

**KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Voth called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2000, 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

John Bacon

Val DeFever

Linda Holloway

Harold Voth

I.B. "Sonny" Rundell

Bill Wagnon

Janet Waugh

Bruce Wyatt

Mrs. Brown was unable to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Voth asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, that the agenda be approved. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Voth asked for approval of the minutes of the October meeting. Mr. Bacon moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion carried.

DRAFT OF THE 1999-2000 ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Assistant Commissioner, Dr. Sharon Freden, reviewed the draft 1999-2000 Accountability Report. She indicated that a new format had been used to make the report more readable. She noted that recommendations from the report would be brought to the Board at a later date. Noting that a major portion of the report was based on data upon which accreditation decisions were made and already available in other reports, she indicated that the report was meant to be a snapshot summary of Kansas schools and to present a more well-rounded picture than past reports. Other information used included data contained in building and superintendent reports and information on school faculty and staff. Dr. Freden reported that new areas covered in the report included the use of technology in Kansas schools and access to the Internet; legislative issues from the 2000 session; and a review of progress on board goals. She reported a slight drop in the number of students taking and passing advanced courses in math and science and that this would be an area that staff would look at more closely to ascertain if recommendations addressing it should be included with the other recommendations arising from the

report. Dr. Freden reported that graduation and attendance rates were up and that there was a slight decrease in violence in schools. In the discussion that followed regarding the drop in the numbers of students passing advanced math and science courses, Dr. Freden noted that course enrollment information was not currently being collected, but that it could be added to the information requested from schools in the future. Dr. Abrams asked if data could also be gathered for past years in order for a comparison to be made. Dr. Freden indicated that a survey could be conducted that would include enrollment in prior years. Dr. Abrams suggested that the data be disaggregated by school size in order to determine if such a survey needed to be focused on schools of a particular size. Mrs. Holloway stated that the B.F. Skinner quote included in the section on Board goals might convey the wrong message and requested that another quote be substituted for it.

PROGRESS REPORT ON 1999-2000 BOARD GOALS

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed highlights contained in the progress report on Board goals. He noted that grants applied for or granted had been focused on the goals. The Department has received a three-year grant to support advanced placement programs in Kansas schools; and that Comprehensive School Reform grants through Title I had been given to help some of the lowest achieving districts in the State. He also noted that through partnerships with other organizations, Kansas districts had received per capita more Twenty-first Century Learning Community grants to extend classroom time than any other state. He also mentioned how the Board's focus on reading was well known across the state. Dr. Tompkins asked for any questions or suggestions the Board might have. Mrs. Waugh noted that adequate funding was required for school improvement programs and asked if there were more grant programs that could be requested. Dr. Tompkins reported that the department had hired a new grant writer to work toward that goal. Dr. Wagon commended the Commissioner for maintaining a focus and pushing ahead to address Board goals, but that the problems with math scores was an obvious signal that schools should be teaching mathematics instead of just arithmetic. He also expressed concern about the growing crisis in teacher preparation and teacher retention, which, though subtle, would grow more problematic over time. He stressed the importance of conveying the message to the legislature of the need for necessary funding. Dr. Wagon also expressed his personal reservations about the efficacy of advanced placement programs and asked that a study session on the topic be scheduled in the near future. Dr. Abrams asked that if a study session were held, that the definition of advanced placement be studied as well. Mr. Bacon noted that recommendations for closing the achievement gap had been sent to Board members from the American Federation of Teachers and Education Trust. Two areas addressed in the recommendations were the need for smaller classes and that children learn at high levels when they are taught at high levels. He stated that if there was evidence to show that smaller classes would help, the Board should have a study session on the issue. Dr. Wagon remarked that improvement in teacher preparation was one of the most important factors in closing the achievement gap. Dr. Tompkins stated that the department compiled a report on class-size every year and he would make a point that Board members receive a copy of the latest one.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Voth opened the citizens' open forum at 10:25 a.m. Those who addressed the Board were Jody Sjogren and Yongsoon Park, both from Kansas City, and John Calvert, Lake Quivira, representing the Intelligent Design Network; Brian Sandefur, Lawrence; Brad Cook, Avondale, Missouri; Jack Krebs,

Kristin Brumm and Adrian Melott, Lawrence, representing Kansas Citizens for Science; and John Richard Schrock, Emporia. Chairman Voth declared the open forum closed at 10:51 a.m. and called for a break until 11:00 a.m.

RECOGNITION

2001 Kansas Teacher of the Year Team

Deputy Commissioner Dennis introduced the Kansas Teacher of the Year team, Mrs. Janet Lewandowski, Kansas Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Sue Boldra, Mrs. Hildie Brooks, Mrs. Mary Etta Copeland, Mrs. Jan Dicker, Mrs. Vickie Fellers, Mrs. Carol Panzer and Mrs. Renita Ubel. Each of the team members were asked to share one successful program or practice they are involved in that has had a positive impact on students. Mrs. Lewandowski, fifth and sixth grade teacher at Maize East Elementary School, Maize, indicated that having her students for two years provided the opportunity for her to get to know her students and provide them with a secure learning environment. She noted that her students feel like school is a second home. She also reported that academic performance improved, with students reading at a higher level; attendance was up and detentions down; and that special education referrals had decreased.

Mrs. Boldra, high school social studies teacher at Hays High School, Hays, reported on the "We the People" competition in which her students were involved. She reported that through the experience, her students become experts on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Mrs. Brooks, health education teacher at Dwight D. Eisenhower Middle School, Manhattan, reported on the importance of student/parent/teacher communication and how that communication is promoted through her health education program. She indicated that her students were required to interview their parents regarding their attitudes about drugs, sex, dating and smoking when they were addressing those topics in her classroom.

Mrs. Copeland, Director of Choral Music, and a psychology and community service teacher at DeSoto High School, DeSoto, reported that she was in her thirty-fourth year of teaching. She reported that the 2000-2001 school year was the first year for students to attend a new high school in the district. She shared her commitment to making it a memorable year for the sixty-seven seniors who choose to remain at DeSoto High School. Mrs. Copeland shared some of the activities she included as teaching aids in her music program. She also reported that her seniors had hosted the underclassmen at a sit-down Christmas dinner at her home. She stated that because students had fun in her classes, it motivates them to do more and that she even had students who asked if they could rehearse on non-school days in order to learn new material. Mrs. Copeland indicated that she saw the students involved in the music program achieve in academics and leadership, as well. She also reported on her psychology and service learning classes.

Mrs. Dicker, primary teacher at Grant Elementary School, Lawrence, shared a little of her background in the teaching field, especially the influence of her mentor for three years in Colorado. She noted that Grant Elementary was the smallest school in Lawrence and that its closing was inevitable because enrollment continued to decline. Mrs. Dicker reflected on the opportunity she had to be a team member

of a University of Kansas project to create a mathematics environment in the school and how the development of the Math Learning Center provided students with an enriched math program. She also noted the community and parental involvement that had contributed to the success of the Center.

Mrs. Fellers, speech, debate and forensics teacher at Wichita East High School, shared what a typical day would be like for her forensic students because of the many different types of projects in which they were engaged on a daily basis. Because of the broad range of activities undertaken each semester, she noted she had many more opportunities for individualized instruction than in a regular classroom. She remarked that her students showed academic improvement in reading, writing, research skills, and the ability to organize ideas; and in other areas such as poise, self-confidence, self-esteem, and the ability to work with others.

Mrs. Ubel, first grade teacher at Eugene Field Elementary School, Ottawa, reported on the early literacy preparation program she used in her classroom. She briefly explained the two components: Animated Literacy, which is a phonemic awareness program; and the Four Block Framework for reading, which includes self-selected independent reading, guided reading, writing, and working with words. Mrs. Ubel indicated that her students did very well on the second-grade diagnostic assessment after being exposed to the early literacy program she used in her first-grade class. Mrs. Ubel expressed her appreciation for the second-grade reading diagnostic because of how it was able to influence instruction and help teachers learn more appropriate ways to teach reading.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the educators stood for pictures with Chairman Voth and Commissioner Tompkins, who presented them with certificates of recognition.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:05 p.m. and returned at 1:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON MOTORCYCLE SAFETY REGULATION

Chairman Voth opened the hearing on Motorcycle Safety Regulation 91-5-14 at 1:30 p.m. Steve Christenberry, representing SMART Motorcyclists Attend Riders Training, Inc. appeared before the Board with comments. Mr. Christenberry and Department General Counsel Bieker provided clarification on the need for the regulation change. Chairman Voth declared the public hearing closed at 1:40 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

FY 2002 Budget Appeal

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis briefly reviewed the effects of the Division of Budget's recommendations and the appeal made on the Board's budget proposal in November. Included was a \$972,528 decrease in state operations, which included shrinkage, vocational student organizations, equipment, state assessment parental reports, state curricular standards and assessments staff development. He indicated that the success of the appeal would not be known until the Governor made his State-of-the State address in January. Mrs. DeFever, Legislative Coordinator, who was present for the appeal commented on her perceptions regarding its success. She reported they had been told that the process would be messy, but that the Board would be pleased at the end of the legislative session with

the way the budget was funded. Mr. Dennis also explained components of the appeal regarding cuts in the FY 2001 budget.

Governor's Task Force On School Finance and Interim Committee Recommendations

Mr. Dennis reviewed the components of the five recommendations contained in the Governor's Task Force on School Finance report. The five recommendations were 1) re-evaluate the current school finance formula; 2) enhance teacher compensation; 3) change the method of funding special education; 4) increase funding of the existing formula; and 5) link K-12 funding to accountability and provide incentives. Dr. Wagnon commented on the legislative funding process and the difficulties in developing a equitable funding formula for education. Mr. Dennis also compared the Task Force's budget and the Board- approved budget. Board discussion followed and focused on the recommendations for special education funding which included 1) a shift to a two-tiered pupil weighting system; full funding of special education excess costs; and 3) consideration of census-based funding for special education in the future. The definition of a "suitable education" was also discussed.

Mr. Dennis reported on the recommendations of the interim legislative committee on preK education, which included a mandatory curriculum; a requirement for participation by all public school in NAEP; increased funding for Parents as Teachers which would eliminate the waiting list for the program and add an additional year for children to participate.

Mr. Dennis also reviewed the recommendations of the KAN-Ed Task Force, which included support of a connectivity to a two-way video and Internet system for schools; recommendations for entities other than schools to be included in the statewide technology plan; that the plan take effect in July of 2002 to allow a year for planning; creation of an oversight committee and recommendations for membership, and a creation of a separate state agency to administer the statewide program. Discussion followed about the issues and problems regarding the KAN-Ed plan.

Mr. Dennis also reviewed state general fund projections.

Education Legislation

Mr. Dennis reviewed and answered questions about several statutes proposed for amendment or repeal which had been presented at the November Board meeting. Mrs. DeFever moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the recommended changes in statutes be approved as presented. The motion carried.

Legislative Brochure

Mr. Dennis asked for comments or corrections to the legislative brochure. Mrs. Waugh indicated that the brochure reflected her old phone number. An error in the date for the upcoming legislative session was also pointed out. Mr. Bacon questioned the wording in the recommendation regarding all-day kindergarten, commenting that as currently presented it appeared that the only options were for participation in half-day or full-day kindergarten and did not include the option of not participating, nor that full-day was already available in many districts. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the legislative brochure be approved as corrected. The motion carried 8-0 with Mr. Bacon

abstaining.

The Board took a break from 2:50 p.m. and returned at 3:00 p.m.

PROPOSED MENTOR TEACHER PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Department General Counsel, Rod Bieker, reviewed the proposed mentor teacher regulations and guidelines, indicating the need to have them reviewed by the Department of Administration and the Attorney General before approval of them as temporary regulations in January. He noted that the temporary regulations would only be in effect for 120 days and that a public hearing would be held on them before they were adopted as permanent regulations. He asked the Board for any questions or comments. Discussion followed about the limitations in the proposed regulations on who would be eligible to be a mentor teacher. Mr. Bieker indicated that those limits were in the statute creating the program. Mr. Wyatt stated several reasons why over the next year the Board should address expanding the mentor teacher program beyond the definition in the statute, including the need to address more thoughtfully the current narrow provisions for eligibility and the need for funding administrative costs. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the proposed mentor teacher regulations be approved for submittal to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General for review. The motion carried.

MASTERY OF BASIC READING SKILLS PLAN

Dr. Adams presented to the Board revised recommendations for the development and implementation of a mastery of basic reading skills plan for children from kindergarten through third grade, as required in SB 245 approved by the 2000 legislature. He reviewed the basic recommendations which included 1) development of an instructional support document; 2) use of the second grade diagnostic assessment as a monitoring component of the basic skills program and its use at other grade levels; and 3) development of a professional development plan to provide training to primary grade teachers. Discussion about details of the professional development plan, and components of the plan already in place in the Department followed. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the Board approve the mastery of basic reading skills plan. The motion carried.

PROPOSED AMENDED PARENTS AS TEACHERS REGULATION

Dr. Freden reviewed the minor changes needed to update the Parents as Teachers regulations, including the information to be included in the application; the elimination of an application's due date; the elimination of the required match in regulation; and elimination from regulations due dates for reports. Dr. Freden answered questions about the due dates for reports and the elimination of the amount of matching funds from regulation. She indicated that staff would review the proposed change regarding due dates. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Dr. Wagon, that the proposed amended regulations be approved for submittal to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General for review. The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

The motion carried. In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the special projects appointment of Elke Lorenz to an Education Program Consultant position, Certification and Teacher Education, under the Title II Teacher Enhancement Grant, effective November 6, 2000, at a biweekly rate of \$1552; and Rose Villalobos as a half-time Secretary I under the Advanced Placement Incentive Grant, effective November 20, 2000, at a biweekly rate of \$322.40.
- Approved school construction plans for Wichita, USD 259; Syracuse, USD 494; Manhattan, USD 383; Kansas City Christian School; Axtell and Axtell-Bern, USD 488; Blue Valley, USD 229; and Ellinwood Public Schools; St. Paul Lutheran School, Leavenworth; and Caldwell, USD 360.
- Received a draft of the 2001 year-long agenda and Board meeting schedule.
- Approved the renewal of the Peoria Street Charter School submitted by USD 416.
- Approved Cycle 1 accredited status for Wichita Catholic Diocese: St. Joseph Elementary (Conway Springs); and Cycle 2 accredited status for 209: Moscow Elementary and Moscow High School.
- Approved Cycle 1 conditional accreditation status for Trinity Lutheran School, Paola.
- Approved requests for waivers for individuals to serve in districts and service centers, coopeatives and interlocals as follow: *Behavior Disorders at the elementary level*: Courtney Moddlemog, Barton County Special Services Cooperative; and Alice Boyd, Reno County Education Cooperative; *Chemistry and Biology at the secondary level*: Kenton Siebert, USD 295; *Early Childhood Special Education*: Princess Harris and Yelana Hunt, USD 259; Reigan McGraw, USD 273; Tonie Graber, South Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative; Kelli Nix, High Plains Educational Cooperative; and Tina Berens, South Central Kansas Education Service Center; *French at the secondary level*: Nancy Miller, USD 489; *Director of Special Education at the K-12 level*: Dean Johnston, USD 353; *Gifted Education at the elementary level*: Shawn McWhirt, USD 232; Rebecca Beal, USD 260; Mary Richardson, Marshall County Special Services Cooperative; and Amber Dowlin, Barton County Special Services Cooperative; *Gifted Education at the middle level*: Jennifer Bergland, USD 232; and Wendy Donaldson, USD 259; *Gifted Education at the secondary level*: James Woody, USD 259; Marsha McCarthy, USD 383; and Vicki Galloway, Reno County Education Cooperative; *Gifted Education at the K-12 level*: Carrie Casey, Jennifer Ritz and Dawn Wendt, Southwest Kansas Special Education Cooperative; Janice Briggs, Flint Hills Special Education Cooperative; Deb Robinson, Northwest Kansas Education Service Center; and Kathy Clayton, High Plains Educational Cooperative; *Interrelated*

Special Education at the elementary level: Carolyn Charleston, David Colvin, Cathy Ellis, Anne Friesema, Darnell Hamilton, Sylvia Ireland, Dawn Miller, Jean Ann Parker and Pamela Stuckey, USD 259; Taralynne Wolfenbarger, USD 261; Charlotte Gibson and Christen Rierson, USD 465; Carrie Allison, USD 495; Gregory Aytes, USD 501; Bryan Weems, High Plains Educational Cooperative; Michelle Alexander, Darla French and Pamel McLarty, Southwest Kansas Area Cooperative; Janet Wright, Sedgwick County Area Education Services Interlocal Cooperative; and Emily Hackney, Prairie Hills Interlocal; *Interrelated Special Education at the middle level:* Cami Janzen, USD 260; Mical Barbo, Dan Morrison, Warren Mueller, Jennifer Rivers, Ronald Walker and Stephanie Walker, USD 259; Donna Gregg, USD 261; Dana Walton, USD 353; Elizabeth Tush, East Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative; Monica Cook, USD 407; Nancy Whisler, USD 501; Stephanie Hudson, High Plains Educational Cooperative; and Kelly Hein, Sedgwick County Area Education Services Interlocal Cooperative; *Interrelated Special Education at the secondary level:* Susan VinZant, USD 260; Rory Bryan, Amy Hume-Nollette, Klaus Lollmai, Christopher Lawler, Timkama Udoka, Marcia Williamson and Bryan Wilson, USD 259; Sally Hufford and Mickie Mason, USD 263; Bryan Sage, USD 273; Kathleen Vernon, USD 305; Teresa Bryson, USD 353; Allyson Clark, East Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative; Annalee Crotinger, Barton County Special Services Cooperative; Melissa Price, USD 457; Richard Morrison, USD 465; Keith Kimmel and Jim Perdarvis, USD 501; Cassie Kopsa and Tara Temaat, Northwest Kansas Education Service Center; Mary Nuss, Milissa Salazar and Denice Thompson, Reno County Education Cooperative; and Curtis Wells, Sedgwick County Area Education Services Interlocal Cooperative; *Interrelated Special Education at the K-12 level:* Mary Hansen, Kim Haresnape and Pam Miller, Northwest Kansas Education Service Center; and David Windholz, Southwest Kansas Area Cooperative; *Interrelated Special Education at the middle and secondary level:* Wilbur Fast, Southwest Kansas Area Cooperative; *Learning Disabilities at the elementary level:* Rachel Humes, USD 233; *Learning Disabilities at the secondary level:* Alesia Smith, Leavenworth County Special Education Cooperative; and Manley Jackson, ANW Education Cooperative; *Library Media Specialist at the elementary level:* Debra Webb, USD 227; Charlene Burns, USD 282; and Patty Collins, USD 443; *Library Media Specialist at the elementary level and junior high level:* Linda Tebow, USD 426; and Joy Heffron, Archdiocese of Kansas City; *Library Media Specialist at middle level:* Angela Okane and Julie Riffel, USD 232; *Library Media Specialist at the K-12 level:* Melody Davies, USD 502; *Mentally Retarded at the elementary level:* Jennifer Burke and Julie Westmacott, Southwest Kansas Area Cooperative; and *School Counselor at the elementary level:* David Jantzen, USD 259.

- Approved a request for a Visiting Scholar certificate for Debra Diver- Kaiser to teach secondary art in USD 465 at Winfield High School from November 8, 2000 to June 30, 2001.
- Accepted the Evaluation Review Committee's recommendations for programs to receive "approved status" through December 31, 2004: *MidAmerica Nazarene*, Chemistry and Biology; and *Newman University*, Elementary Education.
- Set a public hearing on proposed special education regulations for March 13, 2001, at 1:30 p.m.

in the State Board Room.

- Approved FY 2001 Commercial Driver Training School Licenses from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 for: Behind the Wheel, Inc., Overland Park; Behind the Wheel Defensive Driving School, Wichita; BWB Driving Academy, Olathe; CFU Drive Driving School, Frontenac; Cyr's Driving School, Inc., Wichita; Drive Right School of Wichita; Harder Performance Driving School, Overland Park; HyPlains Driving School, Inc., Scott City; Kansas Driving School, Inc., Overland Park; Little Apple Driving School, Inc., Manhattan; Midstate Driving School, Salina; Midwest Driving School-Lawrence; Midwest Driving School-Topeka; Royal Driving School, Salina; Safety First Driving School, Liberal; Topeka Driving School; Twin City Driver Education, Overland Park; Varsolona Driving School, Frontenac; and Wichita Collegiate School.
- Approved State Improvement Grant IHE Continuous Improvement subgrant projects in the amount of \$5,000 for Benedictine College, Baker University, Haskell Indian Nations University, Southwestern College, St. Mary College, Newman University, Ottawa University, MidAmerica Nazarene University, and to ACCK as fiscal agent for Bethany College, Bethel College, Kansas Wesleyan University; McPherson College, Sterling College and Tabor College; in the amount of \$25,000 for Emporia State University, Washburn University, Pittsburg State University, Fort Hays State University, and Friends University; in the amount of \$35,000 for Wichita State University; and in the amount of \$40,000 for University of Kansas and Kansas State University.
- Approved 2000-2001 new Excellence in Teaching subgrants in the amount of \$2,000 for USD 435 Abilene, USD 470 Arkansas City, USD 409 Atchison, USD 402 Augusta, USD 348 Baldwin City (3), USD 314 Brewster, USD 313 Buhler (5), USD 473 Chapman (2), USD 284 Chase County, USD 264 Clearwater, USD 476 Copeland, USD 218 Elkhart, USD 307 Ell-Saline; USD 327 Ellsworth, USD 253 Emporia, USD 457 Garden City, USD 265 Goddard (2), USD 489 Hays, USD 258 Humboldt, USD 308 Hutchinson, USD 257 Iola, USD 480 Liberal (2), USD 405 Lyons, USD 266 Maize, USD 383 Manhattan (2), USD 219 Minneola, USD 461 Neodesha, USD 373 Newton (2), USD 309 Nickerson/South Hutchinson (2); USD 233 Olathe, USD 381 Oskaloosa, USD 504 Oswego, USD 368 Paola, USD 503 Parsons, USD 325 Phillipsburg, USD 323 Rock Creek, USD 507 Satanta, USD 466 Scott County, USD 345 Seaman, USD 306 Southeast of Saline, USD 230 Spring Hill (4), USD 374 Sublette, USD 214 Ulysses (2), USD 320 Wamego (3), USD 353 Wellington (2), and USD 259 Wichita (10).
- Approved Kansas Advanced Placement Incentive subgrants for SW Plains Consortium, \$28,283; Dodge City USD 443, \$17,988; SEKESC Consortium, \$92,106; and ESSDACK Consortium, \$35,903.
- Issued an order for Caldwell USD 360, and Flint Hills USD 492, granting them authority to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the districts' general bond debt limitation.

- Approved the procedures and criteria as submitted for 2001-2002 School Breakfast Program Waivers.
- Received the preliminary review of the Management and Administration Plan for the 2001 Summer Food Service Program.

Contracts Approved:

- The State Board authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and enter into a contract with:

Bernardt Jones to provide needed support for professionals in the field of speech and language, with the contract amount not to exceed \$41,000. and

- Lynne Bourne to provide needed support for professionals in the field of speech and language, with the contract amount not to exceed \$42,600.

RECESS

There being no further business, Chairman Voth recessed the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Harold Voth, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary

**KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2000**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Voth called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2000, 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
Val DeFever
Linda Holloway

I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Harold Voth

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Waugh were unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Bacon, Mr. Wyatt and Dr. Wagnon

had not yet arrived.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES

Because of the lack of a quorum Chairman Voth postponed action to approve the agenda and moved ahead to the introduction of new employees. Mr. Lanny Gaston, Director of Personnel, introduced new Kansas Department of Education staff: Scott Cottrell, Applications Programmer/Analyst II, Computer Information and Communication Services; Linda Dunn, General Maintenance Repair Tech II, Agency Budgeting and Program Accounting; Ron Folk, Education Program Consultant, School Improvement and Accreditation; Elizabeth Fultz, Education Program Consultant, Certification and Teacher Education; Ginger Gudenkauf, Secretary I, Student Support Services; and Rose Villalobos, Secretary I, School Improvement and Accreditation.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

With Dr. Wagon's arrival at 9:10 a.m., six members, constituting a quorum, were present. Mr. Rundell, with a second by Dr. Abrams, moved that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION ON DYSLEXIA

Board member Mrs. Holloway introduced Jeannine Phillips with whom she had become acquainted through meetings on special education and dyslexia. Mrs. Phillips shared her educational background in teaching and her experiences getting appropriate help for her son's dyslexia. She reported that after the diagnosis of her son had been made, she enrolled in the Academic Language Therapy program in Dallas, Texas in order to learn how she could help her him. Mrs. Phillips reviewed current research on dyslexia and shared a working definition of the disability with the Board. She reported that dyslexia is a neurologically-based familial disorder which interferes with the acquisition and processing of language. She stressed that it was not the result of lack of motivation, sensory impairment, inadequate instructional or environmental opportunities, or other limiting conditions, and that many individuals with dyslexia respond to timely and appropriate intervention. She explained what teachers need to know how reading is learned; what the signs of reading problems are; how to identify dyslexic children at an early age; and the components of effective intervention. Mrs. Phillips recommended early identification and intervention by kindergarten or first grade and that services to work with dyslexic children be made available in schools. Dr. Alexa Pochowski, Team Leader, Student Support Services, reported on how dyslexia was dealt within the Kansas special education regulations.

Mr. Wyatt arrived at 9:30 a.m. and Mr. Bacon arrived at 9:55 a.m. Following the conclusion of Mrs. Phillips' presentation at 10:55, the Board took a break until 11:05 a.m.

EDUCATOR LICENSURE ISSUES

Survey of Alternative Certification Programs

Dr. Wagon stated that he would be happy to share copies of articles on alternative teacher certification that had appeared in *The New York Times*. He reported that it showed anecdotally the reality of some of the problems in the classroom for teachers who had not had pedagogical training. Commissioner Tompkins reported that the survey on immediate access and alternative certification that had been

conducted by Elizabeth Fulz, Certification and Teacher Education, showed that most of the programs were very similar to what was provided in the new Kansas licensure regulations. He also reported on the good retention rate with the program at Wichita State University. Board discussion addressed the parameters of the survey; the need to have information on retention in order to judge if student learning was suffering as a result of alternate routes; and how to measure the effectiveness of the two alternative routes currently available in Kansas. Mr. Wyatt stated the need to analyze retention problems and teacher shortages in Kansas, make adequate corrections, and monitor the effectiveness of solutions being utilized. Dr. Wagon commented that the Board needed to be certain that teacher preparation programs were as effective as they could be and that sufficient professional development opportunities were available. He remarked that without adequate preparation, teachers would fail. Mrs. DeFever commented on the need for more training for teachers, not less, and Mr. Rundell remarked that if the problem was teacher salaries, making it easier to teach would not fix it. It was suggested by Dr. Wagon that the issue be addressed at the Board retreat.

Discussion Of KCTAF Recommendations

In its review of the KCTAF recommendations, the following components were discussed by the Board:

Goal IV. Encourage and reward teacher knowledge and skill. The issue of communication between university teacher education preparation programs and liberal arts departments was discussed. Because of the heavier emphasis on content standards in the new teacher licensure regulations, Dr. Wagon commented that the two entities needed to be more cooperative and collaborative. Dr. Freden indicated that some of the Title II funds would be used to bring together higher education liberal arts programs and education programs for better communication. Dr. Tompkins noted that the content standards writing committees needed to communicate with the professional education community, too.

IV.2.1. Implement peer assistance programs to improve teaching and learning. Dr. Wagon commented that effective learning takes place if everyone in a school is cooperative and that it's more than just providing a new teacher with a mentor. It is necessary for a school's whole staff to create a learning environment. He suggested that the emphasis should be put on team building instead of individual accomplishments.

IV.2.2. Develop a career continuum for teachers that rewards advanced subject knowledge, teaching skills, and service to the profession. Identify those components that merit additional compensation. Dr. Tompkins indicated that solutions to address the recommendation were local or legislative matters, but noted that if the Board liked the recommendation, a legislative study could be requested.

IV.2.3. Create additional incentives that support and encourage teachers to pursue National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBTS) certification and reward those who achieve it. and IV.2.4. Set a Kansas goal of at least one NBTS teacher in every school. Board members discussed whether the goal was realistic and the adequacy of current incentives. Mr. Bacon also asked if national board certification resulted in higher student achievement. Dr. Tompkins responded that an initial study of the issue showed a correlation between learning and certification.

IV.3.1 Design and implement valid teacher evaluation systems. Dr. Tompkins indicated that the Board had no authority over how a district conducted its teacher evaluations. It was suggested that the Board investigate ways it could influence, as far as its responsibility for general supervision of public schools would allow, the use of good evaluation systems in the state. Dr. Tompkins indicated that there were models being tried all over the country, and Peg Dunlap, KNEA representative who was present, noted that there were several new systems being used in Kansas.

IV.3.2. Use Kansas professional development standards to design and implement professional development for principals. The current statewide superintendents and principals academies were cited, but it was noted that participation was limited. Board members discussed the need for credible administrators and that many were poorly trained. Mrs. Holloway suggested that appropriate professional development be required for renewal of an administrator's license.

Because of time constraints, it was agreed that discussion of the final KCTAF goal be postponed until the January meeting.

BOARD REPORTS

Board Chairman

Chairman Voth announced that additional copies of the progress report on Board goals were available.

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles gave a brief update on activity in the Chapman lawsuit, the school finance cases and pending personnel issues. Dr. Wagon moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for November be paid as presented. The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Mrs. DeFever handed out a report she had prepared on her activity as Legislative Liaison for Board members to review at their leisure.

Commissioner

Commissioner Tompkins indicated his report contained before and after maps of the second and third floors in the Department which were being remodeled. He invited Board members to tour the new team locations. He reported that a replacement for Les Olsen, vocational agriculture consultant, had been hired and would begin work in June. Dr. Tompkins also reported on the technology conference which had been held December 4th and 5th in Topeka.

Other Board Member Reports

Mr. Rundell reported on attending a high school graduation ceremony for individuals who had left school to enter the service in WWII before they had received their high school diplomas. He noted that is was the first such ceremony in the state, but that others would be held. He encouraged Board members to attend if they were able.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

Mrs. DeFever asked that the science standards be included on the January agenda. Mr. Rundell asked that review of the final KCTAF recommendation be included in January.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Mr. Bacon moved, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, that the travel requests be approved. The motion carried.

RECOGNITION

Chairman Voth and Commissioner Tompkins presented a plaque to Mrs. Holloway, recognizing her tenure and service on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Voth adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Harold Voth, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary