KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 1997

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Kevin Gilmore called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 1997 in the board room of the Kansas State Board of Education in Topeka.

ROLL CALL
All members were present:

Steve Abrams
Mildred McMillon
Mary Douglass Brown
Wanda Morrison
Kevin Gilmore
I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Scott Hill
Mandy Specht
Linda Holloway
Bill Wagnon

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Dr. Abrams pulled from the consent agenda item e. involving an inservice education plan. Dr. Wagnon pulled item k. involving the Kansas Training Information Program. Mr. Rundell moved approval of the meeting agenda as amended; seconded by Dr. Abrams and the motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Dr. Wagnon moved approval of the February 11-12 minutes as presented; seconded by Mrs. Holloway, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

STATE ASSESSMENTS
Dr. Sharon Freden, Assistant Commissioner of Learning Services, introduced the two panelists: Dr. Nona Tollefson, professor of education at the University of Kansas; and Dr. John Poggio, co-director of the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation.

Dr. Tollefson stressed the importance of a well educated work force, and the promise educators make to provide quality education. She described the process of establishing standards and assessments as an

instrument for change in fields other than education. Dr. Poggio reviewed the testing procedures at the state level since the 1980's. At that time, Kansas chose to test basic skills. In 1989 through 1993, the State Board of Education initiated testing that involved more complex skills, and these assessments were mandated by the legislature. Dr. Poggio also briefly discussed the national standards in education. He reported that he was recently invited to participate in discussions about the President's initiative involving testing.

Dr. Poggio and Dr. Tollefson responded to questions and engaged in dialogue with Board members.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM
Chairman Gilmore opened the Forum at 11:15 a.m. Two persons addressed the Board:

- Renee Armbruster, Topeka
- Ray Bell, executive director, Topeka AIDS Project

Chairman Gilmore closed the Forum at 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH
Chairman Gilmore called a break for lunch at 11:30. Members attended the seminar sponsored by the Topeka School Fund and the Kansas Business-Education Coalition. The board meeting resumed at 1:45 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS
Mr. Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner, reviewed the House Appropriations Committee's recommendations on the fiscal year 1998 budget. He then provided a synopsis of the education bills, which Board members discussed.

CHARTER SCHOOL PETITION
Mr. Rod Bieker, General Counsel for the Department, presented the application by USD 493 Columbus for designation as a charter school, and provided counsel about the State Board's legal authority in such matters.

Mr. Scott Hill moved that the petition to establish a charter school submitted by USD 493 Columbus be approved; seconded by Mrs. Brown, and the motion carried by unanimous vote. Additionally, Dr. Abrams moved that the request for a waiver of applicable state accreditation regulations for this charter school be approved; seconded by Mr. Hill, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

CHARTER SCHOOL PLANNING SUBGRANTS
Dr. Phyllis Kelly, Team Leader of the Education America Act and Charter Schools Programs, presented recommendations for funding twenty-three subgrants. She explained the intent of the federal legislation which enables the planning grants. These are first phase planning grants. Kansas will have two more years of state planning. Dr. Kelly and Commissioner Tompkins responded to questions.

Mr. Hill moved that the item on charter school planning subgrants be tabled until April pending further information; seconded by Mrs. Holloway. The motion failed on a 5 to 5 vote. Voting "yes" were: Mr. Hill, Mrs. Holloway, Dr. Abrams, Mr. Gilmore, and Mrs. Brown.

Mrs. Morrison moved that the 1996-97 Kansas Charter School Planning subgrants be approved for funding; seconded by Mrs. McMillon, and the motion failed on a 5 to 5 vote. Voting "yes" were: Mrs. Specht, Mrs. McMillon, Dr. Wagnon, Mr. Rundell, and Mrs. Morrison. No action was taken.

KANSAS TECHNOLOGY PLAN
Dr. Andy Tompkins, Commissioner of Education, presented the draft state plan and responded to questions. He explained the process for its development and strategies for improving technology state-wide, including details about the Internet and distance learning. Members gave input on the plan and discussed ways to use it effectively.

Chairman Gilmore called a ten-minute break at 4:15 p.m.

PETITION TO TRANSFER TERRITORY: USD 329 Alma TO USD 417 Council Grove
Mr. Kevin Ireland, hearing officer, presented the facts and his recommendation to deny the petition by USD 417. He responded to questions.

Mr. Rundell moved that the petition to transfer territory from USD 329 Alma (Mill Creek Valley) to USD 417 Council Grove (Morris County) be denied; seconded by Mrs. Morrison, and the motion carried on an 8 to 2 vote. Voting "no" were Mr. Hill and Dr. Wagnon.

STATEWIDE EVALUATIONS OF SCHOOL-AGE YOUTHS: contract
Dr. Tompkins responded to questions, indicating that he had added to the recommendation from last month the requirement for parental consent. Mr. Hill moved that the State Board authorize the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and continue a contract with the University of Utah to complete the requested services, with the contract amount not to exceed $29,565, and with a provision that the legal guardian receive a copy of the survey and give written permission for the student to complete it, with the exception of 18-year old students; seconded by Dr. Abrams, and the motion carried on a 9 to 1 vote, with Dr. Wagnon voting "no."

CONSENT AGENDA
Dr. Freden responded to questions about item e. involving inservice education plans. Dr. Wagnon discussed item k. involving the Kansas Training Information Program. Mr. Damon Slyter, a consultant in Technical Education, responded to questions.

Mr. Rundell moved approval of the entire consent agenda; seconded by Mrs. Morrison, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

IN THE CONSENT AGENDA, THE BOARD:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Approved school construction plans for: Cedar Vale USD 285, Colby USD 315, St. Thomas Aquinas, Goessel USD 411, Blue Valley USD 229, Buhler USD 313, Blue Valley USD 229, Salina USD 305, Chase County USD 284, St. John's Military School.
- Confirmed appointments to these unclassified special project positions: Sonya Cuningham to the charter schools project; Amy Beck to the Title I program; Martha Blue-Banning and Michael Ruef to the Severe Disabilities System Change project.
- Approved a Quality Performance Accreditation request from Carbondale Elementary in the Santa Fe Trail district USD 434.
- Approved the Inservice Education Plan from Sedgwick USD 439.
- Received the summary of the 1995-96 Excellence Grant Program.
- Approved the waiver request from DeSoto USD 232 concerning a Parents as Teachers educator.
- Approved for full accreditation these schools: Beloit USD 273 - Junior/Senior High School and Elementary School; USD 326 - Logan High School; Independence USD 446 - Lincoln and Washington Elementary Schools; and Dodge City Catholic Diocese - St. Dominic Elementary School.
- Issued certificates of approval to these proprietary schools: Professional Real Estate Education (Overland Park), Hoffman International (Overland Park), International Aviation and Travel Academy (Texas), The Brown Mackie Colleges (Salina and Overland Park), and Professional Educational Resources of Kansas Institute (Topeka).
- Approved grants for Kansas Internships involving teachers from North Central Kansas Technical College, Cowley County Community College, Flint Hills Technical College, Wichita Technical College and Garden City Community College.
- Received 1996 information on Kansas-Training Information Program.
- Issued a 1997 license to the commercial driving training school Midstate Driving School in Salina.
- Allowed a waiver of K.A.R. 91-5-2 of the driver education regulation for Hays USD 489 to implement a performance-based driver education curriculum.
- Accepted the recommendations of the Certification Review Committee concerning cases: 1516, 1523, 1524, 1526, 1528, 1529, 1531, 1532, 1500, 1503, 1521, and 1522.
- Granted two requests for status as visiting scholars to: Rand Simmons at Southwest Kansas Educational Consortium and Katherine Kemmerer at Lawrence USD 479.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Mr. Kevin Gilmore, Chairman, reported that the Council on the Future of Postsecondary Education had completed its final report. He asked the Board to consider a resolution supporting the Joint Advisory Committee on Governance at the Board's April meeting.

Mr. Scott Hill thanked members for sending him comments on recent legislation.

Mr. Dan Biles reported on pending litigation. Dr. Abrams moved approval of services and expenses to

Mr. Biles in his capacity as the Board Attorney, according to his itemized statement; seconded by Mrs. Specht, and the motion carried.

Dr. Tompkins, Commissioner of Education, reported on several issues, including the search for an assistant commissioner. Members discussed the procedure for such a hiring process involving the Board. It was agreed that the Chairman will name members to participate in the screening and interviewing process, and that the Board as a whole will interview the final two candidates. Dr. Tompkins also discussed plans for an environmental scan in preparation for reviewing the Board's mission and strategic directions. He recommended Dr. Harold Hodgkinson, an international demographics authority.

Reports by other Board members:
Dr. Bill Wagnon reported on the February satellite conference involving Secretary Riley on "the state of education." He also reported on the master teacher selection process.

Mrs. Linda Holloway, liaison to the Professional Standards Board, asked members to attend the hearings on redesign of licensure and talk with their communities about the issue.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL REQUESTS
Members reviewed the composite list of travel requests. Mrs. Specht asked to add approval of salary and travel to Project Partnership in Lawrence on April 18. Dr. Wagnon and Dr. Abrams added a request for salary and travel to attend the nearest hearing on the redesign of licensure in March. Mr. Rundell moved approval of the Board's travel requests as amended; seconded by Dr. Abrams, and the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
At 5:20 p.m., Mrs. Holloway moved that the Board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel for fifteen minutes; seconded by Mrs. Specht, and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT
Chairman Gilmore opened the meeting to the public at 5:35 p.m. and adjourned the meeting.

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

Meetings at the Special Schools

March 12, 1997

Kansas State School for the Deaf
Members began their day at the Kansas State School for the Deaf in Olathe. In the Roberts Building Library, secondary school students informally demonstrated the use of computer technology at the school. Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m., and Mr. Gerald Johnson, superintendent, gave the welcoming remarks and an overview of the school for new Board members.

All members were present:

Steve Abrams
Mildred McMillon
Mary Douglass Brown
Wanda Morrison
Kevin Gilmore
I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Scott Hill
Mandy Specht
Linda Holloway
Bill Wagnon

TOUR
Members toured a preschool classroom in the Philip Emery Elementary Center, and observed activities in the gymnasium and in the library/media center of the elementary school.

OVERVIEW OF KSD ACTIVITIES
Dr. Tom Porter described the auditory training unit program which benefits hard of hearing children throughout the state, and explained the nature of other outreach activities. Ms. Becky Goodwin described the variety of science and technology programs that she has developed as resources for her students. Dr. Pam Shaw demonstrated the capability recently developed for captioning instructive videos in cooperation with the school's new business partner. KSD is also producing videos of visual story reading to enrich the language experiences of young students. Ms. Mona Huggins described cooperative library services linking KSD to the Olathe public schools, the Johnson County and Kansas City,

Missouri public libraries. She also explained how the middle school students assist with the school's home page and the posting of electronic mail messages. Because of the school's home page, students have been able to establish connections with deaf students in Toulouse, France. Ms. Jacqui Johnson showed newsletters she produces for parents and described her work as outreach coordinator in managing a lending library and developing training workshops for interpreters. Dr. Lynn Hayes, faculty in the University of Kansas Medical Center Teacher Training Program, emphasized the value of placing her graduate students at KSD, and described her own efforts to assist parents with very young deaf children, as well as children with deaf parents in Kansas City. Ms. Kim Brown, Director of the Regional Center for Gallaudet University at Johnson County Community College, explained the goal of educators to improve the quality of college graduates by reaching children at a younger age. She indicated that the regional center for Gallaudet serves fifteen states, with 10,000 people receiving assistance in 1996.

Board members dined with the staff in the Lamm Dining Room and then departed for Kansas City.

Kansas State School for the Blind

Members arrived at 1:00 p.m. for the awards ceremony in the dining room of the State School for the Blind. All Board members were present except Mrs. Morrison.

ACCESSIBLE ARTS AWARDS

Mr. Scott Brown, President of the Accessible Arts Board of Directors, and Mr. Paul Lesnik, Executive Director, welcomed participants and thanked the State Board of Education for its support of Accessible Arts, Inc. Dr. Andy Tompkins presented a Distinguished Service Award to Mrs. Kathleen White, former chairman of the State Board of Education. Ms. Jacqui Johnson presented to her artwork created by a student at KSSB. Mr. Kevin Gilmore presented a Distinguished Service Award to Mr. Richard Edlund, a former Kansas legislator. Mr. Bill Daugherty, superintendent, presented to him artwork created by a student. Mr. Gilmore presented the Kansas Special Needs Arts Educator of the Year award to Beverly Dick, a teacher from Wichita. Ms. Johnson presented the artwork to her.

OVERVIEW OF KSSB ACTIVITIES

Superintendent Bill Daugherty welcomed members and provided an overview of the school and its activities. Ms. Virgene Martin described the consulting and evaluation services that KSSB provides to districts throughout the state. Ms. Jackie Denk, explained the nature of KIRC, the Kansas Instructional Resource Center. KIRC supports students who remain in their local schools by providing Braille, large print books and recorded materials, as well as inservice for teachers. She responded to several questions from Board members. Ms. Cristy Bowen showed a video of KSB students to demonstrate the tremendous progress they make in acquiring mobility and self-care life skills.

TOUR

Members toured the life skills program for students with severe multiple disabilities. They visited the library and discussed assistive technology with students and with teachers Bob Taylor and Steve Hahn. And they enjoyed a few musical numbers by the choir.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION

Mr. Daugherty discussed the school's mission and its commitment to outreach. He responded to questions from Board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Gilmore adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.