

**KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 1999**

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members present were:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Holloway asked that the agenda be modified to begin the Citizen's Open Forum at 10:15 a.m. and to postpone discussion, if any, on Board Policy Committee recommendations until after the lunch break. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the agenda be approved as modified. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Holloway asked for approval of the minutes of the July meeting. Dr. Wagnon asked that the minutes for July 14th be corrected to record passage of the motion to extend the executive session from 11:10 a.m. to 11:20. a.m. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE

Dr. Abrams, Chairman of the Board Policy Committee, reviewed recommended amendments to Board policy. Changes included:

1. *Record of Board member votes* - a record by name of any member voting against a motion shall be included in the minutes;
2. *Evaluation forms for the Commissioner, Board Secretary and Board Attorney*: evaluations forms shall be in a standard format based upon responsibilities; evaluations should address matters of which members have a personal knowledge; and space should be provided on the forms for comments;
3. *Out-of-State Travel*: deletion of reference to number of national and regional and in-state meetings per year which a member can attend as a designated representative of the Board;

4. *Visiting Scholar Certificate*: guidelines to be changed to permit issuance of a certificate when two of the three criteria are met; elimination of the prohibition on a visiting scholar teaching more than half-time on each school day; and allowance for renewal of a visiting scholar certificate for more than one year in unusual circumstances;
5. *Clarification of Commissioner's responsibilities regarding agency staff*: removal, as redundant, of references to deviation from state civil services rules for classified, unclassified and unclassified special project staff.

Dr. Abrams indicated that no changes were required for payment of board hospitality and receptions, noting that Commissioner had established a fund of \$600 per year those purposes. Additionally, no change in policy was recommended for recognition of members who leave the Board. Dr. Abrams indicated no changes were recommended for payment of per diem and/or travel expenses or for the approval of single source contracts, but the Commissioner was encouraged to provide more information on single source contracts. Dr. Abrams also reported that the Policy Committee would continue to study and discuss the issue of Board acceptance of programs over which the Board had no administrative oversight. Recommendations would be made at the September meeting on issues regarding development of the meeting agenda. Board discussion followed.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Holloway opened the citizens' open forum at 10:11 a.m. She indicated that the Board would begin with those individuals who had not spoken before the Board at prior meetings and then move to the those who had already spoken recently, with the Open Forum closing at 11:30 a.m. She also noted that time would be allowed at the end of the day's agenda for those who hadn't had the opportunity to address the Board in the morning time allowed. Those who addressed the Board were: Carl Burkhead, Lawrence; Barbara Saldivar, Topeka; Mark Finger, Lawrence; Eric Klein, Kansas City, representing the American Civil Liberties Union; Bill Cowherd, Prairie Village; Hershel T. Martin, Jr., Kansas City; Beatrice Swoopes, Merriam, representing the Kansas Catholic Conference; Paul D. Fennern, Merriam; Rev. Fred V. Kernis, Jr., Merriam; Nancy Beverage, Fairway; Robin Jackson, Hutchinson; Michael Jackson, Hutchinson; Jeremiah Wisner, Hutchinson; Ruth Heitsman, Arkansas City; Byron Patton, Topeka; Barbara Walker, Arkansas City; Esther Mason, Arkansas City; David R. Stinemetze, Arkansas City; John Richard Schrock, Emporia; Joan Deahl, Maple Hill; Lynn Deahl, Maple Hill; Bonita Smith, Bucyrus; Melva Rapp, Stilwell; Barbara Oakes, Leawood; Sally Jadow, Overland Park; R.E. Wells, Olathe; Pat Wakeman, Tonganoxie; Linda Highland; Thair Witmer, Topeka; Leon Woodland, Kansas City; Curtis Englebrecht; Sharon Stringfellow, Leawood, representing Judy Smith and Concerned Women for America of Kansas. During the forum, the Board took a brief break at 10:54 a.m. and returned at 11:00 a.m. Chairman Holloway declared the open forum closed at 11:28 a.m. and indicated it would resume at the end of the day for those who had not had an opportunity to speak.

RESULTS OF THE 1998-1999 STATE ASSESSMENTS

Assistant Commissioner Freden reviewed assessment results, reminding the Board that this would be the last year the current assessments would be used and that scores for succeeding years would not be comparable. Board member questions followed. Dr. Freden was asked to explain the testing procedure for students with disabilities. She indicated that an alternate test had not been administered, but would be

piloted next year and that 1.5% of students with disabilities would be eligible. For an additional number of students a modified test would be used. Eventually, test instruments for students with disabilities would include the standard assessment, a test with accommodations, a modified test and an alternate test. In response to a question about why students at grade 10 continue to show only slight improvement on the mathematics assessment, Dr. Freden indicated that KU had been asked to conduct a study of the issue. She also indicated that a national study was being conducted to examine why African-American students do not perform as well as white students. Dr. Freden suggested the Board may want to establish some expectations for school improvement. Dr. Abrams asked about the reasons improvements were being seen in certain schools. Dr. John Poggio, from the KU Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation, responded that schools showing progress were making changes in instruction, but that no study had been done of schools with declining results. Dr. Freden stated that based upon the results of the study, staff would be making recommendations to improve high school scores. Commissioner Tompkins suggested that maybe one of the reasons high schools scores were not as high, could be that a core area covered on the assessments had not yet been taught. A remedy might be end-of-course assessments. Another remedy suggested by Dr. Tompkins would be to study leveraging options at different grade levels and he indicated he would prepare a framework for the Board to study that strategy. Dr. Freden was asked for recommendations for closing the gap in test results between higher and lower socioeconomic groups. She reported that some strategies were already underway and reflected in Board goals and budget priorities. Dr. Tompkins also stated that the emphasis on reading improvement at the early grade levels needed to be expanded to reach the later grades as well.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:07 p.m. During the lunch break, Chairman Holloway and Vice Chairman Voth held a press conference on the 1998-1999 State Assessment results. The meeting resumed at 1:35 p.m.

REVIEW OF REVISIONS TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE PROPOSAL

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed the draft educator licensure proposal which was included in the Board material. Dr. Tompkins indicated that a summary of the Board subcommittee proposal was included which compared it to the proposal originally prepared by the Standards Board. He also noted the inclusion in the materials of listings of regulations which would be revoked and current regulations which would be replaced by the new regulations. Among the areas briefly reviewed were: conditional teaching and leadership licenses; restricted license; the inclusion of a provisional teaching endorsement license to accommodate teachers seeking a second field endorsement; licensure of out-of-state and foreign applicants; and an accomplished teaching license. New to the subcommittee's proposal with this draft were:

- 91-2-200 Definitions
- 91-1-208 General Requirements
- 91-1-209 Additional Endorsements
- 91-1-210 License extension based upon active military service

Dr. Tompkins indicated that areas yet to be addressed by Board policy included assessments for conditional licenses and performance assessments; visiting scholar requirements; and development of a

mentor/teacher model program. Dr. Tompkins reported that the proposed timeline for the new educator licensure system, if approved by the Board, would include public hearings held throughout the state in January and February of 2000; compilation of public comments in March to be forwarded to the Board in April; and Board approval in May of 2000. Another year would be required for development of standards to be included in Board policy with the new system in place for institutions in 2003. He also reported on the need to change the accreditation regulations for inservice education and that recommendations were yet to come.

In response to a question from Dr. Wagon about how teacher education institutions prepare for the new licensure system, Dr. Tompkins indicated that a schedule would be provided to institutions regarding when they would be held accountable for the new system. Mr. Ken Bungert, Team Leader of Teacher Certification and Accreditation, reported that new curriculum and program accreditation standards were already being developed and that the old standards would expire 7/1/2001. He noted that these standards would be brought to the Board for its approval. He also indicated there would be a moratorium on the old standards so institutions could make the transition, and that no curriculum standards reviews would be held during that part of the changeover. Mrs. Brown requested to know why the endorsement for "English" was not "English/Language Arts". Discussion followed about comprehensive and single subject endorsements. Dr. Abrams asked if there had been any discussion about the involvement of site council members in teacher evaluations. Dr. Tompkins reported that issue would be addressed after the development of performance models and portfolio assessments which are scheduled to come to the Board in January, 2000. Also discussed was how to hold administrators accountable for teacher evaluations and complaints about teachers.

KSSD AND KSSB REPORTS AND FY 2001 BUDGET SUMMARIES

Kansas State School for the Deaf

End-of Year Report

Mr. Gerald Johnson, Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Deaf presented his FY 1999 end-of-year report. He reported that of the total student population of 160, 83 were residential students and 77 were day students. He also reported that 77 were elementary students, 23 were middle school students and 60 were high school students. Mr. Johnson also briefly reported on Related and Outreach services. He indicated that KSSD provided a total of 310 students in 57 LEAs and Special Education Cooperatives with auditory equipment and that KSSD staff served as the consultant to staff of the local programs. He also noted that the KSSD audiologist served as the primary consultant in 41 of the 57 school districts. Mr. Johnson also reported on the training for interpreters program conducted in conjunction with Johnson County Community College every summer. In addition to the end-of-year report, Mr. Johnson, gave a brief update on changes in internal procedures having to do with screening and hiring staff, residential staff coverage, after hours/off campus contact between staff and students, the role of the dormitory counselor, closure of the high school dormitory on most weekends, and notification of parents when an employee is terminated. Additionally, he reported on staff and student workshops on abuse and an inservice on employment law for administrative personnel. Mr. Johnson also reviewed his capital outlay projections, including replacement of the roofs for the Tyler Gym pool and the laundry building, the sixth and last year for adding air conditioning to the dormitories and roof repair for Folz Gym and the vocational school building. Also planned were an upgrade of the fire alarm system and

installation of fire sprinklers, as well as renovations to bring buildings up to accessibility codes. Additionally proposed, to begin in 2002, was the construction of an educational building between the middle school and the high school buildings.

KSSD Fiscal Year 2001 Budget

Superintendent Johnson reviewed his proposed FY 2001 budget request. Mr. Johnson reported his FY 2001 estimates as follows: funding for maintenance of current services would be \$7,609,892; a reduced resource allocation would be \$7,169,892; and a reduced resources budget would eliminate salary increases for staff, eliminate the extended school year program and weekend residential programs, make cuts in equipment and vehicle replacement and technology implementation, and increase shrinkage from 4% to 5%. A budget enhancement package of \$354,000 would allow for a reduction in shrinkage from 4% to 3.5%; addition of a technical specialist to implement computerization of records and comprehensive instruction; funding for KSSD students attending the JCTEC program; salary increases for professional staff to approach parity with area professionals; and a contractual agreement with Johnson County Mental Health Center to provide services to KSSD students not residents of Johnson County. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, to authorize the completion of the KSSD budget as presented for submission to the Division of Budget. The motion carried.

Kansas State School for the Blind

End-of Year Report

Mr. William Daugherty, Superintendent for the Kansas State School for the Blind, presented his end-of-year report which included highlights of student activities, including the success of the Forensics Team and the Swimming Team in conference competition; an update on the Oregon Trail Program, which has been awarded an National Endowment for the Humanities grant; the Extended School Year program; and SWEATS, the Summer Work Experience Advances Transitional Skills program designed for career development training and summer work experience. Mr. Daugherty also reviewed his capital outlay projections which included upgrade of fire alarms and major maintenance and equipment replacement.

KSSB Fiscal Year 2001 Budget

Mr. Daugherty reviewed his proposed FY 2001 budget. He reported his current services estimate would be \$4,919,285 and that a reduced resource budget at a funding level of \$3,959,347 could only be accomplished through the elimination of the Life Skills Program for students with visual impairments and multiple disabilities. He noted his enhancement level budget represented an increase of \$63,584 to address professional salary disparities and the addition of a Orientation and Mobility position lost under the retirement reduction program. Mr. Daugherty also noted a capital improvement budget of \$78,390 to upgrade the fire alarm system. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, to authorize the completion of the KSSB budget as presented for submission to the Division of Budget. The motion carried.

The Board took a short break from 2:50 p.m. until 3:05 p.m.

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FY 2001 BUDGET

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis asked if there were any questions regarding the State Department of Education budget. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the Kansas State Department of Education budget be tentatively approved for submission to the Division of Budget. The motion carried on a vote of 9-0. Mrs. Waugh was temporarily absent.

PPST ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DEAF CANDIDATES

Mr. Bungert reviewed the issues regarding the proposal to develop an accommodation on the PPST basic skills test for deaf candidates, noting that the extra time accommodation allowed by the ETS, (Educational Testing Service) was inadequate for deaf candidates on the writing component. Mr. Johnson, KSSD, explained the deaf community was opposed to waiving the test requirement for students, but that many deaf people have no memory of the English language and are unable to use cues available to the hearing community to inform them if something "sounds" right. Mr. Bungert reported that the recommendation of the staff, after consultation with the Professional Standards Board, the Kansas State School for the Deaf and Department legal counsel, that a cut score be set at 166 for deaf candidates. Discussion followed and the question was raised about whether this would set a precedent for other groups. Mr. Bungert indicated that it would not. Dr. Wagon moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that a qualifying score of 166 for the writing component of the PPST be set for deaf candidates. The motion carried.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

Mr. Kevin Ireland, Attorney in the Office of General Counsel, was presented to review the recommendations of the Professional Practices Commission. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the State Board of Education accept the findings of fact and conclusions of the Professional Practices Commission and approve the recommendations of the Commission in case number 99-S-01. The motion carried.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION REGULATIONS

Mr. Kevin Ireland presented proposed revisions to Professional Practices Commission regulations, noting that because of the redesign of educator licensure regulations, it was necessary to move language dealing with the grounds for Professional Practices Commission action and discipline into the regulations for the Commission. This provided an opportunity to also revoke procedural regulations which have been superceded by the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. Mr. Ireland indicated that the most important of the changes proposed were listed in KAR 91-22-1a which would result in the listing in one place the types of conduct that may adversely affect a license holder's license under current laws. The balance of the proposed regulations restate existing authority. New in 91-22-1a was the inclusion of criminal diversion agreements and findings of contempt of court in child support proceedings as cause for Professional Practices Commission action. Also new in 91-22-1a was the requirement for reporting by private schools anyone who resigns or is separated from employment for any act described in the regulation. Public censure by the State Board has also been added as an action that may be taken for any of the causes listed in 91-22-1a. Board discussion followed. Mrs. Waugh expressed strong concern about individuals being allowed to continue teaching during the appeal process after conviction of any of the crimes listed in the regulation. She asked that the regulation be stiffened to require revocation a license upon conviction with immediate reinstatement upon a successful appeal of the conviction. The Board

also discussed how misdemeanors such as theft and drug possession and diversion agreements for misdemeanors were dealt with in the regulations. Mr. Ireland indicated the Professional Practices Commission agreed that serious theft and drug activities were covered by the regulations.

KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION NOMINATIONS

Chairman Holloway indicated that an additional at-large position was open on the of the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Board of Directors and that two names had been received from Mr. Rundell. Mr. Rundell indicated that both individuals were qualified and moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that both individual's names, Mr. Willie Fernandez and Mr. Rudy Perez, be forwarded to KSHSAA to be voted on at the KSHSAA Board of Directors' September meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Brown moved approval of the consent agenda and Dr. Abrams seconded the motion. The motion carried and the consent agenda was approved as presented.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the appointments to special projects positions of Linda Geiger to an Education Program Consultant position under the Local Consolidated Plans/Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant, effective July 19, 1999, at a bi-weekly pay rate of \$1477.60; Christopher Renner to an Education Program Consultant Position under Bilingual Education/Migrant and Indian Education grant, effective July 26, 1999, at a biweekly pay rate of \$1477.60.
- Confirmed the appointment of Kathleen Toelkes to the position of Public Information Officer, Office of the Commissioner, effective July 26, 1999, at a biweekly salary of \$1653.85.
- Approved school construction plans for Blue Valley, USD 229 and Cure of Ars School, Kansas City.
- Authorized the Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Blind to make an addition to the State's standard policy on nepotism to prohibit the employment of any family member in the Superintendent's Office, Business Office, Human Resources Office or Campus Security Office, subject to approval of the addition by the Governmental Ethics Board.
- Approved renewal of the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK) Special Education Cooperative interlocal agreement #622 (Hutchinson).
- Approved renewal of the Southwest Kansas Educational Consortium interlocal agreement (A-Plus Network) #625 (Meade).

- Approved payment of National State Boards of Education 2000 dues in the amount of \$15,706.
- Approved Cycle I accredited status for USD 207: Bradley Elementary; USD 500: Frances Willard Elementary, Grant Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, John Fiske Elementary, Chelsea Elementary and Northwest Middle School; USD 229: Prairie Star Elementary and Cottonwood Point Elementary; USD 497: Centennial Elementary, Grant Elementary, and Sunset Hill Elementary; Kansas City Diocese: St. John's Elementary and Mount St. Scholastica High School; USD 253: Lowther South Intermediate and Emporia High School; USD 345: Lyman Elementary and Elmont Elementary; USD 456: Marais Des Cygnes Valley Elementary, Marais Des Cygnes Valley Middle and Marais Des Cygnes Valley High School; USD 501: Highland Park High School; USD 219: Minneola Elementary and Minneola High School; USD 318: Atwood High School; USD 358: Oxford High School; USD 373: Santa Fe Middle School; USD 398: Peabody Elementary, Burns Elementary, Peabody-Burns Junior/Senior High School; Wichita Diocese: St. Anne Elementary, School of the Magdalen Elementary, St. Mary Catholic Elementary (Derby), St. Patrick Catholic Elementary (Chanute) and St. James Catholic Elementary; USD 235: West Bourbon Elementary; USD 257: Iola Middle School; USD 368: Paola Middle School; USD 447: Lincoln Elementary; USD 479: Crest East Elementary and Crest West Elementary; USD 506: Labette County High School; USD 260: Derby High School; USD 268: Cheney Elementary, Cheney Junior High and Cheney High School; and USD 389: Eureka Kindergarten.
- Approved requests for waiver of state QPA regulations from DeSoto USD 232 to utilize the services of Dana Novak to serve as the librarian at the elementary school level; Augusta USD 402 to utilize the services of Wendy Strevey-Tien to teach middle school social science; Lyndon USD 421 to utilize the services of John D. Starling to teach English, grades 6-12; the Learning Cooperative of North Central Kansas to utilize the services of Christina Bechard to teach Special Education at the elementary level; Valley Falls USD 338 to add one year to Cycle II for Valley Falls High school in order to align its cycle with Valley Falls Elementary; and Seaman USD 345 to add two years to Cycle II for Rochester and Indian Creek Elementary Schools and one year to the remaining seven elementary schools in order to better review and analyze data districtwide.
- Approved Special Education Regulation waiver requests from USD 230; SE Kansas Special Education Cooperative; USD 229, Blue Valley; USD 230, Spring Hill; USD 234, Fort Scott; USD 497, Lawrence; USD 605, South Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative; and USD 603, ANW Cooperative; USD 608, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center; and USD 611, High Plains Educational Cooperative; so that data can be collected on the effectiveness of assessment/identifications methods; and from USD 389, Eureka; and USD 603, ANW Cooperative; in order to test the implementation of an innovative class size/caseload delivery model.
- Approved local educational inservice plans from Minneola USD 219, Wichita USD 259, Renwick USD 267, Brewster USD 314, Kaw Valley USD 321, Valley Falls USD 338, Burrton USD 369, Lyndon USD 421, Lansing USD 469, Dexter USD 471, Ingalls USD 477, and Eudora USD 491.

- Approved "Side by Side on the Road to Reading Success" reading pamphlet.
- Approved a Visiting Scholar Certificate for Natalie Brown to teach secondary art part-time at Northwest High School, USD 259, for the 1999-2000 school year; and denied a request for a Visiting Scholar Certificate from Armando Johnson to teach secondary Spanish in USD 503, Parsons.
- Approved the award of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities funds for USD 361 Anthony Harper, \$10,510; USD 253 Emporia, \$59,728; USD 211 Norton, \$32,937; USD 370 Clay County, \$20,648; USD 259 Wichita, \$75,000; USD 262 Valley Center, \$50,159; USD 457 Garcen City, \$38,588; #619 Sumer County Education Services Interlocal, \$32,500; USD 500 Kansas City, \$146,982; USD 475 Geary County, \$169,351; #609 Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, \$120,143; USD 233 Olathe, \$65,140; #629 Smoky Hill Service Center, \$69,263; USD 289 Wellsville, \$30,300; USD 453 Leavenworth, \$50,000; and #633 Fr. Hays Education Development Center, \$20,000.
- Approved Structured Mentoring grants for USD 210, Hugoton, \$4,000; USD 216 Deerfield, \$37,900; USD 218 Elkhart, \$37,900; USD 232 DeSoto, \$15,635; USD 249 Frontenac, \$35,000; USD 253 Emporia, \$92,600; USD 254 Barber County North, \$32,900; USD 259 Wichita, \$162,382; USD 261 Haysville, \$67,590; USD 337 Royal Valley, \$39,015; USD 339 Jefferson County North, \$41,620; USD 341 Oskaloosa, \$34,600; USD 352 Goodland, \$39,700; USD 357 Belle Plaine, \$11,600; USD 365 Garnett, \$5,650; USD 383 Manhattan, \$34,600; USD 446 Independence, \$45,680; USD 489 Hays, \$37,900; USD 500 Kansas City, \$95,900; USD 508 Baxter Springs, \$37,900; #609 Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, \$31,328, but not to exceed \$47,455; and #628 South Central Education Service Center, \$33,600.
- Approved the 1999-2000 Calendar of Activities for the Vocational Student Organizations.
- Issued orders for USD 331, Kingman and USD 353 Wellington, granting them authority to hold an election on the question of the districts' general bond debt limitation.

Contracts Approved:

The Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Deaf was authorized to negotiate and enter into the contracts for the 1999-2000 school year-listed below with the contracts not to exceed the amount indicated:

- American Rehabilitation Center, Inc./Novacare for physical therapy services, \$24,000, for occupational therapy services, \$32,400; and
- Dr. Joy S. Wylie, D.D.S. for dental services, \$7,642.

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to:

- negotiate and enter into a contract with American College Testing to conduct a survey on student satisfaction with technical training with the contract amount not to exceed \$47,500;
- increase the contract with SoluTech by \$20,000, with the total contract amount not to exceed \$250,000.

The Deputy Commissioner was authorized to solicit proposals through the Kansas Division of Purchases to provide a new computer system for processing agreements and reimbursement claims for Nutrition Services, with the contract amount not to exceed \$200,000.

Chairman Holloway called for a break at 3:45 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

After the break, Deputy Commissioner Dennis briefly updated Board members on the School Violence Hotline. He also notified Board members of upcoming interim legislative committee hearings on technology.

CITIZENS? OPEN FORUM - RESUMED

Chairman Holloway resumed the citizens' open forum at 4:10 p.m. in order to allow those who, because of time limitations, had been unable to speak during the morning session, the opportunity to address the Board. Addressing the Board were: Ed Johlman and Janie Johlman, Eudora; Jama Kolosick, Lawrence; Scott Barlow, Yates Center; Harrison Hartley, St. Joseph, MO; Board member Sonny Rundell reading remarks of Glenn Davis, Salina; Dr. Glenn Swogger, Jr, Topeka; Bruce Dimmitt, Overland Park; Lee Allison, Lawrence; Don Lenhart, Meriden; Mary Kay Culp, Merriam, representing the Kansas Catholic Conference; Rev. David Grimm, Topeka and Manhattan; Celtie Johnson, Prairie Village, representing the National Committee for Excellence in Science Education; Rebecca Messall, Overland Park, representing Catholic Charities, Respect for Life; Mary Williams, Leon; Helen Alexander, Lawrence, Ed Wiley, Lawrence; Larry Rink, Overland Park; Rev. Douglas Phenix, Topeka; Brad Schuman, Paola; and Robert Hagen, Lawrence.

RECESS

There being no further business, Chairman Holloway recessed the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Linda Holloway, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 1999

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 1999, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams	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

Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the agenda be approved. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Mr. Lanny Gaston, Director of Personnel, introduced new Kansas Department of Education staff: Dr. Alexa Pochowski, Team Leader, Student Support Services; Stacie Phillips, Project Leader, CACFP, Computer Information and Communications Services; Lucinda Brown, Office Assistant IV for Charter Schools, Consolidated and Supplemental Programs; Stacy Lierz-Ziegler, Education Program Consultant, School Improvement and Accreditation; and Kathleen Toelkes, Public Information Officer. Unable to be present was Linda Geiger, Education Program Consultant, Consolidated and Supplemental Programs.

PRESENTATION ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS

Dr. Martha Gage, Coordinator of Teacher Education for the Department, introduced Dr. John Englehardt, Dean of the College of Education at Wichita State University, and Dr. Gail Shroyer of Kansas State University, who would be participating in the presentation. Dr. Gage stated that professional development schools are designed as a collaboration between teacher training institutions

and K-12 schools and noted that all Kansas regents institutions have developed this collaborative relationship. She indicated that the professional development schools had formed a coalition and held a statewide meeting in the fall and participated with other states in a national conference in the spring. Dr. Englehardt reported on the goals of teacher training and compared the characteristics and components of university-based teacher education and the professional development school (PDS) program. Both the university-based program and the PDS program use blocked or cluster coursework which is sequenced across four semesters and each block of coursework has coordinated field experience. The difference between the two, he reported, is that the block coursework is on campus with field work in partner schools for the university-based programs and the block coursework and field experiences are taught and integrated at the partner schools for the PDS program. The numerous benefits resulting from the Wichita State PDS program, which operates in five Wichita schools, include preparation of teachers, especially for practice in urban settings, by providing diverse learning experiences; ongoing professional development for school and university faculty; increased student achievement for PDS partner schools; maintenance of a collaborative learning community for partner schools and the college. Dr. Englehardt introduced Joy Heinrichs, a participant in the WSU PDS program. She reported that she was in an elementary school classroom 12-15 hours per week and was able to benefit from being able to practice what she learned in her coursework immediately. She also indicated that the WSU faculty was involved almost full-time onsite. Board questions followed. Dr. Wagon asked about the relationship between state and local curriculum standards and how they are integrated into the training. Dr. Englehardt responded that subject matters areas were presented around state and national standards, informally in the classroom and more formally in the college coursework. He also indicated that the focus in teaching had shifted from what is being taught to what is being learned and indicated that student scores were improving. When asked about the difference in PDS students and campus-based students, Dr. Englehardt replied that both have equally good training, but PDS students are learning in greater depth. He also noted that not every student was able to devote the time required for the PDS training because of financial considerations. Dr. Englehardt was asked about the increased number of students in the Alternative Certification Program and indicated that the increase was due to the growing knowledge by potential post baccalaureate candidates that the program offered good preparation for teaching. Dr. Englehardt also discussed the movement toward a more cross-disciplinary approach to teaching and how relationships between WSU and local schools were developed.

Dr. Gage again introduced Gail Shroyer from Kansas State University. Dr. Shroyer reported that KSU began its partnerships with schools in 1989 and after doing a comparison of PDS students and regular students, now all students in the 12 elementary schools, four middle schools and one high school in the three participating school districts are in PDS classrooms. Dr. Shroyer indicated that the KSU PDS model was based on the belief that teacher preparation and K-12 school reform are the responsibility of both institutions of higher education and the local school systems and there existed in the KSU program a continuing development of school and university faculty support of K-12 student learning, based on research directed at the improvement of teaching and learning. Dr. Shroyer also reported that NCATE has developed a field test project to develop standards for PDS schools and that NCATE may eventually require PDS teacher training. When asked if the PDS program added a fifth year of college for teacher training, Dr. Shroyer indicated that unless students know from the beginning they are going into teaching it does add another year, but the program is designed as a four- year program. Board discussion

followed on how more financial support could be made available so that more potential teachers could be trained in PDS programs.

The Board took a short break at 10:04 a.m. and returned at 10:11 a.m.

SCIENCE EDUCATION STANDARDS

Dr. John Staver, Co-Chair of the Science Standards writing committee, recognized committee members who were present and asked Dr. Loren Lutes, Co-Chair of the Committee, to report on the latest update of the Kansas science education standards. Dr. Lutes indicated the committee had met in May and June in open public session and the result was the Fifth Draft of the Kansas Science Standards which the committee recommended be adopted. He indicated the standards in their current form had the support of the Kansas Association of Teachers of Science, Kansas Association of School Superintendents, Unified School Administrators, KNEA, the Governor and the Regents presidents and had been reviewed and supported by outside evaluators and national science organizations. He indicated the high level of support was due to the fact the standards were based on national standards and the 1992 and 1995 Kansas standards. He indicated they had been scrutinized in every school building across the state and by citizens in a series of public hearings and that every oral or written comment had been considered. He further indicated that the standards had 100% support of the science standards writing committee and that no minority report had been proposed. He added that the committee was ready to provide leadership for inservice training, workshops and conferences for teachers and to assist in the development of testing strategies and writing assessment items. Dr. Lutes also stated the committee could not support the compromise standards being proposed which had made fifty significant changes to the committee's work, indicating that it was incomplete in its treatment of science and unacceptable with the near deletion of standards relating to the theory of origins and the removal of many assessment items. Dr. Staver handed out a chart of the changes that the writing committee had made in light of comments from the public and Board members. He indicated that the writing committee's standards were strongly based on and text was used from standards published by the National Research Council, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Science Teachers Association, and those organizations would need to review the whole text of whatever document was approved before allowing text from their standards to be incorporated. He recommended that whichever set of standards were adopted be examined very carefully by the Attorney General and the Board attorney in light of any potential legal problem. He also stated that of the members of the committee who had responded to communication from him, a little more than 50%, all asked that their names be removed from the document if the compromise standards were adopted. He indicated the committee also wished to have the dedication replaced with one of the Board's own if the alternative standards were adopted. Dr. Staver closed his presentation by reading the Roman Catholic Church's official position statement on evolution, written by Pope John Paul II.

Dr. Wagon moved the Board adopt the Fifth Draft of the Kansas Science Standards as developed by the science standards writing committee. Mr. Rundell seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mrs. Waugh, reading from a prepared statement, expressed her gratitude to the writing committee for their outstanding work on behalf of Kansas students. She noted her appreciation for the committee's hard work to satisfy various opinions and beliefs without compromising the high level of the standards. Mrs.

Waugh stated she was impressed with the credentials of the members who had composed the writing committee and that the committee was representative of the best science educators in the state. Mrs. Waugh indicated she had received overwhelming response in her district for support of the science committee's recommendations. She stated her belief that the committee's recommendation would provide a quality science education for Kansas students and that she was strongly in support of adopting their standards. Mrs. DeFever, also reading from a prepared statement, said she wholeheartedly supported the standards submitted by the writing committee, noting that their specificity and depth would prepare students to move forward successfully in science-related fields of study. She also stated that she was confident the standards would prepare students for material that would be included on nationally normed tests and college entrance exams. She thanked the science committee for its work and indicated her regret that the quality of their document was not recognized and her unhappiness to learn that there was a segment of the population who held an intense distrust for the science community. She indicated that she was pleased, though, that over half of the communications she had received from her district were in support of the sound science represented by the writing committee's work.

Dr. Wagon commended the writing committee for the quality of its work and for its patience in carrying out the requests of the Board. He noted the Board depends on the field, educators and the public to help it arrive at what Kansas expects to happen in its schools; define what Kansas students should know and be able to do; and carry that out in comprehensive curriculum expectations in the state. Dr. Wagon indicated his belief that those goals had been accomplished by the science writing committee in its Fifth Draft. He indicated that how the writing committee had worked with the Board and developed its recommendation was an example of how the Board had and should adopt the standards as the best fit for national expectations and what the field was ready and prepared to do and how the Board should carry out its responsibility of general supervision of education in the state. Dr. Wagon stated his belief that the writing committee had presented a holistic document, which in its Fourth Draft defined clearly the threads which tie the various disciplines and elements of science together. Though modified in the Fifth Draft, Dr. Wagon indicated he would still support the committee's recommendation, noting that the comprehensiveness of the document was what commended it. He also noted the clarity in the definition provided in the glossary of what critical science thinking is all about, and indicated it was easily understandable by the layman, following one of the Board's charges to all the curriculum committees, that standards be developed which would be easily accessible to the public and to those who use the standards. Dr. Wagon noted the science writing committee's standards met his expectations and he commended them for their work.

Mrs. Brown, reading from a prepared statement, stated that the results of the international TIMSS placed the United States at almost the bottom of the list of countries in its performance in math and science. She also noted that though Kansas institutions boasted that Kansas students were at, or slightly above, the average of that low status, that performance wasn't something to boast about. She questioned what the members of the committee, who represented educators and teaching institutions who had prepared current and future teachers, had to say about the poor showing of students on international tests and asked what they planned to do to remedy the situation. Dr. Staver replied to Mrs. Brown's concerns, stating that as a nation in science, the United States was in a five-way tie for second in the world on TIMSS at the 4th grade level. He indicated scores did decline at the higher grade levels, but did not think

it was prudent to conclude that Kansas is representative of the nation, noting that, historically, the heartland has traditionally performed much better than the nationwide average. Additionally, he indicated, that because Kansas scores were not broken out, there was no evidence that Kansas students have done poorly and there was evidence to show how well Kansas students have done across the nation.

Mr. Hill offered a substitute motion, that the State Board approve Kansas Curricular Standards for Science as recommended by the State Board Subcommittee with the following changes:

- Page 6, paragraph 1, sentence 2: change *shall* to *should*;
- Page 6, paragraph 2, sentence 3: change *shall* to *should*;
- Page 6, paragraph 2, sentence 3: change *censured* to *censored*;
- Page 8 and 9: change items starting at *Science as Inquiry* through the *History and Nature of Science* to bulleted items under the heading *Standards* on page 8;
- Page 36, Indicator 4: change to read "Suggest alternative scientific hypotheses or theories to current scientific hypotheses or theories;
- Page 90: eliminate paragraphs 2, 3 and 4;
- Page 91: eliminate paragraphs 1-4
- Page 90 & 91-92: move the remaining language to *Appendix 1* under *Falsification* on page 87;
- Remove all assessment flags throughout the document and refer to staff for recommendations on assessment items.

Dr. Abrams seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Dr. Wagon stated he could not support the substitute motion. He stated for individual Board members to arrogate to themselves the responsibility of rewriting the proposal of the field committee appeared to do a great disservice to the relationship the Board should have with the field across the state. He noted that the Board depends heavily on volunteers from the field to spend countless hours on research at the Board's request to bring to the Board recommendations for a wide variety of issues. He stated his belief that when reports from the field do not conform to predetermined expectations it undermines the credibility of the Board's request to the field. He indicated that it was important in fulfilling its duty of general supervision for the Board to maintain a working relationship with the field and that to rewrite the standards based on a particular agenda reflecting the personal beliefs of a few members of the Board was doing a great disservice to that relationship. He further stated his concern about the changes the subcommittee had made to the standards and their effect on the quality of the holistic document. He indicated that to pick and choose certain items in life science and earth science to remove from the standards and to change the nature of science, left the students of the state with academic expectations that had been dumbed down. He stated that the result was a document that was fatally flawed and he could not support the substitute motion. Mrs. DeFever, reading from a prepared statement, stated that though she had been able to follow the changes made in the writing committee's Fifth Draft, she had been unable to clearly follow all the changes that had been made by the subcommittee. She indicated that if another committee had submitted a set of standards in a similar form, Board members would require a final cleaned-up draft before considering taking a final vote. Mrs. DeFever questioned the

qualifications of the three-Board- member subcommittee to do an adequate job of rewriting the science standards and stated she was skeptical how the alterations done by them had affected the standards. She indicated she was not sure what the implications of the changes had in the realm of real science and she was unable to support the subcommittee's document.

Mrs. Waugh, reading from a prepared statement, stated her opposition to the substitute motion. She indicated she had asked that the vote on the standards be postponed for a month, but had withdrawn her request when she found she did not have support. She noted she had wanted the opportunity to review the documents and to learn the subcommittee's reasoning for their changes. She also stated she had wanted to have the opportunity to discuss the subcommittee proposal with people in her district. Mrs. Waugh stated her belief that Board members needed the Board meeting to openly discuss the issues she mentioned and that they had not yet had that opportunity. Mrs. Waugh stated her belief that to adopt the subcommittee proposal would be to compromise the credibility of the Board and the subcommittee was micromanaging by submitting its own document. She questioned whether school districts across the state would be willing to implement standards which had been developed by individuals who were not experts in the field. She indicated, that after studying the subcommittee proposal, it appeared the definition of science had been changed and that evolution had been removed. She noted the importance of preparing Kansas students to be able to do well on national tests that include evolution and stated her concern about how Kansas could maintain high academic standards when an integral part of the curriculum had been removed. Mrs. Waugh also indicated that those she had been able to speak to about the subcommittee proposal had stated that it represented bad science and she was adamantly opposed to its adoption.

Board members discussed whether the subcommittee should share the rationale for alterations made to the writing committee's document. Mrs. Waugh indicated her unhappiness with the lack of openness on the Board in dealing with the science standards and her frustration with how the subcommittee went about its work on them. Referring to the guiding principles for Board behavior developed at the February retreat and later adopted, Mrs. Waugh noted that principle number 3 stated that the Board would have a process for engaging in meaningful discussion. She noted that, normally, the Board receives and discusses an item one month and acts on it the next and that process had not been followed with the science standards. She also referred to principle number 4, which stated that the Board would have a strategy to address difficult issues. She noted that from the outset, Board members were aware that the science standards were a difficult issue and that the Board had never openly discussed strategies to deal with them. She stated she felt that the Board had not followed its agreement. She also indicated that she hadn't been informed that there was a Board subcommittee formed to work on the science standards, and that Board policy stated that any Board member would have an opportunity to volunteer for subcommittees appointed by the chair. She stated she felt left out of the communication loop on what was being done with the science standards and that there was an obligation to the Board, the public, and the science writing committee to give them the rationale for the subcommittee's changes.

During further discussion, Mr. Hill went through the changes that he, Dr. Abrams, and Mr. Voth had made to the science writing committee's draft to modify it for submittal as the subcommittee's document. A request was made by Mrs. Waugh to allow the science writing committee to respond as the Board

subcommittee explained each change they had made. Her request was denied by the Chairman. Dr. Wagon, Mrs. DeFever and Mrs. Waugh also asked questions of Board members Hill and Abrams as the discussion progressed. Those questions were concerned with why specific changes, deletions and/or additions had been made to certain standards, benchmarks and indicators. Concern was expressed by Dr. Wagon, Mrs. DeFever and Mrs. Waugh about what kinds of interpretations might be applied to those items once changed and what the implications might be for the consistency and unity of the document when taken as a whole. Concern was also expressed about the change in the reference to "science and technology" to "technology". Mr. Hill stated that it was to place the emphasis on technology as an integral part of science. In response to a question about the change to an explanation of the diversity of living things and their adaptations to survival and extinction, and the addition of information about natural selection and genetic variation not adding new information to the existing gene code, Mr. Hill stated one of the subcommittee's goals, and one about which he was adamant, was that components of natural selection be included. Dr. Wagon and Mrs. Waugh questioned the elimination of several items relating to the earth's plate movements, geologic time and age of the earth. Dr. Abrams stated that the subcommittee had believed that several of the examples had needed to be changed to make them more age appropriate and academically focused. The inclusion of the concept of falsification was questioned by Mrs. Waugh, stating she understood that it was only one of several ways, and not the most common way in biological science, of testing a hypothesis. Mr. Hill stated that the other methods were also included in other places in the document. The accuracy of some items contained in the subcommittee's draft were questioned. Mr. Hill and Dr. Abrams noted that several of those mentioned had also been included in the science writing committee's document. Regarding the origin of the universe, Mr. Hill stated a change had been made to emphasize the structure of the universe rather than the formation of the universe, not to limit information, but to not be dogmatic about the origins of the universe. Questions also addressed human responsibility to developing new information and the effects of human activity. Some of the changes were explained as efforts to reduce redundancies in the document. A portion of the discussion centered around changes made to the introduction section of the standards. Mr. Hill explained that many of the changes were made to add clarity and conciseness to the document. Mrs. Waugh asked about the source of the additional definitions added in the introduction. Dr. Abrams stated they were from the alternative standards document he had presented in May. Mrs. Waugh raised the question of removing the dedication prepared by the science writing committee as they had requested. Dr. Wagon noted the need to remove references to the writing committee in several places where they appeared in the document. Dr. Abrams responded that if the document was adopted, it would become the Board's document and it would be appropriate to change the references at that time. Dr. Wagon also stated that the subcommittee should acknowledge the sources for its materials. Mr. Hill stated the subcommittee had not taken any language, verbatim, so as to require an acknowledgement.

At the conclusion of the discussion of specific modifications that had been made to the science writing committee's document, as represented in the Board subcommittee's document, other Board members had an opportunity to make statements regarding their position on the proposals before them. Mr. Bacon stated that he supported the subcommittee's document. He noted that in the writing committee's draft, one of the most important stakeholders in the state, the parents, had been left out. He felt there was overwhelming support from parents for some latitude about what was to be taught. He said it was his belief that the subcommittee's document did not state in any way that evolution should not or could not

be taught, but that the Board was asking the local school districts to communicate with their community and find out what was best to meet the needs of their local schools. He noted his appreciation for the subcommittee's work on the alternative proposal. He also stated his appreciation of the writing committee's work, indicating that he felt they had done the best job they could from the backgrounds they had. He said that he did not see the Board's action as censoring their ability to teach science in the classroom with the same conviction they had always had and that was his intention regarding the subcommittee's document. Mr. Voth expressed his appreciation for Mr. Bacon's remarks and added his agreement. He added his hope that all Board members could leave the sensitive discussion of the standards as friends. Mrs. Brown stated she also agreed with Mr. Bacon and Mr. Voth. Mr. Rundell had no statement. Chairman Holloway said she believed that everyone on the Board was interested in children and education in Kansas. She stated she believed that every person on the Board wanted to have the best education possible in Kansas and, though there are times when Board members might not always agree on issues, she commended Board members about how they had conducted themselves throughout the discussion of the difficult issue before them. She reiterated her belief in the dedication of each Board member to the best education of the children in Kansas. Chairman Holloway stated her firm support of the subcommittee's proposal. She then called for a vote on the substitute motion, with six Board members voting in favor and the subcommittee's proposal was adopted. Those who did not vote in favor were Mrs. DeFever, Mr. Rundell, Dr. Wagon and Mrs. Waugh.

Chairman Holloway asked Commissioner Tompkins to review for Board members and others present the process that would be followed now that the standards had been adopted. He indicated the standards would be put into a booklet, preparation for inservice training would begin, items to be assessed would be chosen and work would begin with the testing contractor to develop the testing items. Dr. Tompkins indicated the assessment would be implemented in the spring of 2001. Mrs. Waugh asked if the process would begin before copyright issues had been resolved and also expressed a wish for a legal opinion about the possibility of lawsuits. Commissioner Tompkins assured Board members that nothing would begin until everything was in order. In the interest of levity, Mrs. Brown issued a debate challenge to Governor Graves to support his belief in evolution and his belief in his own origins and she would debate the position that he did not descend from apes.

The Board took a break at 12:04 p.m. and returned at 12:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the travel requests be approved as submitted. The motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles reviewed his recent activity on behalf of the Board, briefly updating the Board on the status of the school finance lawsuit. He reported that a motion to dismiss had been filed as well as a motion to stay discovery until the motion to dismiss had been ruled on by the judge. He also indicated he would be reviewing the science standards in view of copyright concerns. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for July be paid as presented. The motion

carried.

Commissioner

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed his written report, noting that he had provided a brief update to members on technology issues. He also reported that he had been appointed to the Children's Cabinet which would act in an advisory capacity to the Governor and the legislature on the use of the tobacco settlement funds. He indicated the first meeting of the Cabinet would be at the end of the current week. Dr. Tompkins also reviewed the timeline for activity on Board goals which was included with his report, noting that it was designed to be used as a month-by-month guide through January of 2001. Mrs. Brown expressed concern that the public be allowed sufficient time to review the proposed educator licensure regulations prior to any public hearings on them. Dr. Tompkins reported that hearings would be held throughout the state in January and February and the dates for the hearings would be set in November with the document distributed statewide at that time.

Board Chairman

Chairman Holloway indicated the Board needed to select an official delegate and an alternate for the NASBE annual meeting in New Orleans in October. Mrs. DeFever expressed interest in attending the meeting. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that Mrs. DeFever be designated the official delegate and that Mr. Bacon be named alternate. The motion carried. Mr. Voth moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that travel for the meeting be added to the Board travel request already approved. The motion carried. The Board also discussed the Board meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. It was decided that the October meeting to be held in DeSoto, which had been changed from a Tuesday/Wednesday meeting to a Monday/Tuesday meeting, would be scheduled each day from 9 a. m. to 2 p.m. Dr. Tompkins indicated he would have the Board secretary prepare a revised schedule for the remainder of the year for inclusion in his next Friday letter to the Board.

Chairman Holloway asked Dr. Freden to provide the Board with an update on several assessment activities. Dr. Freden indicated that the writing prompts were not yet available but an update on the writing assessment would be given at the September meeting. She also indicated there would be a delay in information on test security, but that a proposal would be available at the October meeting. Dr. Freden reported that the assessment items for math and reading were ready and would be piloted August 23rd through September 10th. They would be developed in final form around the first of October. She indicated that if Board members wanted to review the 800-900 math items and the 50-55 reading items, they should call the Center for Education Testing and Evaluation at the University of Kansas and let them know they would be coming to review the items. She noted that reviewers would need 25-30 hours to review them all. She also indicated the information on how to contact the Center would be in the next Friday letter. She cautioned Board members that because of test security purposes, this opportunity to review the items was only available to Board members. Dr. Wagnon stated he thought it was bad policy for Board members to insist on reviewing the test items.

Chairman Holloway also reported that she, Mr. Voth and the Commissioner would be meeting with the Governor at 1:30 p.m. and would be taking with them the new reading pamphlet, information on the

reading summit, the assessment schedule and the new Board brochure to share with the Governor.

Legislative Coordinator

Mr. Hill reminded Board members of the August 25-26 interim committee meeting on technology. Mrs. DeFever reported on her attendance at the interim committee meeting July 21st. She reported that Mr. Biles had reported on the school finance litigation in the morning and the committee had discussed special education in the afternoon.

Board Member Reports

Dr. Wagon reported on a visit to Exploration Place in Wichita, an intergenerational children and science museum. He indicated if any other members would like a behind the scenes tour, he would be glad to help arrange it.

Mrs. DeFever reported on her attendance at the NASBE New Board Member Institute and indicated she had learned a lot about formulating policies. She also brought an invitation for Board members on a violence in schools meeting in Iola

Policy Committee Chairman

Dr. Abrams reported that the Policy Committee had met again and had discussed a policy on acceptance of programs and how proposed policy would address requests of Board members to have items put on the agenda. He indicated both items would be brought to the Board in September. Dr. Abrams also discussed a proposed policy item that was being discussed on boardsmanship expectations and noted that the committee had chosen to use the items agreed upon in February as examples to be included of good boardsmanship. Lastly, Dr. Abrams reported that the policy committee would recommend no policy on use of Board subcommittees until the Board had held a study session on the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Linda Holloway, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary