

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2001

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rundell called for the posting of the colors and opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, in the library media center of Horace Mann Foreign Language Magnet School, 1243 N. Market, Wichita, KS.

ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams

Harold Voth

Val DeFever

Bill Wagnon

Sue Gamble

Janet Waugh

I.B. "Sonny" Rundell

Bruce Wyatt

Carol Rupe

Mr. Bacon was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Rundell asked for approval of the agenda. Dr. Abrams asked that item 15 j., request for a license for a commercial driving school, be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Rundell asked for approval of the minutes of the March meeting. Dr. Abrams noted that the minutes should be corrected to reflect that the agenda had been approved as amended to allow time for the Governor's visit. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Carol Rupe, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY USD 259

Before the district's presentation began, Dr. Abrams thanked Stephanie Holliman, Principal of the Ingalls Edison School, and Carol Rupe for arranging the tour of the school on Monday afternoon.

Winston Brooks, Superintendent of USD 259, welcomed the Board and presented an overview of the Wichita district. He noted that it was the largest district in the state, with 49,100 students, and the fourth largest employer in Sedgwick County. He also reported that 54% of the students in the district were eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch and 17% were in special education. Though the district faced many of the problems associated with large, urban districts, he indicated that the district, a district teacher, and several schools were recipients of national awards. Among some of the other issues Mr. Brooks reported on were entrepreneurial initiatives undertaken by the district to provide drop-out recovery services and e-learning opportunities.

Challenges faced by the district as reported by Superintendent Brooks included the difficulty in filling teacher vacancies as well as problems with recruitment because of the district's inability to offer salaries competitive with the commercial sector. He discussed the need for support staff; the achievement gap that widens as economically disadvantaged students progress through school and the need for funding of early childhood initiatives to address the problem; the negative impact on the district's general fund from underfunded costs for special education; and the need for more computers in order to provide students with critical computer skills. Superintendent Brooks also discussed district improvement plans that will be funded with the bond issue the city recently approved.

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Janet Jump, Principal of Horace Mann Foreign Language Elementary Magnet School, shared information with the Board about the school. She reported that the school is a midtown school with 90% of its students receiving free or reduced-priced lunch. She reported that 70% of the students are Hispanics and of those, 90% live in homes where no English is spoken. She indicated that 77% of the school's students qualify for ESOL. She reviewed the seven correlates of an effective school and the initiatives being taken to integrate them into the Horace Mann learning environment. Ms. Jump also showed a video about school life that had been produced with the help of the 5th grade Student Ambassadors, who were serving as tour guides for Board members during their visit.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Rundell opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 10:33 a.m. Tony Frieze, Superintendent of the Chapman school district, was the only person to address the Board. Chairman Rundell declared the open forum closed at 10:36 a.m.

The Board took a break until 10:55 a.m.

CONTINUATION OF USD 259 PRESENTATION

Deputy Superintendent Mark Evans reported on several districtwide programs, including one that will provide peer consultants to work with new teachers. He also reported on the district's comprehensive assessment plan and how the results of the assessments are used to provide a focus on instruction, intervention strategies, and alignment and improvement of curriculum. Mr. Evans updated the Board on how the district's graduation assessment will effect the type of diploma students will receive, providing for an endorsed diploma reflecting a student's success in reading, writing and mathematics. Mr. Evans used a Power Point presentation to illustrate the district's awareness of the need to provide innovative approaches to address the diverse learning needs that exist in the district. Dr. Wagnon asked if the amount of test time in the district had a negative impact on time for instruction. Both Mr. Brooks and Mr. Evans indicated that it posed a particular problem at the 5th grade level because of the number of assessments conducted at that grade level. Mr. Brooks stated that the number of assessments at 5th grade affected teacher recruitment because of accountability issues.

Mr. Martin Libhart, Division Director of Facilities, provided an update on the district's bond issue plan: how it was accomplished in a district with 80% of the population not having children in school; and what the district's plans were for new construction and improvement of existing buildings. The district's presentation concluded with musical entertainment provided by the Student Ambassadors who then accompanied Board members on a tour of the building and a Kaleidoscope of Learning exhibit in the gym which displayed examples of learning activities from all the school's classes.

The Ambassadors also accompanied Board members to lunch and the meeting resumed earlier than scheduled, at 1:00 p.m. Because the public hearing on Parents as Teachers regulations had been formally announced for 1:30 p. m., Chairman Rundell invited Humboldt High School representatives to proceed with their presentation.

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis introduced Allen Wilhite, journalism instructor and faculty sponsor for the Humboldt High School newspaper, *Cub Tracks*. Mr. Dennis also introduced Dr. Bradley Rahe, Superintendent of USD 258, and Mr. Ken Tarrent, principal of the high school. Mr. Wilhite and student newspaper staff members were present to be recognized by the Board for the newspaper's recent induction into the National Scholastic Press Association Hall of Fame. Mr. Wilhite reported that a requirement for induction into the Hall of Fame was that a newspaper must achieve an All-American rating for ten of the last eleven years and that *Cub Tracks* has been named All-American for the past twelve years.

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During the student presentation, Jayme Stanley and Abby Sheerer took a picture of the Board, downloaded it onto a computer and demonstrated how to manipulate pictures for placement in the newspaper. Cari Middendorf, Morgan Dewey, and Heather Owens discussed editorial policies and student press rights. Adam Works presented a video about newspaper basics and advertising. Ryan Scarrow and Robyn Downey discussed desktop publishing and demonstrated page layout using the photograph of the Board members. A sample page was printed out and

copies were made and distributed. Ryan Scarrow made a brief presentation on the *Cub Tracks* interactive web page. After the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Rundell and Commissioner Tompkins presented Allen Wilhite with a certificate of recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PARENTS AS TEACHERS REGULATIONS

Chairman Rundell opened the public hearing on proposed Parents as Teachers regulations K.A.R. 91-37-2, 91-37-3 and 91-37-4 at 1:45 p.m. With no one wishing to comment, Chairman Rundell closed the public hearing at 1:46 p.m.

MODEL LIBRARY MEDIA STANDARDS

Assistant Commissioner Sharon Freden spoke briefly about how the model library media standards were developed in order to provide guidance to districts and would not be included in the state assessments. Dr. Freden also introduced Jackie Lakin, Kansas Department of Education Program Consultant, who had coordinated the work of the writing committee that developed the model standards for Kansas schools. Dr. Lakin introduced members of the writing committee who were present, Jane Barnard, Sue Buehler, Jane Rand and Susan Williams, and they discussed the process used in selecting the committee and developing and reviewing the standards. The writing committee members shared their appreciation for Dr. Lakin's assistance and noted that the Kansas Association of School Librarians had given her their Vision Award for her work on the standards. Asked how the standards were linked to other state academic standards, committee members indicated that a support document was being developed that would illustrate the linkage and that instructional examples would also be developed.

PROPOSED NEW INSERVICE REGULATIONS

Kathy Boyer, Program Consultant for Staff Development, reviewed the process being used by the committee developing the new inservice regulations. She reported that distribution of the draft to the field for review was planned after presentation to the Board. She also asked for informal feedback from the Board prior to regional meetings that will take place in the Fall. Ms. Boyer reviewed changes to prior inservice regulations that were contained in the proposed regulations. Because the new licensure regulations would allow teachers to renew their licenses based on inservice points, she reviewed how the point system would work, particularly the point multipliers to be used for various degrees of implementation and application of the skills learned in inservice activities. In addition, the proposed regulations contain a definitions section; procedures for development of an inservice plan; regulations governing professional development councils and the annual training required for them; and approved expenditures for which education agencies may receive inservice education funds, including salaries paid to certified staff for participation in inservice activities during non-contractual hours. Ms. Boyer and Mrs. Susan Helbert, Coordinator, Certification and Teacher Education, answered questions from the Board about the guidelines document to be developed; training and responsibilities for professional development councils; documentation of training and implementation of skills; the amount of paperwork that might be required; arbitration; and whether the regulations would be piloted. Ms. Peg Dunlap, K-NEA representative who was present, also offered information regarding what the guidelines document will contain.

The Board took a break at 2:37 p.m. and returned at 2:50 p.m.

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LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis reviewed recent legislative activity affecting the Department's FY 2002 budget. He also reviewed a comparison of the House, Senate and Governor's versions of the budget as they stood when legislators recessed for the two-week break that would precede the wrap-up session beginning April 25th. In the discussion that followed, and as he reviewed the status of other education legislation, he was asked what strategy would be most effective to use in approaching legislators with the funding needs for public schools. He indicated that contact with legislators from each Board member's district as well as community contacts with organizations such as local chambers of commerce might be helpful. Also discussed was a plan in the House to raise the maximum ceiling on local option budgets instead of imposing new across-the-board taxes.

Mr. Dennis reported that no bills had come out of the legislative committee that had been meeting to study the suggestions contained in the boundary line study. In the discussion that followed he was asked to have staff look at the 28 districts cited in the study to determine if there was any correlation between the study's recommendations and accreditation or Title I issues. Also discussed were proposed changes in the charter school law and special education funding. Mr. Dennis was asked how Board members could keep or make federal special education funding a priority at the congressional level. He suggested that Board members continue to communicate with the Kansas congressional delegation about the impact on the funding for general education when mandated provisions for special education were not funded. Mrs. DeFever, serving as Board representative to the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee, noted that special education was a priority of the committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Freden responded to Dr. Abrams' concern about a letter Board members had received concerning a request for a license for a commercial driving school. Dr. Abrams asked that the request be considered separately from the vote on the consent agenda. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the consent agenda be approved and that the request to renew a license for a commercial driving school be voted on separately. The motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Approved school construction plans for Renwick, USD 267; Easton, USD 449; Eureka, USD 389; Cowley County Community College; Belle Plaine, USD 357; Butler County Community College; Olathe, USD 233; Seward County Community College; Nickerson, USD 309; De Soto, USD 232 (2 projects); Girard, USD 248; Emporia, USD 253; Garden City, USD 457; and Blue Valley, USD 229.
- Approved the dissolution of Prairie Hills Interlocal #635 and approved the modification of the South Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative #605 to add the members of Interlocal #635.

- Approved the request for renewal of the Yoder Charter School as submitted by USD 312.
- Approved Cycle 1 accredited status for USD 233 Olathe: California Trail Junior High; and USD 259 Wichita: Minneha Elementary; and Cycle II accredited status for USD 229 Blue Valley: Blue Valley High School; USD 250 Pittsburg: Westside and George E. Nettles Elementary Schools; USD 313 Buhler: Buhler High and Prairie Hills Middle Schools; USD 320 Wamego: Wamego High and Wamego Middle Schools; USD 323 Rock Creek: St. George Elementary; USD 349 Stafford: Stafford Elementary School; USD 350 St. John-Hudson: St. John High and St. John Elementary Schools; USD 353 Wellington: Eisenhower Elementary School; USD 380 Vermillion: Frankfort High and Frankfort Elementary Schools; USD 399 Paradise: Natoma Junior/Senior High and Natoma Elementary Schools; USD 407 Russell County: Bickerdyke Elementary School; USD 423 Moundridge: Moundridge Elementary School; USD 428 Great Bend: Jefferson Elementary School; and USD 430 South Brown County: Everest Middle School.

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- Approved QPA waiver requests from USD 202 Turner for Turner Middle School and Oak Grove Elementary School; East Heights Elementary, to postpone their accreditation visit scheduled for June 2003 to June 2004; and from USD 232 for DeSoto High School, USD 265 for Oak Street, Clark Davidson and Amelia Earhart Elementary Schools, and USD 348 for Baldwin High School, to postpone their accreditation visits from 2004 to 2005.
- Approved requests for waivers for individuals to serve outside their area of endorsement in districts as follow: *Vocal Music*: Lee Ann Hedrick, USD 257; and *6th Grade*: Kristi Hill, USD 439.
- Approved the inservice education plans from Augusta USD 402 and Caldwell USD 360.
- Approved the recommendations for funding grants for Professional Development Schools as follows: Baker University, \$13,600; Emporia State University, \$16,615; Ft. Hays State University, \$15,500; Friends University, \$8,376; Newman University, \$18,500; Ottawa University, \$17,360; Pittsburg State University, \$12,497; St. Mary College, \$17,500; Southwestern College, \$15,000; The University of Kansas, \$16,500; Washburn University, \$17,465; and Wichita State University, \$17,072.
- Approved funding for new 2001 Kansas Charter School Planning grants in the amount of \$25,000 each for SEAT Chart School, USD 411; Hope Street Academy, USD 501; Electronic Charter School, USD 218; West Franklin Learning Center, USD 287; Valley Center Charter School, USD 262; The Therapeutic Education Center, USD 353; Kaw Valley Youth Coop Charter School, NEKESC/USD 343; Oakley Charter School, USD 274; Chanute Elementary Charter School, USD 413; Productivity Academy Charter School, USD 382; Reno County Academies, ESSDACK; St. Joe Charter School, USD 267; Complete High Charter School, USD 266; Mid-Kansas Independent Academy, USD 423; Pleasantview Academy Charter School, USD 312; Spring Hill Charter High School, USD 230; and Chanute High School Charter, USD 413.

- Approved Carl Perkins Statewide Leadership grants: \$54,000 for Highland Community College for a Postsecondary and Counseling Initiative; and \$11,244 for Barton County Community College for an Instruction and Leadership in the FACS and OFACS Curriculum program.
- Issued orders for Spring Hill USD 294, Oberlin, and USD 353, Wellington, granting them authority to hold elections on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the districts' general bond debt limitation.

Contracts Approved:

The State Board authorized the

Commissioner of Education

- to negotiate and enter into a contract with Vicki Turbiville, to provide support to professionals in the field of speech and language, with the contract amount not to exceed \$40,000.

REQUEST FOR A LICENSE FOR A COMMERCIAL DRIVING SCHOOL

Mr. Rod Bieker, Department General Counsel, answered Board questions about concerns raised in the letter members had received regarding a request for a license for the Sears Authorized Driving School, Overland Park, Kansas. Of particular concern was what appeared to some members to be inadequate class time and driving time in the program the school offered. Mr. Bieker explained that to postpone action on the request would prevent the school from operating until a license was granted. He further explained that the letter writer's concerns were more properly directed to provisions in the statutes rather than the regulations, over the years, governing driving schools. He indicated that the school requesting the license met the requirements of the regulations as currently written. Mr. Bieker suggested that staff could bring a report to the Board on what is required of commercial driving schools. Mrs. Gamble expressed concern that, because the public schools no longer offered driver's education, students would

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be prevented from learning to drive this year. Dr. Wagnon cautioned the Board about basing policy on a letter from one individual. Mr. Wyatt moved, with a second by Mrs. Gamble, that the Board approve the license for the Sears Authorized Driving School, Overland Park, Kansas, and address the issues raised later. The motion carried on a vote of 7-1, with Carol Rupe voting "no" and Dr. Abrams abstaining.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD GOALS

Carol Rupe shared her concern that not enough time had been built into the agenda for discussion of the Board's goals at either the current or prior meetings. She also questioned the time at which the item was scheduled, noting

that as a priority, discussion of the goals should be earlier, rather than at the end of the meeting. Mr. Wyatt stated his agreement and indicated that the inclusion and order of items on the agenda should reflect the Board's priorities. Mrs. DeFever suggested that the meeting be extended to allow more time for discussion, but that the Board first take a break. Chairman Rundell called for a break at 4:20 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 4:40 p.m.

When the meeting resumed, Commissioner Tompkins asked that the discussion be limited to hour and any additional discussion be added to the Wednesday agenda so that the Board would be able to attend the evening activities planned on their behalf by USD 259. Dr. Tompkins asked Kathy Toelkes to pass out a proposed talking points hand-out to Board members for their review. He indicated that after the goals are approved by the Board he would bring back an outline of specific activities for implementation.

Mr. Wyatt stated he would like to see the objective to increase student achievement and reduce the achievement gap, under Goal 1, moved to the first objective in the list. He stated he would also like to see specific action plans address the different categories of student, i.e., early childhood, at-risk, general education, gifted, etc. He additionally stated that it was important for a common alignment of standards in districts across the state and coordination of all assessment programs to have a balance between instruction and assessment of skills. Mrs. Gamble suggested that if the goals document were too cumbersome, it wouldn't be used. She added that improvements in the Quality Performance Accreditation (QPA) process would help address the issue of the achievement gap. Mrs. DeFever added that it was important for the Board to wait to make changes in QPA until after it had heard from the committee assessing the QPA process. She said it would be more effective to address the weaknesses cited in their report, which the Board wouldn't receive until August. She also cautioned against efforts to create a statewide curriculum. To address Mr. Wyatt's concerns, Dr. Tompkins indicated that the Board could include in the QPA regulations additional requirements to which the Board wanted schools to adhere. Discussion of whether the Board needed to address the issue of defining a suitable education followed. Dr. Abrams suggested that it could be added to the goal for redesigning Kansas schools for the twenty-first century. The idea that what was suitable was not static and changes with schools' changing needs was noted by Dr. Wagon. He suggested that the Board should concentrate on its plan for improvement, which consisted of appropriate goals to guide the Department for the next two years. Mrs. Waugh indicated that when the Board accredits schools under QPA it is affirming that the education being provided is suitable. Mr. Wyatt replied that if QPA is the Board's definition, it was important to communicate it to the public and the media. He asked if the current regulations were adequate and suggested the Board study the issue. Discussion of how specific a definition should be and what it should include followed. Mrs. DeFever stated that perhaps when the Board addressed graduation standards would be the appropriate time to study the issue. Carol Rupe indicated that though further discussion of the suitable education issue might be needed, the Board shouldn't jump ahead of the QPA study committee. Referring to the proposed objectives Dr. Tompkins had developed for the goals, she

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stated that a strategy of only advocating for increased compensation and incentives for teachers was not a solution to the problem of teacher shortages. Dr. Tompkins indicated that a task force would be put together to start studying the issue and develop a plan to address the problem. He noted he would also add "recruitment" to the strategy referred to by Carol Rupe. Chairman Rundell noted that, with the addition of the extra hour given the

issue at the meeting, the Board had devoted adequate time to discussion of the goals, and he would add action to adopt them to the Wednesday agenda without including further discussion.

Chairman Rundell recessed the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

I.B. Rundell, Chairman Penny Plamann, Secretary

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Chairman Rundell called the meeting to order with the posting of the colors at 9:08 a.m. in the North High School Library, 1437 Rochester, Wichita, KS.

ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams

Harold Voth

Val DeFever

Bill Wagnon

Sue Gamble

Janet Waugh

I.B. "Sonny" Rundell

Bruce Wyatt

Carol Rupe

Mr. Bacon was absent.

PRESENTATION BY THE PRINCIPAL OF NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Roel Quintanilla, Principal of North High School, welcomed the Board and reported on school demographics and programs. Among the statistics on ethnic diversity, he noted the school had 221 students in ESOL and 570 students who had been ESOL in the last five years. He indicated that the school was academically diverse with eight members of the senior class having cumulative grade point averages of 4.0. The school had seven students who scored 30 on the ACT; 20 with GPA's of 3.9 and 58 with GPA's over 3.5. He noted that the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program had been instituted to challenge students with a rigorous curriculum coupled with intensive writing, mentoring and tutoring because it was important that the academic success of North High School reflect the demographics of the students. Mr. Quintanilla reported that North High was the second high school in Wichita to require senior projects. He also noted the school was a professional development site in cooperation with Wichita State University; that it would be adding an automotive program in the next school year; and that the school had a day and evening center for credit recovery. Chairman Rundell thanked Mr. Quintanilla for hosting the Board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Rundell asked that item 5 a., adoption of Board goals, be added to the agenda. Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the agenda be adopted as amended. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY THE KANSAS HEALTH FOUNDATION

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Jeff Usher, Program Officer, and Vera Bothner, Program Manager for Communications, from the Kansas Health Foundation to update the Board on the Foundation's children's initiative that Kansas will be the best state in which to raise a child in twenty years. Mr. Usher reported that the mission of the Kansas Health Foundation was to improve the health of all Kansans and that they wanted all Kansans to adopt the vision that Kansas will be the best state in which to raise a child. To accomplish this, the Foundation is promoting a "Take a Second ? Make a Difference" campaign to help raise people's awareness and involvement with children. He stated the program was going into communities to demonstrate the power of connectedness to children in a deliberate and intentional way.

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Ms. Bothner reported on the advertising techniques the Foundation had adopted to help the public overcome some of the common barriers to getting involved in issues that seem overwhelming. She indicated the Foundation was looking at a gradual change, with the program's message giving individuals global permission to be nice to children. She noted that the difference would be seen over time as Kansas culture changes to make children important.

ADOPTION OF AMENDED PARENTS AS TEACHERS REGULATIONS

Mrs. Gamble moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the Board adopt amended Parents as Teachers Regulations K.A.R. 91-37-2, 91-37-3, and 91-37-4. The motion carried unanimously on a roll call vote as follows:

Steve Abrams	"yes"	I.B. "Sonny" Rundell	"yes"
John Bacon	absent	Harold Voth	"yes"
Val DeFever	"yes"	Bill Wagnon	"yes"
Sue Gamble	"yes"	Janet Waugh	"yes"
Carol Rupe	"yes"	Bruce Wyatt	"yes"

ACTION ON BOARD GOALS

Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, that the Board adopt the State Board goals and objectives as proposed. The motion carried on a vote of 8-0 with Dr. Abrams abstaining. In explaining his abstention, Dr. Abrams stated that he was in favor of the motion, but didn't feel the discussion had concluded at the end of the session on Tuesday.

KANSAS REGENTS QUALIFIED ADMISSIONS HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SURVEY

Assistant Commissioner Freden reviewed the results of a survey of high school principals conducted to obtain information about the impact of the Kansas Regents' Qualified Admissions program. Survey results indicated that the program has had a positive impact on higher achieving students and school staff because of they have been challenged to set higher standards and be more accountable. She indicated it had also made some parents more aware of curriculum requirements. Negative effects were also reported by Dr. Freden. With limited funds, schools were eliminating basic or remedial courses and students less ready for college preparation courses were being forced to take courses for which they were not ready. Dr. Freden indicated this was an issue that was effecting the expectation of going to college for many of these students. Also, 40% of principals surveyed indicated that fewer vocational-technical and other elective courses were being offered. Finally, Dr. Freden reported, there was a shortage of teachers for the upper level courses. Dr. Freden indicated that the Regents' staff was working with districts on availability of computers to monitor student progress and how to inform students and their families about Qualified Admissions.

The Board took a short break at 9:40 a.m. during student announcements at the high school and returned to their discussion at 9:45 a.m.

Dr. Freden reported that two questions had arisen from the report for the Board and Department to consider. Those were: what was the best way to work with the Regents to address problems with the program; and what were things the Department could do independently. She reviewed staff recommendations regarding how to address the two questions. Following Dr. Freden's presentation, the Board discussed the survey results and asked questions. The issue of tracking was discussed and Dr. Wagon posed the question about whether there should be different curriculum standards for college bound and vocational-technical school oriented students. Dr. Abrams suggested that Qualified Admissions was operating as it should and had been developed to direct students into appropriate career areas. Dr. Freden noted, that for the proper assistance to be offered to direct students, schools needed to

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add more counselors. The role that community colleges and Regents schools played in the joint development with the Department of high school credit courses was also discussed. Dr. Tompkins cautioned that there were could be quality problems with dual credit courses offered by community colleges and that joint planning was imperative. How small schools could adjust class offerings to meet the varying needs of students was also discussed.

NCATE 2000 ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Chairman Rundell noted that the principals that had made presentations at the March meeting were back to discuss with the Board issues they had raised and recommendations they had made. Because the Board was behind schedule, Chairman Rundell asked that the presentation on the NCATE 2000 Accreditation Standards be added to the agenda at the end of the morning, if time allowed, or postponed until the May meeting.

DISCUSSION WITH KANSAS PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

Mr. Kenneth Harshberger, Principal at Meade Elementary School, and 2000 Kansas Distinguished Elementary Principal, Mr. Ray Tucker, Principal at Salina South Middle School and the 2000 Kansas Middle School Principal of the Year, and Mr. Kevin Burr, Principal at Garden City High School, and the 2000 Kansas MetLife Secondary Principal of the Year, had been invited back to continue their discussion begun with the Board at the March meeting. Mrs. DeFever asked them what they thought of the Qualified Admissions program the Board had been discussing. Besides confirming results of the survey that had been reported, it was noted that there were multiple ways small schools could provide opportunities to the diverse needs of their students. ITV and other technical solutions were suggested.

Referring to teacher recruitment and training issues that had been raised in March, Dr. Wagon asked Mr. Burr for his recommendations about the issue of filling positions. Mr. Burr responded that being able to offer adequate salaries was a problem, but as teachers became more qualified, perhaps more money for salaries would be available. He also discussed the problems with the alternative routes to certification that currently exist. He noted that with certification being tied to university study, it was almost mandatory that potential candidates take one to two years off to go to a university and get the pedagogy they required. This was noted as a particular problem for

already certified teachers who wanted to change endorsement areas. Offering pedagogical training through individuals schools, perhaps in partnership with a master teacher was one suggested solution. Also suggested was offering the training through programs in regional service centers. Additional suggestions to address teacher and administrator shortages were: "grow-your-own" district programs; the opportunity for free education for those who become teachers and stay in the state; weighted funding for salaries for hard to fill endorsement areas; and a change in the scoring for the PPST computer-taken test in order to allow certification of teachers from other states with different cut scores. More emphasis on mentoring programs was also mentioned.

Problems with alignment of district curriculum with state standards were discussed. Of the several mentioned, the grade level at which different content areas were offered in districts across the state appeared to be one of the biggest. The idea of having a state curriculum was explored and Dr. Freden indicated that the Board had directed staff to develop model curriculum for the different standards. Also mentioned were the problems smaller districts have with alignment because of the lack of staff; the difficulty schools encountered with the review schedule for standards; the need to require earlier exposure to upper level mathematics in order to meet the rigor of the current standards; and the possibility of end-of-course assessments instead of grade level assessments.

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The visiting principals were asked about the requirements for special education Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Dr. Abrams reported comments he had heard that the amount of paperwork required was too burdensome. The number of meetings associated with IEPs for just one special education student was noted as being particularly time consuming by Mr. Burr. Both he and Mr. Harshberger agreed that even with the amount of paperwork, the current IEP requirements had been developed for the protection of the individual and the school. The biggest negative impact from all the documentation required was the burn-out experienced by the teachers. Staff was asked to make a presentation on IEPs and changes since implementation of IDEA '97.

The Board members took a break from 11:10 to 11:15.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Carol Rupe, that the Board adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of the Professional Practices Commission and approve the recommendations of the Commission in cases 01-FC-01, 01-FC-02, 01-FC-03, 01-FC-04 and 01-FC-05.

BOARD COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Department of Education Public Information Officer Kathy Toelkes asked for approval of the Board Communication Committee's recommendations which had been presented to the Board at the March meeting. She also handed out a new version of the Board brochure. Commissioner Tompkins updated the Board on the

Committee's recommendation that the Department hire a full-time webmaster to keep the Department of Education website updated. He indicated that the Department was unable to get a position authorized for a webmaster, but that staff had been assigned to work on website upkeep as part of their duties. Mrs. Gamble, member of the Communications Committee, indicated it was just important that staff be cognizant of the need to keep the website updated on a regular basis. Mrs. Gamble moved, with a second by Mr. Wyatt, that the Board adopt the Communications Committee's recommendations. The motion carried 9-0.

BOARD REPORTS

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles gave a brief update on activity in a case where a Kansas State School of the Deaf student had been injured in a vehicle-pedestrian accident. He indicated that because the lawsuit is covered by the Kansas Tort Claims Act, the primary defense will be led by the Attorney General. Mr. Wyatt moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for March be paid as presented. The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Mrs. DeFever presented a brief report on legislative activity and indicated she would represent the Board at the Senate Education Committee meeting on April 16th and during deliberation of the omnibus bill at the end of the session.

Commissioner

Commissioner Tompkins presented a copy of the current month's agenda that had been prepared with items identified by Board goals. He was asked by Dr. Abrams if the original agenda format could be modified to identify goals instead. Mr. Wyatt stated the agenda should be built around the goals and that discretionary items should be added only if time allowed. He also asked that the Commissioner give a status report at the beginning of each Board meeting on what had been achieved on the goals during the past thirty days. Mrs. Gamble agreed that a status report on the goals would be useful, but that the Board should avoid micro-managing, noting that too much information could prevent the Board from concentrating on issues of policy. Dr. Tompkins also reviewed other items that were on his written report.

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Policy Committee Report

Dr. Abrams, Chairman of the Board Policy Committee, reported that a recommendation had been received to move the time of the Open Forum, but the Committee was not anticipating any large-scale modifications to policy during its review.

BOARD MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Carol Rupe asked that staff conduct a study of KSBE regulations to determine what barriers exist that may hinder teacher recruitment and prevent schools from hiring the teachers they need. Dr. Wagnon asked for an executive session at the May meeting to visit with Robert Maile, Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Deaf, on personnel issues. Other requests included time on future agendas to report on the suggestions made by the principals of the year; a study session in May on NCATE 2000; a presentation on IEP's and changes since implementation of IDEA '97; a presentation regarding regulations followed for commercial driving schools; a study session in several months to discuss e-learning issues and opportunities; an opportunity with the 2000 Teacher of the Year team for discussion of recommendations they may have to improve Kansas schools; and further Board discussion of the idea of what constitutes a suitable education and whether such a definition should be developed by the Board. Though not a future agenda item, Mrs. DeFever asked for establishment of a Board subcommittee to meet with members of the Board of Regents to discuss loan-forgiveness programs for teachers and opportunities for a free education for students who will stay in the state to teach for a prescribed number of years.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Mrs. DeFever asked that legislative activity for April 16th be added to her requests. Mrs. Gamble asked if blanket approval for a prescribed number of days for legislative activity for the Legislative Coordinator and Assistant Legislative Coordinator could automatically be included on the travel requests each month so their salary and travel could be paid without them having to wait for approval the month following the activity. Chairman Rundell asked that the issue be referred to the Policy Committee. Carol Rupe moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the travel requests be approved as amended. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Rundell adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

I.B. Rundell, Chairman Penny Plamann, Secretary