

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Waugh called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2001 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
Sue Gamble
Carol Rupe

Harold Voth
Bill Wagnon
Janet Waugh
Bruce Wyatt

Chairman Rundell was ill and was unable to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Waugh asked for approval of the agenda. Dr. Abrams asked that item 15 g., regarding the conditional accreditation of a school, be pulled from the consent agenda. Mr. Bacon requested additional information for item 15 n., Even Start Family Literacy grants, and asked that it be pulled from the consent agenda. There being no additional changes, Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Vice Chairman Waugh asked for approval of the minutes of the July meeting. Mrs. DeFever moved, with a second Mrs. Gamble, that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed his written report on current progress on the board's goals and objectives. He noted that a graduation task force had been meeting and would report to the Board in October. He also indicated that the Department had received an early childhood planning grant from NASBE to work on coordination of early childhood services in the state. Dr. Tompkins also reviewed upcoming Department conferences. He reported that the Board artwork project was nearing completion and that display of artwork in the Board Room was tentatively planned for September. He briefly reviewed the activity of the Board Policy Committee. He also noted that Dr. Abrams had suggested that the District 10 Board meeting in October be held in Conway Springs and that planning was underway for that meeting.

REPORT ON THE KSDE CUSTOMER SERVICE SURVEY

Dr. Sherrill Martinez reviewed the results of the 2001 Customer Service Survey. She reported that the survey

had been conducted as an online survey of a random sample of five groups served by the Department. Those included child care/food service workers; school/district administrators; service center/coop directors; teachers/support staff; and deans of teacher education institutions. Because of the low response rate, 30%, she indicated that the next time the survey was conducted it would be available to respondents as a paper and pencil instrument as well as online. The eight standards surveyed were Reliability, Responsiveness, Competence, Access, Communication, Security and Tangibles, which included things such as an assessment of the ease of use of agency software, attractiveness and cleanliness of the building, and the ease of finding a meeting room. The overall response indicated that 87% of those responding were moderately or very satisfied with agency services. Dr. Martinez indicated that areas for improvement highlighted by the responses included the need to improve agency software, particularly for MAC users; change the phone system for better accessibility; and the need to be correct and current with information in written communication. In the Board comments that followed, she was asked if consideration might be given to assigning a priority weighting to the indicators when the survey was next conducted.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Vice Chairman Waugh opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 10:36 a.m. Ken Weave, Emporia, representing Kansas Teachers of Psychology in Secondary Schools, and John Richard Schrock, Emporia, addressed the Board. Vice Chairman Waugh declared the open forum closed at 10:47 a.m.

FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL READINESS

To set the stage for the presentation to the Board on school readiness indicators, Dr. Alexa Pochowski, Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services, shared several different examples of illustrated story telling by preschoolers. She indicated that, as shown by the examples, the broad range of elements to consider, made it difficult to define readiness, but pointed out the importance of a child's development during his or her first five years. Dr. Pochowski introduced Lynne Owen, Department of Education Program Consultant, who had been working with a group of stakeholders, the Next Steps Committee, over the past year on developing a definition, guiding principles and indicators for early childhood. Mrs. Owen reviewed the committee's activity, and the definition developed: "*school readiness is families, schools and communities supporting and serving children effectively so that all children have the ability to succeed in various learning environments.*" She reported that using nine guiding principles based on Kansas Standards for Early Childhood, the committee had developed a framework consisting of indicators in four areas to assess if the essentials necessary to support a child's development for success in school are in place in the school, the home, and the community. She added that the draft framework had been and was continuing to be reviewed by groups across the state and would be presented to business leaders and policymakers at an early childhood summit in September. Commissioner Tompkins and Joyce Cussimano, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and member of the Next Steps Committee, joined with Mrs. Owens and discussed future plans for disseminating the framework and coordinating early childhood services throughout the state to ensure equal access to all children of the state. The point was made that, on the whole, Kansas had many good programs in place, but communication between heads of service agencies at the community and state level was important. Ms. Cussimano indicated that the Children's Cabinet, with additional funding from the Kauffman Foundation, would be working on the specifics of a plan for coordinating services and would also work on print information concerning the elements necessary for school readiness. These would be made available to schools, communities and parents throughout the state. It was also mentioned that good data had been gathered through the Connect Kansas program and that the school readiness framework could be a valuable evaluation tool for using the data to assist in determining gaps in state and community needs and help in developing priorities for action.

The Board took a break at 11:44 a.m. and returned at 11:50 a.m.

PARENT GUIDE FOR STATE CURRICULAR STANDARDS

Mrs. Kathy Toelkes, Public Information Officer for the Department, explained the organization and use of a parent guide to the state curricular standards which was being developed and would be sent to schools this Fall and made available to the parents of children in the grades which would take the state assessments in the 2001-2002 school year. Suggestions offered by the Board included: making it available on the web; breaking it down by grade level for distribution in local districts; changing the guide's introduction to focus on the state standards; expanding the helpful hints for parents; and providing an explanation of terms.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m. and returned at 1:31 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE QPA SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Several members of the QPA School Accreditation Study Committee, which had been charged to review the Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) system, discussed the results of their study with the Board. Janet Reed, David Torbett, together with Study Committee Chair, Mary Devin, reviewed the process the Study Committee had followed to address its charge to discover what has worked well in QPA; what has not worked well; what could be done to improve the QPA process; what are other states doing; and how the QPA system could be streamlined. Additionally, the Study Committee had been asked to consider whether the Kansas assessments should be weighted and whether assessment indicators should be required in local curriculum. It was reported that through examining existing materials gathered by the Department or the QPA Advisory Council and the results of a survey conducted by the Study Committee, several recurring themes were noted and the 27-member Study Committee split into working groups to concentrate on developing recommendations to address them. The working groups met over the past year, and besides reviewing the survey results and available QPA information, Jane Armstrong from the Education Commission of the States met with the Committee and reviewed accreditation procedures in other states. The recommendations then developed by the Committee are:

1. Address issues of lack of clarity and inconsistency by a) developing a rubric to measure the criteria for the accreditation decision; and b) creating a QPA manual to clarify and simplify the process and hold the process constant through a five-year cycle;
2. Eliminate inconsistencies and frequent changes in Kansas assessments;
3. Make chair training performance-based and provide incentives to attract participants for site teams; and
4. Improve support services and make them more readily available throughout the state.

The Study Committee also had recommendations for future work, but did not find commonly suggested solutions for them. They were unanimous that further study of them was necessary, though. They included: encourage more interaction between the chair, the site visit team and the school improvement team; require local boards of education to provide training in school improvement systems as part of district professional development; require local districts to include state indicators in the five content areas assessed in the locally developed curriculum; adjust the annual report to clarify the annual adjustments in the five-year school improvement plan; develop an on-going support system for site chairs; and add an optional mediation step if needed. The Study Committee also recommended that procedures for ongoing review of the process should be incorporated into the QPA process. A committee of practitioners with expertise in QPA, consisting of some members of the Study Committee and the QPA Advisory Council; an advisory panel of experts in school

improvement recognized beyond Kansas; and the QPA Advisory Council, with added legislative representation, should be available to assist the Department and the State Board in decision-making regarding improvements and maintaining the effectiveness of the QPA process.

In the discussion and questions that followed, Dr. Devin was asked if any changes in the characteristics of the QPA itself were considered. She indicated that the problems the Committee had studied were not the accreditation criteria or student performance-related issues, but improvements related to the process as it was currently established. Dr. Devin indicated that changes in what was required as part of QPA could be addressed in development of the rubric recommended that would define the criteria for accreditation and how they would be measured. She also noted that the Study Committee did not feel it had the expertise or time to craft the rubric and that members had seen their task as charting the course and suggesting the next steps to be taken. Dr. Devin reported that there was no overwhelming evidence that the process does not work to drive improvement, but that it was poorly implemented in some cases; that when all are focused on continuous improvement, performance goals are improved. She indicated that the Study Committee did not feel that the state assessments should be assigned a specific weight; that the strength of the Kansas QPA system was that it did not rely on a single measure of improvement. How to best use available resources when some schools were performing well and others were not; whether the process should be focused only on the poor performers; and if punitive action should be used was also discussed. Simplifying the process was also mentioned and development of the suggested QPA manual was cited as an important simplification strategy. Dr. Devin also indicated that consolidation of information required from schools would be helpful. Dr. Tompkins remarked that the interrelational database under development would help address the problem.

Vice Chairman Waugh thanked the group for their work and the Board took a break from 3:00 p.m. and returned at 3:13 p.m.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Professional Standards Board

Carol Rupe, with a second by Mrs. Gamble, moved that Judy Neatherlin be nominated for appointment to the Professional Standards Board as a representative of Public School Special Education Teachers, and serving from July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2004. The motion carried. Dr. Abrams, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, moved that Ms. Neatherlin be elected. The motion carried and Ms. Neatherlin was appointed.

Certification Review Committee

Dr. Wagnon, with seconds by Dr. Abrams and Carol Rupe, moved that Steve Pegram be appointed to fill a vacancy on the Certification Review Committee in the position for school administrators and serve from July 2001 through June 30, 2004. The motion carried 8-1, with Mrs. Gamble voting "no". In explaining her vote, Mrs. Gamble expressed the feeling that inadequate information was often provided by nominees making it difficult to make a choice.

An additional issue regarding appointments was raised by Carol Rupe, who asked why three names were commonly submitted for the Board to consider if all candidates met the criteria for serving in the position for which they were nominated. It was requested that the Board policy regarding nominations be reviewed by the Board Policy Committee.

KSSD AND KSSB YEAR-END REPORTS AND FY 2003 BUDGET REQUESTS

Kansas State School for the Deaf Robert Maile, Superintendent, presented the Kansas State School for the Deaf's (KSSD) report for FY 2001. Mr. Maile's comments focused on activities of the Related Service Department, an area that had experienced significant change during the last year and that several positions had been restored which had been cut for budgetary reasons the year before. The Department had conducted several parent workshops and had been able to provide more outreach and assistive technology support to local districts. Mr. Maile reported that the school had ended the year with an enrollment of 150, with 12 graduating and 19 new students. He noted that the student population trend was rising.

KSSD 2003 Budget

Mr. Maile reviewed the KSSD 2003 funding request as presented in July. He also answered several Board questions regarding the statutory status of the KSSD and KSSB and their relationship to KSDE. He indicated there were advantages and disadvantages to the fact that the schools were not considered LEAs when dealing with the school finance formula. The advantage was that funding didn't fall when there was a drop in the campus census. The disadvantage was that when the schools experience growth in their student populations, no adjustments were able to be made to the funds available during the year to accommodate the additional students. There was also discussion of the problem of attracting qualified teaching staff because of the disparity in salaries with surrounding districts. Discussion followed about what the Board could do to help the schools during the budget process. It was noted that it would be beneficial for the Board to make key contacts with the House Appropriations and the Senate Ways and Means committees and voice support for the schools' budgets.

Kansas State School for the Blind Quarterly Report

Kansas State School for the Blind Superintendent, William Daugherty, reviewed several items from the KSSB report for the FY 2001. He reported enrollment had reached a high of 68 on-campus students during the second quarter and 106 extended year students during the first quarter. He also reported on the transition program, Braille literacy and the Outreach Department. He indicated that the school was serving a high of 179 students throughout the state in the fourth quarter. One program of particular note was a mentoring program being initiated which paired blind students with successful blind adults to serve as role models. Mr. Daugherty reported that the sensory garden for the school continued to be a point of interest for the students and the teaching staff had been able to integrate activities that included it in several subject areas. He noted that the school had received the National Braille Readers Are Leaders Award for Outstanding Participation from the National Federation of the Blind. Asked about progress on implementation of legislation regarding the teaching of Braille that passed several years ago, Mr. Daugherty indicated that there were no plans to develop regulations, but that proponents of the legislation would now be satisfied with the Braille program in the state.

KSSB 2003 Budget

Mr. Daugherty reported that if the school was required to meet reduced resources targets, that, at a reduction of 2%, three to four positions in housekeeping, maintenance and/or dietary would be cut. At a 4% reduction, in addition to the loss of those positions, two to three outreach teachers across the state would have to be eliminated. Mr. Daugherty reported that the enhancement request would be for a 2.5% increase for teacher salaries in addition to any statewide pay raise for state employees to address the disparities in professional salaries.

Approval of the KSSD and KSSB FY 2003 Budget Requests

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the KSSD and KSSB FY 2003 budget proposals be approved as submitted. The motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Discussion of KSDE FY 2003 Budget

Deputy Commissioner Dennis reported that the Department had been asked to submit a reduced resources budget that would represent a 4% reduction in the agency's operating budget, or \$366,766. Rather than making further reductions in operations, he proposed that the funding come from FY 2002 Parents As Teachers funds which are projected to be unused because of the lack of local matching funds for the program. He also discussed FY 2003 allocation adjustments, the Division of Budget's estimates to maintain current services, and the FY 2002 shortfall. Mr. Dennis handed out a letter just received from the Cosmosphere requesting \$80,000 for their program.

Mr. Dennis began a review of the three-year budget plan that the Board developed at the July meeting. Carol Rupe stated the desire to go forward with the budget proposal, as had been discussed, indicating that everything in the proposal was tied to improving student achievement, including raising teachers' salaries to the national average. She noted the importance of standing by the proposal which represented thoughtful work by the Board over the past year. She also stressed the importance of helping the Board's Legislative Coordinator as much as possible. Mr. Wyatt suggested that base state aid per pupil (bsapp) be renamed "increase teachers salaries" and the Deputy Commissioner indicated that it could be added parenthetically to the bsapp line item in the budget.

Other issues discussed included the effectiveness and necessity for funding all-day kindergarten at the current time; the need for the performance goal targets to be accurate and supportable and that the funding requested for each was adequate; and how to go about integrating a proposal into the budget for an extended year tied to the salary increases for teacher. A request by Mrs. Waugh for the increase in teachers' salaries to reach the national average be added as a performance goal was also discussed.

Mr. Wyatt, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, moved that the budget proposal be approved with the two targets concerning teachers combined into one performance goal and that the average teacher salary increase target be added to it, to read, *"The average teacher salary will be increased to the national average, the percent of teachers who are not qualified to teach the classes they are assigned will be reduced by 10 %, and the percentage of teachers leaving the profession within the first five years of their practice will be reduced by 20 %."* Carol Rupe asked that the performance goals and the budget be voted on separately and Mr. Wyatt and Mrs. DeFever were agreeable to the change to their motion. The vote on the performance goals carried 8-1, with Mr. Bacon voting "no". The performance goals adopted for achievement over the next three years were:

1. *The average achievement of all students on the Kansas assessments will increase in reading by 5%, in writing by 7%, and in mathematics, science, and social studies by 10%.*
2. *The percent of students performing in the basic and unsatisfactory performance levels on Kansas assessments will decrease by 25%.*
3. *The achievement gap between majority and minority students as well as between advantaged and disadvantaged students will decrease by 25%.*
4. *The percent of students reading at their instructional level by the second grade will increase by 10%.*
5. *The graduation rate will increase by 5%. The average teacher salary will be increased to the national average, the percent of teachers who are not qualified to teach the classes they are assigned will be reduced by 10%, and the percentage of teachers leaving the profession with the first five years of their practice will be reduced by 20%.*

Mrs. DeFever, with a second by Mrs. Gamble, moved that the Board adopt the FY 2003 budget proposal as submitted. The motion carried 7-2, with Dr. Abrams and Mr. Bacon voting "no". The budget was unchanged from the proposal presented in July. Mr. Bacon stated he was voting against the budget because he felt it was irresponsible and unwise to adopt a budget increase of \$2.2 billion over the next three years when the Kansas economy is sluggish and other budgets are being cut 4%. Dr. Abrams stated his agreement with Mr. Bacon.

Mr. Bacon left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Legislative Update

Mr. Dennis noted he had provided a list of all the interim committees, which included the membership of each and the topics for study. Mr. Dennis handed out copies of the request for proposals (RFP) for a professional evaluation of the adequacy of financing for schools in Kansas. He indicated that the Board's correspondence outlining factors that should be considered as part of the professional evaluation had not been included as part of the RFP, but was attached for informational purposes. Mr. Dennis also provided the Board with a summary comparing teacher vacancies at the beginning of the 2000-01 and 2001-02 school years. He suggested that this year's lower number could be because of temporary hires and lay-offs not being included in the count. He also mentioned the success of the Kansas Education Employment Board, which had helped place 1,500 this year.

Dr. Wagon brought up the subject of how to promote the Board's budget and convince the public and legislators of the real needs that it addresses. Mrs. Gamble requested Board discussion of the issue at the end of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Prior to leaving the meeting, Mr. Bacon indicated to the Secretary he had received the additional information he needed regarding item 15 n., Even Start Family Literacy grants. Dr. Abrams' question was about item 15 g., regarding the conditional accreditation of Lenora High School in USD 213. He noted that the reasons for the conditional accreditation cited by the visiting team appeared to be based more about not following the QPA process requirements rather than student performance. Dr. Steve Adams, Team Leader for School Improvement and Accreditation, indicated that there had been no way to evaluate student performance, because no procedures had been put in place to do so. He also indicated that the school had been struggling because it had so few students and that after the accreditation visit, the decision had been made by the local board to close the school. The Board action being requested on the consent agenda was merely a formality to finalize the process begun by the visiting team. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Carol Rupe, that the consent agenda be approved as submitted. The motion carried 8-0.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the unclassified special project appointment of Lori Chapman to an Office Assistant III position under the Bill Gates Foundation grant, effective August 13, 2001 at an annual salary of \$18,782.40.
- Approved school construction plans for Bonner Springs, USD 204 (2 projects); Christian Learning

Center, Ft. Scott; Stony Point Christian Schools, Kansas City; Pittsburg, USD 250; Meriden, USD 340; Dodge City, USD 443; Cherokee, USD 247; Blessed Sacrament, Wichita; Faith Lutheran Church, Derby; Grace Christian Academy, Shawnee; Topeka Collegiate School, Topeka; Kapaun Mt. Carmel Catholic School, Wichita; Wichita, USD 259; Holy Cross Catholic School, Hutchinson; B&B, USD 451; Hays, USD 489; Auburn Washburn, USD 347; Prairie Meadows Private Schools, Nemaha; Pratt, USD 382; and Cheylin, USD 103.

- Approved the renewal of the Special Services Cooperative Agreement of Wamego.
- Approved Cycle 1 accredited status for Kansas schools, USD 229, Blue Valley: Prairie Star Middle School; and Prairie View Mental Health Center; and Cycle II accredited status for USD 220, Ashland: Ashland Upper; USD 288, Central Heights: Central Heights High; USD 292, Wheatland,: Wheatland Elementary and Wheatland Senior High; USD 295, Prairie Heights: Jennings High; USD 307 Ell-Saline: Happy Corner Elementary; USD 320, Wamego: West Elementary; USD 340, Jefferson West: Jefferson West Elementary; USD 347 Kinsley-Oferle: Lincoln Elementary; USD 352, Goodland: Central Elementary, West Elementary and North Elementary; USD 377, Atchison County Community: Atchison County Community High; USD 392, Osborne County: Osborne Elementary, Alton Osborne Junior High and Osborne High; USD 428, Great Bend: Great Bend Middle; USD 432, Victoria: Victoria Elementary and Victoria High; USD 434, Santa Fe Trail: Carbondale Elementary and Overbrook Elementary; USD 449, Easton: Easton Elementary; USD 453, Leavenworth: Earl M. Lawson Elementary and Anthony Elementary; USD 457, Garden City: Victor Ornelas Elementary, Garfield Elementary, Gertrude Walker Elementary and Theoni Elementary; and USD 464, Tonganoxie: Tonganoxie Junior High.
- Approved conditional accreditation status for Lenora High School, USD 213, West Solomon Valley.
- Approved Ed-Flex waivers for schoolwide programs for USD 273, Beloit; USD 383, Manhattan; UD 402, Augusta; USD 470, Arkansas City; and USD 483, Kismet- Plains.
- Approved 2001-2002 renewals of Visiting Scholar Certificates for: Richard Jeffries, Jr. and Charm Smith to teach secondary English, at Kansas State School for the Deaf; for Dr. Dixie McReynolds to teach science at Accelerated Schools of Overland Park; Linda Davis-Stephens, to teach Spanish I and II, criminal justice and anthropology and/or geography at Jennings High School, USD 295, Prairie Heights; Darren Elliott to teach communications and debate at Emporia High, USD 253; and Susie Beck, to teach family and consumer science at Prairie View High School, USD 362, Prairie View.
- Approved funding for 2001-2002 Safe and Drug Free School and Communities Act grants for: USD 211, Norton, \$28,161; USD 233, Olathe, \$55,695; USD 253, Emporia, \$51,068; USD 259, Wichita, \$64,125; USD 262, Valley Center, \$42,885; USD 289, Wellsville, \$25,907; USD 361, Anthony-Harper, \$8,986; USD 379, Clay Center, \$17,654; USD 453, Leavenworth, \$42,750; USD 457, Garden City, \$32,989; USD 475, Geary County, \$144,795; USD 500, Kansas City, \$125,670; Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, \$102,723; Sumner County Interlocal, \$27,788; Smoky Hills Education Service Center, \$59,220; and Fort Hays Educational Development Center, \$17,100.
- Approved FY 2002 Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Programs for: Title I awards

Fairview Elementary, USD 233, \$121,133; Long Avenue Elementary, USD 253, \$50,000; Colvin Elementary, USD 259, \$144,075; Lincoln Elementary, USD 259, \$90,000; Horace Mann Elementary, USD 259, \$140,000; Atchison Elementary, USD 409, \$140,000; Lincoln Central Elementary, USD 447, \$80,000; Heller Elementary, USD 461, \$110,000; Frances Willard Elementary, USD 470, \$53,957; IXL Elementary, USD 470, \$53,956; and Mark Twain Elementary, USD 500, \$110,000. Funds for Improvement of Education were granted for: Oskaloosa Middle School, USD 341, \$59,393; Oskaloosa High School, \$59,393; Horton High School, USD 430, \$59,393; and Landon Middle School, USD 501, \$70,000.

- Approved Even Start Family Literacy grants for USD 210, Hugoton, \$75,000; USD 250, Pittsburg, \$83,156; USD 259, Wichita, \$400,000; USD 383, Manhattan, \$175,000; USD 447, Cherryvale, \$75,000; USD 497, Lawrence, \$133,400; USD 500, Kansas City, \$136,344; and Garden City Community College, \$135,000.
- Approved Migrant Even Start Family Literacy grants for USD 209, Moscow, \$36,000; USD 216, Deerfield, \$87,670; USD 218, Elkhart, \$52,500; USD 250, Pittsburg, \$79,771; USD 253, Emporia, \$100,000; USD 259, Wichita, \$110,035; USD 457, Garden City, \$112,771; USD 470, Arkansas City, \$20,000; USD 480, Liberal, \$99,106; USD 494, Syracuse, \$82,000; Southwest Kansas Area Cooperative, \$75,000; and Johnson County Community College, \$118,000.
- Approved 2001-2002 Stewart B. McKinney/Vento Homeless grants for: USD 259, Wichita, \$85,442; USD 375, Geary County, \$15,000; USD 501, Topeka, \$34,919; USD 500, Kansas City, \$27,000; USD 233, Olathe, \$37,965; and USD 261, Haysville, \$4,666 (or whatever funds remain, not to exceed \$6,800).
- Approved Carl Perkins Statewide Leadership grants: \$5,400 for Pittsburg State University for Skills USA-VICA, Supplemental Activities grant; and \$5,400 for Johnson County Technical Education the Kansas Career Guidance Awareness Project

Contracts Approved:

The State Board authorized the:

- Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Deaf to negotiate and renew contracts with NovaCare Rehabilitation for occupational therapy and physical therapy services with the contract amounts not to exceed \$32,200 each; and the

Commissioner of Education

- to negotiate and renew a contract with the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning to complete the required annual evaluation of the State Improvement Grant for Special Education for Years 2, 3 and 4 of the grant, with the contract amount not to exceed \$50,000 per year for a total cost of \$150,000; and
- to negotiate and continue a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to support the Infant-Toddler Interagency

Coordinating Council, with the contract amount not to exceed \$40,000.

Vice Chairman Waugh recessed the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Janet Waugh, Vice Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Waugh called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, August 15, 2001, in the Board Room of the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

Members present were:

Steve Abrams
John Bacon
Val DeFever
Sue Gamble
Carol Rupe

Harold Voth
Bill Wagnon
Janet Waugh
Bruce Wyatt

Chairman Rundell was ill and was unable to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Waugh asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. DeFever moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the agenda be approved as submitted. Mr. Wyatt indicated he wanted more discussion on the issue of a suitable education. It was recommended that he include it as a request for a future agenda item. The motion carried.

2000 CHRISTA McAULIFFE FELLOW

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis introduced Michiel Ford, Holton High School, 2000 Christa McAuliffe Fellow. Mr. Ford demonstrated his winning project that utilizes a 14-inch telescope on a computerized mount housed in an observatory located on land owned by the school district. He related how the project was begun and implemented with help from the school district, students and volunteers. He stated that his goal was that, through the hands-on use of the telescope, he could foster, sustain and expand in his students the love of astronomy. His presentation illustrated how students could conduct astronomy research and make observations at the observatory or via computer access in the classroom or at home. Some projects were planned or had already been undertaken included CCD imaging, asteroid tracking, solar observing, planetary and deep sky observing. Mr. Ford also indicated that his students had already participated in a webcast with Japan and that a

website had been created with the plan to archive images and make them available worldwide. He shared a videotape of a lunar occultation of Venus that had been taken that summer, during the day. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Ford was presented with a certificate of recognition and stood for pictures with the Chairman and the Commissioner.

STUDY SESSION ON TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION ISSUES

Dr. Martha Gage, Team Leader, and Ms. Susan Helbert, Coordinator, for Certification and Teacher Education, and Dr. Tes Mehring, Dean of the School of Education at Emporia State University and Chair of the Certification Regulations Committee, were present to review and discuss several issues regarding teaching standards and the new educator licensing system. Dr. Gage reviewed the flowchart for professional teacher preparation in Kansas that includes the components of pre-service preparation, extended field-based preparation and continuing professional development. She also reviewed the proposed timeline for revisions to the licensure regulations that were adopted a year ago.

Proposed Revisions to the Licensure Regulations

Ms. Helbert explained which regulations were proposed for revision and gave the rationale for each. Staff was asked to follow up on and perhaps develop further options for consideration regarding a proposed change in the level of licensure that would split into two levels the infancy through early childhood level. There was also discussion about a proposal that when obtaining a license with a special education endorsement at any level it would be required that the applicant had completed a program to teach regular education students or to have gone through a special education program that would allow them to acquire specific competencies applicable to teaching non-exceptional students. Also discussed, of the five additional recommendations, was the recommendation that a major would be required in the discipline for which an initial endorsement was sought. The recommendation had been developed in response to earlier Board discussion, and the issue of whether a major would guarantee any more suitability to teach a subject than the content assessment which would be required was again considered by the Board.

Dr. Mehring reviewed the process followed in the development of the new teaching standards for each of the endorsement areas included in the redesigned licensure system. She reported that 280 educators on twenty-nine committees had met during the past year to develop the standards. She noted that a listing of the membership of each committee had been included in the materials given to the Board. In order to communicate with and receive comments from the broadest possible audience, as standards were approved by the Regulations Committee they were placed on the web, published and available for all public forums and all staff presentations. Dr. Mehring indicated during the orientation for the chairs and assistants chairs of the committees, copies of current Kansas curricular standards had been provided. Dr. Gage indicated that the committees had been asked to imbed Kansas curricular standards in the teaching standards. She referred the Board members to an example in their materials which compared the draft Kansas teaching standards to national standards, noting that the proposed Kansas standards were more comprehensive. Dr. Gage also reviewed the schedule for additional public forums. Dr. Wagon suggested that information about developmental levels versus grade levels needed to be included in the background information on the standards. Dr. Gage and Dr. Mehring were also asked about the types of comments received from the field. Dr. Gage noted that there had not been many comments on the content standards; that most comments had addressed the regulations.

The Board took a short break from 10:50 to 11:00 and returned to the discussion. Mr. Bacon had a previous

engagement and did not return to the meeting.

Dr. Gage explained the relationship between the teacher preparation programs and the general education programs at the universities indicating that general education requirements would not be assessed but broad requirements would be outlined and the sufficiency of the general education program would affect institutional accreditation.

Dr. Gage reported that, of thirteen professional education standards, ten of the Kansas standards had been based on the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (INTASC) standards, but Kansas had added standards that emphasized integration of curriculum, the history and philosophy of education, and a standard on technology. An emphasis on reading instruction had also been added to several of the standards. Each of these professional education standards will be part of the framework used by schools, colleges and departments of education as they build their professional education course work to accompany each endorsement area and will also be used as the performance assessment for the conditional license period is developed. Dr. Gage noted that because the Kansas professional education standards were based on the INTASC standards, issues regarding the portability of a license between states would be helped.

Dr. Helbert and Dr. Gage began a brief review of the content area standards and answered Board member questions. Areas of concern included whether the middle school and high school standards were rigorous enough; the issue of education requirements when adding an endorsement area after the initial one and the need for further discussion on whether taking a content assessment for the additional endorsement area would guarantee sufficient knowledge to teach in that discipline; and if out-of-state applicants would have sufficient preparation for the multiple level special education preK-12 endorsement.

BOARD REPORTS

Chairman's Report - Designation of Delegates to the NASBE Annual Meeting

After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Dr. Wagnon be designated as the official Kansas voting delegate at the NASBE annual meeting and that Mrs. Gamble be appointed as the alternate.

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles reviewed his written report that had been provided to the Board. He updated the Board on the school finance litigation, as well as the two personal injury cases regarding students at KSSD. Brief discussion followed. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Wyatt, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for July be paid as presented. The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Because she had been unable to attend, Mrs. DeFever asked Mr. Dennis to update the Board on the first Legislative Education Planning Committee meeting that had been held July 28th. He reported that the RFP for professional evaluation of school finance had been discussed and the due date for the final report had been changed from December to March 29, 2002. Mrs. DeFever and Mr. Dennis reported on the recent interim legislative committee meetings held August 6th and 7th and the issues that had been discussed.

Other Board Member Reports

Mr. Voth reported he had attended a recent school budget workshop conducted by Mr. Dennis and commended him on the quality of the meeting. He also reported on his attendance at the National High School Activities

Association meeting in Hawaii. He indicated that one of the biggest issues discussed had been about the high number of injuries in high school basketball and whether officials were lax in calling fouls.

Mrs. Gamble reported that she had attended two workshops on state curriculum standards, one on mathematics and one on social studies. She also indicated that because of the Board's budget decisions, she would like representative members of the Board to meet with the Governor and ask him to sponsor an educational summit, inviting business leaders and policy makers from across the state to discuss educational issues. Dr. Tompkins indicated that an appropriate time for a meeting of that nature would be during National Education Week in November. It was the consensus of the Board that arrangements should be made for a meeting with the Governor and three Board members to request that the Governor hold a summit on education in November.

Dr. Wagon reported on his attendance at the Education Commission of the States annual meeting in Philadelphia. He reported on several of the sessions he had attended and indicated that he would share some of the insights he had gained when appropriate, as issues arose over the next few months. He also reported that he had attended the social studies standards academy and the QPA Academy in Emporia. In light of current news reports on ACT scores, he indicated that now was the time to focus on Kansas' dedication to the school improvement model and emphasize to the public the need for the funds to keep the system moving forward. Dr. Wagon also noted two newspaper articles he had passed out to the Board.

Dr. Abrams reported that he had also attended the QPA Academy in Emporia. As Policy Committee Chairman, he reported that the committee would have recommendations for the Board to consider at the September meeting.

Dr. Wyatt indicated the need for a plan of action for disseminating information about the Board's performance goals and its recommendations for the resources necessary to reach them.

BOARD MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

During the discussion of requests for future agenda items, staff was asked to develop a report that would compare disaggregated results of the Kansas ACT, SAT and NAEP scores. It was also requested that consideration be given to moving Board reports to earlier in the meeting.

An executive session for review of the school finance lawsuit with the Board attorney was requested. It was asked that time be made available during the October study session on the state assessments, for review of the definitions of the assessment performance levels. It was asked that time be made available during the November study session on school accreditation for further discussion on the issue of suitability.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

An Ag in the Classroom meeting September 14th and a Congressman Moore Town Hall meeting August 27th were added for Mr. Bacon. Dr. Wagon added the Early Childhood Special Education meeting September 18th, and Mrs. Gamble added an Olathe local board meeting on teacher issues on August 23rd. The date of the NASBE meeting request for Dr. Wagon was changed from July 10th to October 10th. There being no further additions or changes, Mrs. Gamble moved, with a second by Carol Rupe, that the requests for travel be approved as amended. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Waugh adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Janet Waugh, Vice Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary