

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Staff Initiating: Interim Commissioner:

Shelby Hoytal (Interim) Diane DeBacker

Item Title:

Act on a contract to Strengthen Youth Mentoring through Community Partnerships

Board Goals:

Redesign the delivery system to meet our state's changing needs

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to extend a contract with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center for two additional years, through September, 2011, to facilitate the expansion of school-based mentoring programs to a total of 36 school districts across the state at a cost not to exceed \$329,122.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Effective October 1, 2008, the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) received a three-year federal grant totaling \$493,685 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to implement, grow and sustain school-based mentoring programs that meet or exceed all national best practice standards for safety, efficacy and accountability for providing high-quality one-to-one or small group mentoring in Kansas. KSDE serves as the fiscal agent of the grant while the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center is responsible for implementing the grant initiatives. During the past year, the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center partnered with twelve local school districts, Youth Friends, a school-based mentoring program, the Kansas Career Pipeline (KCP), and a multitude of business, community and faith-based organizations to connect caring adult volunteers with young people in schools to promote success, encourage healthy behaviors and build stronger communities. This partnership focuses on mentor recruitment and retention, mentor training, data collection and analysis, reduction of school drop-out rates, school-level strategic plans and education of community members. Once effective programs are in place using KCP and Youth Friends tools, training, technology and support, school districts will be able to use local partnerships formed during the grant period to sustain programming and ensure that long-term mentoring relationships are supported.

In January 2009, the State Board approved a one-year contract with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center to coordinate the expansion and evaluate school-based mentoring in twelve districts at a cost not to exceed \$164,561. This recommendation proposes to continue the contract for an additional two years and expand the mentoring program to an additional twenty-four school districts. During each year of the contract, it is anticipated that 300 mentors will be recruited and trained to provide an estimated 11,000 hours of mentoring services to 500 students. In addition, strategic mentoring plans for the participating school districts will be developed along with Memorandums of Understanding between participating school districts and organizations.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Staff Initiating: Director: Deputy Commissioner: Interim Commissioner:
Ron Nitcher Ron Nitcher Dale Dennis (Interim) Diane DeBacker

Item Title:

Act on request to contract for the oversight of state and local school district compliance with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Board Goals:

Governmental responsibility

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Interim Commissioner of Education to contract with Veryl Peter for the purpose of overseeing state and local school district compliance with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The contract period for these services shall run from April 19 to December 31, 2010 with a contract amount not to exceed \$38,000. Contract services will be paid from federal funds.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

On February 17th, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) into law. As part of the nation's economic recovery strategy, this bill includes approximately \$490 million for Kansas schools. These funds are intended to boost our state's economy while increasing student achievement. The department is proposing to contract with Veryl Peter to oversee compliance with the ARRA.

Mr. Peter served as the Director of School Finance for the Department of Education for approximately 28 years prior to his retirement in 2007. Under his supervision, the department distributed approximately \$3.5 billion per year in state and federal funds to local school districts and other eligible organizations. Since his retirement, Mr. Peter has worked on an intermittent basis assisting the department in reviewing school district budgets, training new superintendents on fiscal matters and implementing the ARRA.

Under this contract, Mr. Peter will continue to supervise the maintenance of the department's ARRA website, coordinate submission of quarterly school district reports to the federal government, provide technical assistance and support to local school districts, the Division of the Budget and KSDE program staff, develop and maintain written controls and procedures to ensure compliance with ARRA requirements, and prepare for monitoring visits by U.S. Department of Education officials and financial audits conducted by the state's A-133 auditors.

REQUEST AND RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION

Staff Initiating: Director: **Interim Commissioner:**
Karen Watney Karen Watney (Interim) Diane DeBacker

Item Title:

Act to confirm appointment of Director of Fiscal Services and Operations

Board Goals:

Governmental responsibility

Recommended Motion:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education confirm the appointment of Ethan Erickson to the position of Director of Fiscal Services and Operations effective April 18, 2010, at an annual salary of \$92,000.00.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

Ethan Erickson will serve as the Director of Fiscal Services and Operations. Due to the complexity of the job, a hiring date of April 19, 2010 will allow approximately a one-month overlap with Ron Nitcher, the current Director, for transition purposes.