it had established.? She reported that components of the charter school renewal applications included the mission of the charter school; progress toward academic goals; progress toward non-academic goals; and characteristics of the students served, broken down by the same demographic categories required in the annual report.? She provided Board members with a summary of each school?s progress and stated that staff recommended that the State Board approve all eight renewal requests.? Dr. Debacker further reported that a staff member would be assigned to work with Kansas charter schools and would be visiting them at least annually and become familiar with their programs.?? No new federal money would be available for operations for the schools that renewed their charters, but Dr. Debacker indicated that 10% of the new federal money available to Kansas could go to existing charters to mentor new charter schools and those considering establishing charter schools.? She noted requests for? those dissemination funds probably would come to the Board for approval in April.

New Charter Schools Petitions

Dr. Debacker reported that 17 petitions for new charter schools had been received by the February 2, 2004 deadline.? She reviewed the grade configurations and number of students to be served in the petitions and described the petition review process.? She indicated that, in addition to the review conducted by the

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external review committee, an internal review was also conducted by Department of Education staff to validate the external review.? The same rubric which was used to score the petitions by the review committees had been made available to schools as they wrote their petitions, she noted.? The rubric addressed the 15 key elements and criteria that state law requires must be used to evaluate charter school petitions.? Dr. Debacker reported that 14 of the 17 petitions received 100 or more points, the score that had been established as a minimum to be eligible for approval.? Dr. Abrams asked why the five items listed ?in K.S.A. 72-1904 for which a school district may authorize the establishment of a charter school were not included in the rubric and scored along with the key elements listed in K.S.A. 92-1906.? Dr. Debacker responded that each applicant was asked to include information about how at least one of the items was part of the school being proposed.? Staff was asked for further information on the issue.? Staff was asked to consider the future use of a two-tier scoring system for rating charter school applications and a second score based on need was also suggested.

Dr. Debacker indicated that this matter presented two separate issues for the Board?s consideration.? The first is approval of the charter school petitions, and the second, which in itself presented several options for the Board?s deliberation, is allocating the available funds for the charter schools that were approved.? She indicated that staff recommended approval of the 14 petitions that scored 100 points or more.

Dr. Debacker explained distribution of the \$8 million in federal charter schools funds that Kansas would receive over the next three years.? After funding dissemination grants, providing 5% for state administrative costs, and funding charter schools approved to begin in 2003-2004, \$1,534,470 would be available for the

charters schools approved in March.? Funding options offered by staff included funding the highest scoring charters until the funds were exhausted; distributing the available funds equally among the 14 eligible schools, with no school receiving more than requested; or awarding each of the approved charter schools an amount proportional to the amount of funds requested and the funds available.? It was noted that the first option was the one normally used and was the option recommended by staff.? Dr. Debacker also indicated that the scores received on the petitions would be provided to each applicant and technical assistance provided.? Other funding options suggested by Board members included funding on a per pupil basis for each charter and on the likelihood of the charter achieving its goals.? Mr. Willard questioned the idea of tying funding to the highest scores.? Mrs. Morris indicated she would like to see something done for all applicants.? To help the Board in its decision making at the March meeting Dr. Abrams asked staff to provide a matrix that would illustrate the amount that would be received by each school under several funding options, to include:

- ? full funding for the top scoring applicants until the funds are exhausted;
- ? funding for all applicants scoring over 100 points, based on an equal amount per pupil;
- ? funds spread equally among the applicants scoring over 100 points, with no applicant receiving more than requested; and
- ? funding for applicants scoring over 100 points proportional to the amount of funds requested and the funds available.

Mrs. Gamble suggested that staff contact applicants to determine if they wished to continue to have their applications considered under the reduced-funding scenarios.

The Board took a break at 2:40 and returned at 2:50 p.m.? Mr. Wyatt returned to the meeting.
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LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB) FY 2005 Budget

Bill Daugherty, Superintendent of KSSB, presented information on the Governor's budget recommendation for FY 2005.? He noted that the Governor had restored funding for one week of summer school which had been eliminated by the Division of Budget in its recommendations.? Mr. Daugherty reported that KSSB would request that the House and Senate approve the Governor's recommended budget, but would continue to work on correcting the disparity between KSSB teacher salaries and teachers in local districts.? He also indicated that the House Appropriations sub-committee has requested information on the salary disparity and fees for services to districts.? He expressed the concern that if the school were required to raise its fees, the increases would discourage local districts from using their services and any increased revenues the school received would eventually be offset by reductions in appropriations. Mr. Daugherty handed out the information he was sharing with the legislature about the mission of the school and staff salaries.??

Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD) FY 2005 Budget

Jeannette Megathan, Business Manager at KSSD, discussed the Governor's recommended budget

reductions for FY 2005.? She indicated they would appeal the deletion of a vehicle purchase and the moratorium on any vehicle purchases,? and reductions that eliminated all purchases of auditory training equipment and capital outlay.? She indicated the school would also seek to have additional funds approved to address the salary disparity.

Legislative Progress Report

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis shared estimates developed for the legislature on the cost in the state for implementation of NCLB.? He indicated that the Department estimated it would cost \$131 million above the \$18 million increase in FY 2004 NCLB? federal aid.? Mr. Dennis discussed the news of other states declining participation in NCLB and? reported that the loss of federal funds to Kansas if it chose not to participate would be approximately \$158 million.? Mr. Dennis handed out a update on bills of interest and reviewed several of them.? Mr. Wyatt reported on his testimony on behalf of the Board on House Concurrent Resolution 5030 which would abolish the State Board of Education and establish a secretary of education appointed by the Governor.? Mr. Dennis also passed out an update on state general fund receipts.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

Model Theatre Standards

Carol Rupe moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the State Board approve the Kansas Curricular Standards for Theatre.? The motion carried.

Standards for English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Dr. Pochowski reviewed the federal NCLB requirements for ESOL standards and described the process used to developed the Kansas standards.? Melanie Stuart, Department of Education staff assigned to the writing committee, and Janice Wilkening, USD 214, Ulysses, and Debbie Taylor, USD 232, De Soto, members of the writing committee, participated in the discussion.? The need to have standards upon which to base the required proficiency assessment of English Language Learners was noted.? It was pointed out that the standards must clearly delineate the areas of listening, speaking,? reading and writing and be aligned with the state reading and writing standards and linked to the state science and math standards.?? The indicators for each benchmark of the standards cannot be grade specific, but must address one of three Kansas developmental levels: beginning, intermediate and advanced.? Because English Language Learners

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come to schools at all grade levels and all? proficiency levels, it was explained that it was necessary for the ESOL standards to reflect the varying degrees of English proficiency found at any grade level. ? Instructional examples for grade level clusters, K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, in the standards document were provided to offer assistance to instructors in teaching the corresponding indicator at the respective grade and proficiency level.? Asked by Dr. Abrams how an incoming student?s proficiency level was determined, Ms. Taylor, explained different assessments used by ESOL teachers. Dr. Abrams asked for information about the availability of commercially-produced English proficiency assessments that meet federal requirements.

A discussion of immersion, newcomer and inclusion programs and research supporting different teaching

methods followed.? Information about the latest research on effective ESOL teaching methods was requested, as were copies of standards used by states with ESOL one-year immersion programs. Mrs. Morris expressed displeasure with the K-12 references in the standards, indicating she felt the standards should be compressed into one year of instruction.? She added that considering the high costs and questionable effectiveness of bilingual education, perhaps the State Board should consider requiring schools to move toward English immersion programs. She also questioned the level of the Board's involvement with the development of the standards.? Chairman Waugh noted that a discussion and debate about whether the Board should require a state instructional program for English language acquisition was an issue separate from the need for the Board to act on approving ESOL curriculum standards to meet NCLB requirements.? She added that the standards would be brought to the Board for action at the March meeting.

Mr. Willard and Mrs. Morris briefly left the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Carol Rupe, that the State Board approve the consent agenda as presented.? The motion carried 8-0, with Mr. Willard and Mrs. Morris absent.? In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- ? Received the monthly personnel report.
- ? ?Confirmed the appointments of Mark McBeth to the position of Education Program Consultant, effective January 19, 2004, at an annual salary of \$44,304; Charlotte Bogner to the position of Program Consultant I, effective January 19, 2004, at an annual salary of \$33,883.20; and Carol Krenning to the position of Assistant Education Program Consultant, effective February 2, 2004, at an annual salary of \$37,377.60.
- ? Approved school construction plans for USD 259, Wichita (3); and USD 437, Auburn-Washburn.
- ? Accepted the surrender and revoked the teacher's certificate issued to Mr. Scott E. Smith as a consequence of his conduct that resulted in his conviction of the felony crime of Contributing to a Child's Misconduct or Deprivation.
- ? Approved accredited status for the following schools: USD 266 Maize Sr. High School; USD 305 Cottonwood Elementary; USD 321 Rossville Grade School; USD 445 Edgewood Elementary School, Garfield Elementary School, and Whittier Elementary School; and USD 503 Lincoln Elementary School.

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- ? Approved waiver of K.A.R. 91-31-24. for Learning Center Charter School, Valley Center, USD 262, whereby it would not be required to complete its onsite visit for Cycle I.
- ? Approved waiver of K.A.R. 91-31-24 (c) for Waconda, USD 272, to allow it to use Dr. Glen Lakes, regional director of the Smoky Hill Educational Service Center, as the on-site team chair for QPA Cycle III.

? Approved waiver of K.A.R. 91-31-24 for Southeast High School, USD 247, Cherokee, KS, to allow it to postpone conducting the Cycle III first on-site visit until Spring, 2004; have a visiting on-site team member internal to the district; and have a team chair that is not state board approved.

? Accepted recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for: ?New Program Approved with Stipulation? status for new programs through December 31, 2007 - Mathematics (I, 5-8) at Baker University's and Foreign Language ? Spanish, French, and Latin (I, PreK-12) at Wichita State University's; and ?Continuing Accreditation? status for Southwestern College through December 31, 2008.

? Approved the recommendation of the Mathematics Partnership Review Committee for funding the Title II Part B Mathematics and Science Partnership Grants for 2003-2004: ? USD 253 Emporia \$99,670; USD 259 Wichita \$100,000; USD 305 Salina \$50,000; USD 470 Arkansas City \$70,020; USD 501 Topeka \$100,000; Midwest Associated Colleges Consortium \$75,040; Kansas State University \$99,997; and USD 409 Atchison \$75,999 and not to exceed \$99,456 if funds become available.

? Approved the revised Parents as Teachers Awards in an amount not to exceed \$171,064 for USD 233 Olathe (Kansas City Consortium) \$3,487; USD 261 Haysville \$1,839; USD 268 Cheney \$1,539; USD 306 Southeast of Saline \$1,865; USD 350 St. John/Hudson \$12,300 (new); USD 428 Great Bend \$678; USD 435 Abilene \$1,450; Northeast Kansas Education Service Center \$63,957; South Central Kansas Education Service Center \$2,303; and North Central Kansas Special Education Coop \$485.

? Approved 2003-2004 Refugee Grants for USD 233 Olathe \$20,000; USD 480 Liberal \$12,000; USD 259 Wichita \$45,000; USD 497 Lawrence \$10,000; USD 343 Perry \$25,830; USD 500 Kansas City \$61,000; USD 457 Garden City \$35,000; USD 512 Shawnee Mission \$15,000; and USD 459 Bucklin \$ 5,000.

? Approved issuance of FY 2004 commercial driver training school licenses to: Horizon's Driving Academy, Salina and Pro-Tech Driving School, Inc, Hutchinson.

? Approved the Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant Awards for the 2004-2005 school year for: *Technology Rich Classrooms grants* in the amount of \$150,000 each for: USD 264, Clearwater, for Clearwater Elementary and USD 359, Argonia Elementary; USD 314, Colby Public Schools, for Colby Elementary and USD 316, Golden Plains Elementary; USD 361, Anthony-Harper, for Anthony Elementary and USD 444, Windom Elementary; USD 373, Newton, for Sunset Elementary and Northridge Elementary; USD 376, Sterling, for Sterling Grade School and USD 311, Pretty Prairie Middle School; USD 406, Wathena, for Wathena Elementary and USD 486, Elwood Elementary; USD 457, Garden City, for Garfield Elementary and Charles O. Stones Intermediate Center; #609, Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, for USD 484, Lincoln Elementary, and USD 283, Elk Valley Elementary; #609, Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, for USD 365, Garnett Elementary, and USD 344, Pleasanton Elementary; and #626, Southwest Plains Regional

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Service Center, for USD 466, Scott City Lower Elementary, and USD 214, Hickok Elementary. *Student Technology Leadership grants* in the amount of \$15,000 for each school for: USD 210, Hugoton, Hugoton Elementary; USD 214, Ulysses, Kepley Middle School; USD 259, Wichita, Mead Middle School and Curtis Middle School; USD 361, Anthony-Harper, Anthony Elementary; USD 453, Leavenworth, West Middle School; #609, and Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, for USD 366, Yates Center Elementary. *Technology Rich Classroom Continuation Grants* in the amount of \$45,000 for: USD 259, Wichita Public Schools, Cloud Elementary School and Linwood Elementary School; USD 336, Holton, for Central Elementary and USD 409, Atchison Elementary; USD 393, Solomon Unified School District, for Solomon? and USD 367, Trojan Elementary; USD 435, Abilene Public Schools for Garfield Elementary and USD 294, Oberlin Elementary; #609, Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, for USD 256, Marmaton Valley Elementary, and USD 366, Yates Center Elementary; #622, Education Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas, for USD 267, Andale Elementary-Middle, and USD 268, Cheney Elementary; #629, Smoky Hill/Central Kansas Education Service Center, for USD 473, Enterprise Elementary, and USD 481, Hope Elementary; #626, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, for USD 474, Haviland Elementary, and USD 424, Mullinville Elementary; #626, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center, for USD 476, Copeland Elementary, and USD 210, Hugoton Elementary; #633 Fort Hays Educational Development Center, for USD 228, Hanston Elementary, and USD 388, Washington Elementary; #633, Fort Hays Educational Development Center, for USD 347, Kinsley-Offerle Elementary, and USD 432, Victoria Elementary; and #633, Fort Hays Educational Development Center, for USD 325, Phillipsburg Elementary, and USD 103, Cheylin Elementary.

Contracts Authorized:

Authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and enter into a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the purpose of completing on-site health inspections of Summer Food Service Program meal preparation and service sites at the rate of \$100 per inspection, not to exceed \$12,100.

Mr. Willard and Mrs. Morris returned to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Wagon moved, with a second by Carol Rupe, that the State Board of Education recess into executive session for a period of 20 minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of nonelected personnel so the privacy, confidentiality and other rights of such personnel are not violated, and for consultation with the Board attorney so that attorney-client privilege could be preserved, and that the open meeting of the State Board resume in the Board Room at 5:50 p.m.? The motion carried.? At 5:50 p.m. the open meeting resumed.? Mr. Willard moved, with a second by Mrs. Morris, that the executive session be extended for 10 minutes and that the open meeting resume at 6:00 p.m.? The motion carried.? The open meeting resumed at 6:00 p.m.

RECESS

There being no further business, Chairman Waugh recessed the meeting at 6:00 p.m.?

Biles? report and authorize payment of his fees for services and expenses for January as presented.? The motion carried 10-0, Dr. Wagon having arrived at the meeting at 9:08 a.m.

Other Board Member Reports

Mrs. Morris reviewed a preliminary schedule for the State Board?s meeting in Northwest Kansas in April.?

Dr. Wagon reported on a meeting to which he had invited all the superintendents and high school principals in his district.? At the meeting he had shared the NASBE report on restructuring high school and had asked for ideas about implementing the Board?s goal of having multiple pathways to ensure successful educational outcomes for all students.? He indicated that concern was expressed about inconsistencies in how the Regents institutions grant credit for advanced placement courses.? Dr. Wagon also reported on his participation on the NASBE study group on closing the achievement gap and the need for district and building leaders to be instructional leaders as well.

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Chairman Waugh introduced members of an education class from Baker University who were attending the Board meeting.

Mr. Willard reported on his participation on the NASBE High School Athletics Commission and several questions the group was studying, including whether scarce education dollars should pay for athletics or if local communities should pay for them; if the Board should take a position on club sports; should home-schooled students be allowed to participate in high school athletics; and the role of state boards of education in directing policies of state high school activities associations.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

A discussion of the barriers to implementing the Board?s core principles for competency-based learning was requested by Dr. Wagon.? Mr. Willard recommended Dr. Ben Carson as a speaker or presenter for future education conferences.? Dr. Abrams requested a presentation in May or June by the Executive Director of Ag in the Classroom.

GUIDELINES FOR VIRTUAL CLASSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Pochowski explained that because virtual, online courses are being more widely used by school districts, it was recognized that the need exists for guidelines to ensure online programs in Kansas are of the highest quality and warrant the approval for students enrolled in these programs to be eligible for state aid.? She reported that representatives from Kansas districts that operate current online programs had met with KSDE staff to discuss and develop potential guidelines. The representatives, as well as several staff from existing programs, were present to visit with the Board about recommendations regarding specific personnel and program criteria and respond to questions from the Board. Members of the committee included: Mark Evans, Deputy Superintendent, Wichita, USD 259; Shawn Morris, Wichita e-school, USD 259; Jill Hackett, Superintendent, Basehor-Linwood, USD 458; Brenda DeGroot, Director of External Programs, Basehor-Linwood, USD 458; Nicole Williams, Assistant Director of External Programs, Basehor-Linwood, USD 458; Scott Myers, Superintendent, Elkhart, USD 218; and Clay Abla, Assistant Superintendent, Elkhart, USD 218.?

The differences in on-line programs and commercially available instruction on cd-roms were discussed. The committee didn't rule out the use of cd-rom coursework as part of a larger instructional program, but felt it was important to have timely, daily interaction between students and instructors and for on-line programs to teach to and be aligned with the Kansas curriculum standards. The committee was asked about available professional development opportunities and teacher training in institutions of higher education in the area of instructional technology. Sherry Hurn, Assistant Director of the Elkhart Electronic Charter School, responded that though there were some degree programs such as the one where she had received her training in Texas, there were very few training resources available for K-12 teachers. How to determine if an on-line program or course was suitable for a student; if student outcomes were equivalent to traditional methods; and comparability in cost were several other issues that were raised. Several Board members indicated they had additional questions and Commissioner Tompkins asked that they e-mail them to him so that he could bring the committee back to discuss the issue further.

The Board took a break from 10:34 a.m. to 10:42 a.m.

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EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND INITIATIVES

Dr. Pochowski introduced members of a team of Kansas delegates who attended the National Governor's Conference on Early Childhood representing the Office of the Governor. Team members included Sylvia Robinson, Director of Education Policy, Office of the Governor, who was unable to be present; Jennifer Crow, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Governor; Melissa Ness, Chair, Kansas Children's Cabinet; as well as Dr. Pochowski. They gave a Power Point presentation on the key themes and key actions which were identified at the National Governor's Conference. Melissa Ness reported on how the work of the Children's Cabinet, with its Smart Start program, focuses on local and community programs in the state. She also noted that the Department of Education, Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Health and Environment, and in the field, the Kansas Children's Campaign, are in a position to articulate where early learning opportunities exist and help define where the state needs to go to address the gaps in services. Jennifer Crow reported on the Governor Sebelius's forums that had been held across the state. The importance of programs for birth through age five and getting children ready to enter school was highlighted. Ms. Crow reported that funding for early childhood programs had been included in the Governor's base budget. She also noted that several states have already begun efforts to address early learning needs and that team hoped to learn from them. Dr. Pochowski reported that it was important to get a good picture of what efforts were underway in the state from an education point of view. She also explained, in response to a question from Carol Rupe, that the grant Kansas had received from NASBE would help in the development of early childhood standards. Asked about a timeline and target date for data gathering, evaluation of existing programs and development of a proposed plan, Ms. Ness replied that it was a fast track issue. Dr. Pochowski noted that the team had drafted a structure and propose membership for an early childhood council.

BOARD TRAVEL

Mrs. Gamble moved, with a second by Dr. Wagon, that the travel requests be approved as presented. The

Policy Development ? No Comments

Public Relations and Information

- Little public awareness of what the State Board does
- Could use some help in setting up a way to share information with constituents
- Staff needs to be more aggressive in communicating State Board issues with the public including recognitions

Liaison with Other Groups ? No Comments

Effectiveness of State Board Meetings

Agenda Development and Information Gathering ? No Comments

Standard Operating Procedures

- Make sure agenda is focused on goals and objectives

Effectiveness of State Board Members

Yourself as an Effective Board Member and Programs to Increase the Effectiveness of Board Members ?

No Comment

Board Goals and Objectives? - Discuss at a future meeting