

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 1996

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 1996 in the education building of the State Board of Education, 120 SE 10th Avenue, Topeka.

CALL TO ORDER

All members were present.

Steve Abrams
Wanda Morrison
Kevin Gilmore
Bill Musick
Mike Gragert
I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Harold Hosey
Mandy Specht
Mildred McMillon
Kathleen White

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Board members pulled several items from the consent agenda. Dr. Abrams pulled item e. concerning a law conference on special education and item m. concerning a staff development conference in Adult Basic Education. Mrs. White pulled item f., an accreditation waiver request and item i. concerning a Parents as Teachers waiver. Dr. Hosey pulled item q. concerning an alternative graduation policy for the Youth Center at Topeka. Mrs. Morrison moved approval of the agenda as amended; seconded by Dr. Abrams, and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mrs. White noted that the March 13 minutes on page 2 should indicate that she resumed the role of chair following the agenda item on school site councils. Mr. Musick moved approval of the minutes as amended; seconded by Mrs. McMillon, and the motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY MARILYN LAYMAN ON FACILITIES PLANNING

Dr. Freden, assistant commissioner for Learning Services, introduced Dr. Marilyn Layman, superintendent of DeSoto USD 232. Dr. Layman was recently featured in the March edition of *School Planning and Management* magazine following her presentation to the National School Boards Association on the topic of building a supportive senior citizens coalition. She described the process of meeting community needs in a district composed of older and growing, new neighborhoods. By developing a plan to meet everyone's needs, a fourth bond issue was successfully approved by the voters, enabling the development of school facilities.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Dr. Freden introduced Charlotte Sands, principal of Mission Valley Middle School in Shawnee Mission USD 512. She described the process of applying for recognition as an outstanding school by the U.S. Department of Education. She noted that parental involvement and strong academic and extra curricular programs were selling points. She explained that the application process while time-consuming is worthwhile. It develops school pride and brings out creativity. It involves parents and the community. She encouraged the State Board to support the application process.

CONSOLIDATED STATE PLAN

Mr. Gragert moved that the State Board of Education approve the Consolidated State Plan; seconded by Mrs. McMillon, and the motion carried with one vote by Dr. Abrams.

A CLOSER LOOK: school improvement

Mr. Dale Dennis, Interim Commissioner, reported that several education organizations and the Lt. Governor had participated in the release of information about achievements accomplished through school improvement, and would be part of a press conference at noon. The publication *A Closer Look* was created in cooperation with the Kansas Governor's Office, the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Kansas National Education Association, the United School Administrators of Kansas, and the Kansas Educate America Act Panel. Mr. Dennis mentioned that Mr. Jim Edwards from the Kansas Business-Education Coalition would also speak at the press conference. Mrs. McMillon asked that staff send the publication to the State Board members' key communicators.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman White opened the Forum at 10:56 a.m. One person addressed the Board:

i Roger Schwab, Topeka.

Chairman White closed the Forum at 11:05 and called a ten-minute break.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

Mr. Kevin Ireland, attorney for the Commission, provided information about the recommendations. Several Board members asked questions and made comments about the position taken on two cases. Mr. Gragert moved that the State Board adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of the Professional Practices Commission and approve the recommendations of the Commission; seconded by Dr. Hosey, and the motion carried, with the request that staff look at guidelines concerning instances when the Board should apply its power to suspend a teaching license in cases of breach of contract.

DEVELOPMENT OF PROFICIENCIES: progress report

Dr. Freden reported on recent discussions with the Regents staff and a consultant on the issue of proficiencies. She indicated that she would continue to discuss the cost of the project with the consulting firm in an effort to reduce the cost. She reported that a proposal will be presented in May to the State Board. Board members asked questions and made comments. Mr. Gragert suggested that staff use the former mechanism established by the Regents Task Force on College Preparation in order to save time and effort.

Chairman White called a recess for lunch at 11:45 a.m. The meeting resumed at 1:20 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Mr. Dale Dennis, Interim Commissioner, and Mr. Ron Nitcher, Director of Agency Budgeting and Program Accounting, reviewed the status of the 1996 legislative request, and reviewed legislative bills.

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE BOARD ATTORNEY

Mr. Dan Biles reported that the Business-Education Coalition was granted non-profit status. He also reviewed action by the Wisconsin Supreme Court on the voucher issue and the powers of the state school superintendent. Mr. Rundell moved that the State Board pay Mr. Biles for services and expenses as attorney for the Board as itemized on his statement; seconded by Mrs. Morrison, and the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Mrs. White reported on the NASBE Legislative Conference in March, noting that she and Mr. Gilmore visited the office of Representative Jan Meyers. She also reviewed the results of the NASBE Resolutions Committee meeting. Mr. Gilmore reported that Mrs. White presented an award to Senator Nancy Kassebaum on behalf of NASBE.

COUNCIL ON THE FUTURE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Mrs. White reported that the purpose of the March retreat was to identify principles or priorities leading to a blueprint for postsecondary education. She reported on priorities established by the members: 1) a system of accessible postsecondary education, including geographic and affordable access; 2) a seamless system of postsecondary education capable of sustaining lifelong learning; 3) a system that expects and rewards the high performance of both students and institutions; 4) a system of institutions that are responsive to the needs of a variety of constituents; 5) a system that has high public trust. She also reported that she will meet in April with the other co-chair, Dr. John Hiebert, to plan for the next Council meeting. Mr. Gragert asked that Chairman White schedule a meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee on Governance and suggested that the consortia be given an opportunity to report. Mrs. White indicated that the Northeast Consortium is ready to report and that she would discuss the Joint Committee with Dr. Hiebert. Mrs. Morrison reported that the Governance Committee has not met. Mr. Dennis suggested that timelines for committee reports be established, and reminded members that a report is due to the legislature in November, 1996.

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE INTERIM COMMISSIONER

Mr. Dennis reported on activities, in particular, the meeting with the Governor about the Education Summit in March. He also distributed the report of the Task Force on Internet Access for Schools and Public Libraries and expressed concern that Kansas has the lowest percentage of schools on internet of any midwestern state. He also mentioned that the Legislature has asked for a post audit of the state assessments and information on expulsions.

CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Board members learned of two programs in character education. As the first item, Dr. Steve McClure, superintendent of Shawnee Heights, introduced Mr. John Green, director of the Boy Scouts of America Learning for Life program. Mr. Green indicated that across the nation, 6,000 schools are involved in this specific program. The curriculum includes citizenship, life skills and socialization. He showed two videos describing how school boards work in partnership with the Boy Scouts. Board members asked questions and offered comments. Mr. Green indicated that the strength of the Scouts program is the way it marshals community resources so that teachers have much more than a textbook and an 800 telephone number. Dr. Hosey reported that superintendents in St. Joseph and Liberal have used the program. He introduced several representatives of the Scouts that were present, including David Capstick, interim executive director of the Jayhawk Area Council.

Dr. Freden, assistant commissioner of Learning Services, introduced educators from Eisenhower Elementary school in Independence USD 446- Eisenhower Elementary, one of the schools in Kansas focusing on character education. Patty Clay, the principal introduced : Connie Boner, the QPA coordinator and Barbara Peterson, the school librarian. Ms. Clay indicated that the school had developed its own curriculum after reviewing the program offered at Rappahannock County Elementary School in Sperryville, Virginia. At Eisenhower, the teachers also extensively use William Bennett's *Book of*

Virtues. Ms. Boner and Ms. Peterson described the virtues, ways incentives and rewards are given for participation, and the ways that results are assessed in their primary school. They noted that school-wide they experienced a 10% decrease in the number of discipline referrals. They also reported that forty schools in Kansas, and schools from other states have requested the Eisenhower curriculum.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board members were satisfied that each question about the consent agenda had been answered with the exception of item q. Dr. Hosey requested particular review of this item. Mr. Ken Bungert, director of Certification and Teacher Education, provided information about the request for an alternative graduation policy for the Youth Center at Topeka, and answered questions. Mr. Gragert moved approval of the consent agenda in its entirety; seconded by Mrs. Specht, and the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS APPROVED:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Approved the construction plans: Colby USD 315, Wallace County Schools USD 241, Lansing USD 469, Colby USD 315, Caney Valley USD 436, Dodge City Community College, Burrton USD 369, Hutchinson USD 308.
- Appointment of Maretta Taun to an unclassified special project position under Drug Free Schools, and established her salary.
- Approved a special education waiver request from the Holton Special Education Cooperative USD 336.
- Approved the Quality Performance Accreditation waiver request from Hesston USD 460.
- Approved the inservice education plan from Twin Valley USD 240.
- Approved the waiver of education requirements for a Parents as Teachers educator in Garden City USD 457.
- Approved the Ed-Flex waiver for Emporia USD 253.
- Issued certificates of approval to these proprietary schools: BMSI Institute (Overland Park), HCA Health Services of Kansas, Inc. (Wichita), Bryan Travel College (Topeka), A.D. Banker and Company (Overland Park), Topeka Technical College, National Education Center - Spartan School of Aeronautics Campus (Tulsa), and Hays Pathology Laboratories School of Medical Technology.
- Approved the participating agreement between Hutchinson Community College/Area Vocational Technical School and USD 308 and USD 373.
- Approved the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant Awards for fiscal year 1996 as recommended for: Kansas City USD 500, Wichita USD 259, Dodge City USD 443, Junction City USD 475, Lyon County USD 405, Garden City USD 457, Olathe USD 233, and ARCKK - representing Bazine, Otis-Bison and Great Bend.
- Approved waiver of K.A.R. 91-5-2 of the driver education regulation for four school districts: Pittsburg USD 250, Southeast of Saline USD 306, Royal Valley USD 337 and Osage City USD 420 - to implement a performance-based driver education curriculum.
- Received minutes of the February 14 meeting of the State Council on Vocational Education.

- Approved the alternative graduation policy for the Youth Center at Topeka.

Contracts Approved:

The Interim Commissioner was authorized to negotiate and enter into contract:

- with Kansas State University for coordination of support services for Summer Institute VII, a professional development conference for adult educators, with the contract amount not to exceed \$50,000;
- with Wichita State University to complete post production editing of communications standards staff development videotapes, with the contract amount not to exceed \$4,950;
- with LRP Publications to arrange a two-day law conference, with the contract amount not to exceed \$26,000.

INTRODUCTION OF AGENCY STAFF

Mr. Lanny Gaston, director of Personnel, introduced two new staff members: Ruth Paulson and Maretta Taun.

RECESS

Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Meetings at the Special Schools

April 10, 1996

Kansas State School for the Blind

Members began their day with an 8:00 a.m. reception at the Kansas State School for the Blind in Kansas City, Kansas. Chairman White called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the new dining hall of the school.

Members present were:

Steve Abrams
Wanda Morrison
Kevin Gilmore
Bill Musick
Mike Gragert
I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Harold Hosey
Kathleen White
Mildred McMillon

Member absent:

Mandy Specht

ACCESSIBLE ARTS AWARDS

Mrs. Kathleen White, State Board Chairman, and Mr. Harry Athan, President of the Accessible Arts Board of Directors, welcomed the celebrants and offered remarks. Ms. Tina Wright, Accessible Arts Program Director, explained the history and purpose of the awards. She and Paul Lesnik, Executive Director, presented KSSB students' artwork to each recipient. Chairman White presented the award for Special Needs Art Educator of the Year to Ms. Maureen Davis. Mr. Bill Musick presented the Distinguished Service Award to Ellen Morgan. In addition, Mr. Bill Daugherty, superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Blind, congratulated student Scott Trickey for the award he recently received from the Foundation for Exceptional Children. Scott was selected in international competition for a YES I CAN! award on the basis of his personal achievements as expressed through sculpture and

poetry. A representative of Mayor Cleaver's office was also present to offer congratulations to Scott and his family.

REPORT FROM THE STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND TOUR

Mr. Bill Daugherty presented information about instructional services for students at the school and outreach to students in districts throughout the state. He also described performance measures for the school, noting that the average stay at the school is now three years per child. He mentioned in particular how difficult it is for school districts to acquire sufficient Braille textbooks, but reported that Lansing now has a program for Braille production. He described the new plan for involving parents by creating regional PTAs. He also reported on the new dormitory construction, and the school's partnership with neighborhood leaders who are working to reduce crime in the area. Ms. Madeleine Burkindine, principal, and Ms. Cheryl Love, coordinator of the school improvement project, described reading initiatives, and the Golden Eagle Bank and Trust which was created by the Math Improvement Committee. Members then toured the school and enjoyed an enactment of banking at the school's Gold Eagle Bank, complete with singing. They also watched a play performance on the school's stage. During the tour of classrooms, Miss Wendy Raines, a student, demonstrated her use of the Low Vision Enhancement System (LVES) which enables her to read printed letters. Following lunch, Board members traveled to the School for the Deaf.

Kansas State School for the Deaf

Board members arrived at the State School for the Deaf, located in Olathe, at 1:00 p.m. They were welcomed by Mr. Gerald Johnson, superintendent.

TOUR AND REPORT

Following refreshments, members toured the new Philip A. Emery Elementary Center which had been in use only two weeks. Students and staff provided the tour, demonstrating the ways that the building was designed for optimal learning, instruction, and safety in the deaf community. Members then gathered for a report by the teaching staff on Quality Performance Accreditation at the School for the Deaf. Mr. Larry Finn reported on goals and outcomes in the area of mathematics, noting that all teachers make math connections across the curriculum. Ms. Sandie Kelly defined the ways that responsibility is being emphasized as a target goal. Ms. Nancy Eades described the goal of literacy, with the intent that all deaf students will read at grade level. She emphasized that early childhood is a critical time for language development. Achievement of native fluency in language from an early age, she noted, provides deaf students with a solid foundation for learning. Mr. Johnson responded to questions from Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.