

# KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

## *Planning Retreat*

**March 9, 1998**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. on Monday, March 9, 1998, 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  
Mildred McMillon  
Mary Douglass Brown  
I.B. "Sonny" Rundell  
Kevin Gilmore  
Bill Wagnon  
Linda Holloway

Mr. Hill, Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Specht were delayed by the weather, but all had arrived by noon.

Chairman Gilmore introduced Brenda Welburn, Executive Director, National Association of State Boards of Education, who facilitated the meeting. Her meeting summary is incorporated as a part of the official record of the meeting.

Board members had lunch in the Board room with Department staff at noon and then continued with the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Kevin Gilmore, Chairman

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Penny Plamann, Secretary

# **KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**March 10, 1998**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10, 1998, 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  
Mildred McMillon  
Mary Douglass Brown  
Wanda Morrison  
Kevin Gilmore  
I.B. "Sonny" Rundell  
Linda Holloway  
Mandy Specht  
Scott Hill  
Bill Wagon

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Gilmore asked for approval of the agenda. Dr. Wagon requested that items 12 g. and h., concerning appointments to the Kansas State High School Activities Association Board of Directors and Executive Board, be pulled from the consent agenda. Mr. Hill moved approval of the agenda as amended. Dr. Wagon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chairman Gilmore asked for approval of the minutes of the January Board meeting. Mrs. Holloway requested that the portion of the minutes concerning the NcRel report on pilot QPA schools be amended to include a paragraph from the report summary. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. Specht, that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried.

## **REPORT ON TEACHER SUPPLY AND DEMAND STUDY**

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Dr. Tes Mehring, Dean of the Teachers College, and Dr. Leo Pauls, Executive Director of the Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, at Emporia State University, to summarize the results of annual research conducted over the last twenty years on teacher supply and demand in Kansas public schools. Dr. Mehring reported the results for 1997, the most recent year of

study. She indicated there continued to be an oversupply of elementary classroom teachers, but a shortage of elementary school librarians, vocal and instrumental teachers, and school counselors. Urban Kansas City schools were reported to be experiencing a mild shortage of grades 4-6 classroom teachers. Dr. Mehring indicated building administrator shortages exist in Kansas City and the northwest section of the state and that special education administrators were in particularly short supply. She noted that at the secondary level, there continued to be an oversupply of physical education and social studies teachers, but slight shortages existed in science--particularly chemistry, music, foreign language--especially Spanish, and vocational agriculture. Special education shortages in speech and language, interrelated, behavior disorders, occupational therapy, mental retardation, learning disabilities, educational interpreters and physical therapists were also noted. Generally, rural areas were reported to be experiencing more shortages than urban areas. Dr. Mehring also projected that a significant shortage of industrial arts teachers may exist within the next few years. Dr. Mehring indicated there had been a fifty percent decline in the number of teachers prepared in public and private institutions over the past twenty-three years, with 3,783 completing preparation for teaching certificates in 1974 versus 1,878 in 1996. Following Board questions and discussion, Dr. Pauls distributed a twenty-five year trend study of teacher supply and demand, prepared by Dr. Jack Skillet, and the biennial report of The Jones Institute for Educational Excellence.

### **PRESENTATION ON THE HOSTS CORPORATION READING PROGRAM**

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Mr. Bill Marshall, State Program Coordinator, and Mr. Jim Eickhoff, National Sales Director of the HOSTS Corporation, and Penny Longhofer, Principal of Caldwell Elementary School in Wichita, KS, to give an overview of the HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) reading program currently in use for a third year at Caldwell Elementary. They were also joined by Lisa Stinson, Caldwell HOSTS facilitator, who shared her experience with the program. Ms. Longhofer indicated the program at Caldwell had been tailored to align it with QPA and Wichita district benchmarks. The HOSTS language arts program, designed as an individualized, prescriptive, remedial reading program, had average reading skills gains of 1 year 8 months in 1996, 1 year six months in 1997, with a projection for similar success in the current year for participating Caldwell students. For the 1997-98 school year, it was reported that 111 community mentors cover 219 thirty-minute sessions every week and work on a one-on-one basis with 59 students at Caldwell. It was also reported that the program's prescriptive, curriculum database enabled Ms. Stinson to develop an individualized, daily lesson plan, complete with a folder of the worksheets and resources to be used by each mentor and child. Ms. Stinson indicated that the structured nature of the program provided an added bonus to mentors by allowing them to see measurable skill gains in students, thereby increasing the mentors' confidence, enthusiasm and commitment to the program.

Mr. Eickhoff reported the HOSTS Corporation had made presentations to the Kansas House and Senate education committees and that a bill with bipartisan support and support by the Governor had been introduced and included \$975,000 of matching dollars to assist school districts interested in implementing the HOSTS program. In response to Board questions about the cost, Mr. Eickhoff indicated that as a national Title I model program, Title I monies could be used for the match for the proposed state dollars. He also summarized the average cost per school per year which would decrease after the initial start-up year average of \$35,000, in addition to an ongoing teacher/facilitator salary, and

would allow a student/teacher ratio of 75/1 compared to 24/1 in traditional Title I programs. Mr. Eickhoff also indicated that most of the materials and resources used in the HOSTS program were already on hand in schools for use in Title I programs.

### **CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Gilmore opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 11:19 a.m. Karen Dorsey, a Topeka parent with concerns about policies and guidelines regarding discipline of children with severe disabilities addressed the Board. Chairman Gilmore referred the issue to the Commissioner for further action and closed the forum at 11:26 a.m. The Board took a short break and reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

### **EVALUATION REPORT FOR 1996-97 AT-RISK PUPIL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Kenneth Gentry, Team Leader, Program Support Services, and Judi Miller, Program Consultant, Program Support Services presented the 1996-97 Evaluation Report for the At-Risk Pupil Assistance Program. Mr. Gentry reported that in 1992-93, the first year of the program in Kansas, 185 school districts took advantage of state funds available for at-risk programs compared to the 301 districts in 1996-97. 40,000 students participated in at-risk programs in 1992-93 versus 85,540 in 1996-97. Mr. Gentry indicated \$13 million had been available for programs in 1992-93; \$26 million in 1996-97; and \$32-33 million was estimated to be available for the 1998-99 school year. He reported funding is made available for the program as part of the school finance formula which calculates at-risk enrollment at 5% of the base per pupil amount. This equated to \$182 per student in 1996-97 and was projected to be \$232 for FY 1999. For funding purposes, "at-risk" was defined as those students eligible for free lunches as of September 20, but the program was not limited to those students.

Ms. Miller reported that districts must submit At-Risk Pupil Assistance plans which include the criteria they will use in identifying at-risk students based on State Board of Education at-risk guidelines. These include drop-out potential, failure to complete requirements for promotion to grade level, grade-to grade promotion, or graduation from high school, or educational attainment below the level appropriate for a student's age and/or grade level. Ms. Miller also indicated that other criteria frequently used by districts in identifying at-risk students include failing grades, low test scores, teacher referrals, retentions, not mastering outcomes, not completing homework or schoolwork, multiple absences, low self-esteem and lacking graduation credits. Ms. Miller reported that though 301 schools districts participated in the at-risk program in 1996-97, many more programs had been implemented within those districts using a variety of approaches to at-risk pupil assistance. Because of constant modification, evaluation of program success was difficult, but 94% of reporting districts characterized their programs as successful. Ms. Miller also provided details regarding the impact of at-risk programs on grades, students failing subjects or courses, graduation credits, student attendance, discipline referrals, reducing the number of dropouts, and performance on state math and reading assessments.

Board discussion included questions about how districts guarantee the funds they receive are spent on the at-risk program. Ms. Miller indicated that the Department of Education auditors include it as part of the examination of district budgets and that the dollars spent at the district level far exceed the amount received for the program. Questioned how districts keep the funds distinct from other funds such as Education Excellence grant dollars, Mr. Gentry responded that, currently, local districts can determine

where they will spend the funds, but the State Board has the option to prioritize and target how the funds are to be spent.

## **MEMBERSHIP PLAN FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Mike Remus, Team Leader, Student Support Services, presented a plan to phase in membership on the Special Education Advisory Council to assure compliance with federal IDEA-97. Mr. Remus reported the federal rule required that a majority of the members of the Council be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The proposed plan would allow a council of 14 members to rotate terms so that only one-third of the terms would expire at one time. To accomplish that, he proposed:

- Appointment, to one-year terms, of those eligible persons currently serving as technical associates on the council. Those included Jennifer Pazzie, Sue Stacy, Joyce Markendorf, and William Daugherty.
- Appointment of five new members, with four of them meeting the majority requirements noted, to three-year terms.

Board discussion followed with no objections presented in opposition to the proposed approach.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:09 p.m. and Board members attended the Third Annual Luncheon in Support of Education co-sponsored by The Topeka School Fund and the Kansas Business-Education Coalition. The meeting reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

## **LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

### **Proposed 1998 Education Legislation**

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis presented Board members with a current summary of education-related bills in the Senate and House and briefly reviewed the status of several bills of interest. He noted because realtors had expressed resistance to the \$4 fee for the tuition protection fund contained in the proprietary school legislation, the bill had been amended to delete the fee. He reported that the status of the tax reduction plan, currently contained in HB 500, affected funding for other bills, including the school finance plan, which was, itself, undergoing rapid changes. He noted the special education bill appeared to need several amendments and federal program administrators had indicated it might be possible to delay enactment by one year. Other bills of interest included a proposal to allow districts to charge fees for half days of full-day kindergarten.

### **Fiscal Year 1999 Budget Request**

Mr. Dennis presented a status report on the KSDE FY 1999 budget and compared the Governor's and the Senate Ways and Means subcommittee's recommendations for FY 1999. He passed out a summary of SB 447, the school finance plan, which contained a computer printout comparing funding per school district under current law, under the Governor's plan and under the proposed Senate Education Committee plan. He also provided Board members with a concise summary of the major points contained in the proposal to restructure higher education, a summary of the proposed community college

finance plan and a Legislative Research Department memorandum of March 5, 1998 which indicated state general fund receipts through February, 1998, were \$25 million or 1 percent above prior estimates for the period. Board questions followed.

## **STATE CURRICULUM STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS**

### **Mathematics Curriculum Standards Committee Issues**

Margie Hill, Co-Chair of the Mathematics Curriculum Standards Committee, updated the Board on recent activities of the Committee and presented the Board with three questions for Board input:

1. The Committee had developed benchmarks for grades 4, 7 and 10, the grade levels it intended to recommend for assessment. To stay consistent with the format developed by the Communications Arts Curriculum Standards Committee, the Board was asked if it would prefer that mathematics benchmarks be added for the 12th grade with indicators established for what would be tested at the 10th grade.
2. If indicators for the tenth grade were applied to 12th grade benchmarks, the Board was asked if reasonable expectations should include proficiency in the skills learned in algebra I with selected skills in geometry and algebra II.
3. Additionally, the Board was asked if the indicators should reflect a balance between content-specific and application-based benchmarks within each of the mathematics standards.

After discussion, the Board agreed to the development of 12th grade benchmarks with indicators for the skills to be tested at the 10th grade; a vision of expected proficiency at the 10th grade in algebra I plus additional geometry and algebra II skills; and a balance between content-specific and application-based indicators.

### **Communication Arts Curriculum Standards Committee Issues**

Marceta Reilly, Co-Chair of the Communication Arts Curriculum Standards Committee, briefly reported on activity of the committee and some of the revisions to communications arts standards incorporated into the second draft as a result of public input. She also brought to the Board three recommendations for which the Committee sought Board input.

1. The Committee recommended that reading and writing be assessed at grades 5, 8 and 11, a change from current practice of assessing reading at grades 3, 7 and 10, and writing at grades 5, 8 and 10.
2. They also recommended that writing should be assessed every year-- current practice for reading and mathematics.
3. Further, the committee recommended that a locally-administered individual diagnostic test in reading be required at grade three and reported on the Quality Performance Accreditation annual

report as the number of children reading at the third grade level.

Board discussion and questions followed and Ms. Reilly reviewed for Board members the Committee's justification for its recommendations. Board members expressed strong support for an individual diagnostic test in reading every year. They were also supportive of the implementation of a writing assessment every year, citing the necessity of developing longitudinal data. Concern was expressed regarding the increased cost for conducting the assessments and whether districts or the state would bear the cost for the reading diagnostic. Staff was directed to develop cost estimates for each with the yearly writing assessment to begin in FY 2000.

The Board took a short break at 4:13 p.m. and reconvened at 4:25 p.m.

### **Establishment Of Grade Levels For Revised Mathematics, Reading And Writing Assessments**

Dr. Freden asked Board members to set grade levels for the revised mathematics, reading and writing assessments. Based on their earlier discussion with the Co-Chairs of Communication Arts and Mathematics Curriculum Standards Committees, Board members confirmed their approval of mathematics assessments at grades 4, 7 and 10, and tentatively approved writing assessments at grades 5, 8 and 11, and reading assessments at grades 5, 8 and 11, if a locally conducted individual reading diagnostic at grade 3 is included.

### **Plan for Revising State Assessments and Performance Levels**

Dr. Freden reviewed and answered Board member questions about the current plan for revising state assessments and performance levels. She noted that the trend years, as well as the schedule to establish performance levels, for writing would change if the Board moves forward with the proposal to test every year.

### **Student Levels of Performance for 1997-98 State Assessments**

Dr. Freden responded to Board questions regarding proposed student performance levels for 1997-98 state assessments in mathematics, reading and writing. Dr. Doug Glasnapp, representing the state assessment contractor, was also present to provide additional information on how the recommendations for the proposed levels were developed. Board members were presented with recommendations to establish performance levels of *excellence* in writing and *proficient* and *unsatisfactory* in reading, writing and mathematics for the 1997-98 assessments. Some Board members expressed concern regarding an unnamed performance level that fell between scores designated to represent *proficient* and those judged *unsatisfactory* and questioned staff recommendations for the four levels implicit in the proposal, contrary to Board directives for the development of three levels. Dr. Freden expressed the need to refine the definition of the levels and the use of NAEP direction and levels in the development of the recommendations. She continued by explaining how the gap in scores between the two levels represented a group of students whose partial mastery of skills could not be characterized as either *proficient* or *unsatisfactory*, but were able to demonstrate some expected grade level skills, though not all or at the level to be judged *proficient*. In background materials provided to the Board, these students were labeled *basic*. Other Board concerns included a request to have a review of the application of an

*excellence* level to scores in the 70% range and a desire for information on the estimated percent of students that would fall into the different levels being proposed. Dr. Freden indicated that Board action was required in order to apply the performance levels to the Spring 1998 assessments. Mr. Hill moved that student performance levels of *excellence* in writing and *proficient, basic, and unsatisfactory* in reading, mathematics and writing be adopted for use with this year's state assessments. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-1 with Dr. Wagnon voting "no."

### **External Review Committee to Provide Technical Advice on State Assessments**

Dr. Freden indicated that in order to maintain the schedule established for revision of state assessments, selection of members for an external review committee to provide technical advice on state assessments would be necessary at the April, 1998 Board meeting. She noted a list of potential members prepared by staff had been made available to Board members with their meeting materials. Dr. Freden noted a staff recommendation that the committee selected in April be composed of no more than five members: two with curriculum emphasis, two with technical measurement emphasis and one with experience in a large-scale assessment program. She asked that Board members make their recommendations in those areas from the list provided or make suggestions of others not on the list no later than March 24th in order to provide all Board members with a reduced list prior to the April Board meeting.

Dr. Freden also reported that selection of members for the science and social studies curriculum standards committees would need to be done at the May Board meeting because it was likely members would want to begin work in the fall of 1998 in order to have recommendations to reviewers next March. She also indicated that interest from the field had been expressed for thirty-member committees in order to have all disciplines represented because the subject matter was so broad. She asked for Board recommendations for committee membership by April 24, 1998.

### **REPORT ON 1997 GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY**

Dr. Jerry Bailey, Associate Dean, University School of Education and Director of the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, introduced Debra Fillingim, KGA Director, who provided Board members with an overview of the Kansas Governor's Academy (KGA) conducted for at-risk students during July, 1997. Ms. Fillingim reported that KGA, sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Kansas State Board of Education and the KU School of Education, was developed to assist at-risk high school students, better equip teachers of at-risk students and develop a network of Kansas educators concerned about the needs of at-risk students. Ms. Fillingim indicated that the deadline for applications for the 1998 Academy was April 1st. She also asked Board members to make note of the date, July 2nd, for the closing ceremonies luncheon and hoped members would be able to attend.

Ms. Fillingim indicated that characteristics perceived as primary factors in placing high school students in the at-risk category were academic problems, poverty and absenteeism. She also pointed out that 22% of Kansas students who began 9th grade in 1991 did not graduate from high school in 1995; that 82% of America's prison population were high school dropouts; and noted the high cost, \$25,000-\$32,000 annually, necessary to care for each juvenile offender. She described the KGA program which provides selected teams, composed of a mentor-teacher and two at-risk students, the opportunity to spend a month on the University of Kansas campus during the summer in a highly structured and intensive educational

program where the emphasis for the students is on how to learn and how to effectively use what has been learned. The goal of KGA is to enable students to develop skills and content necessary to perform tasks independently. Special training in the Strategic Intervention Model and other techniques to improve classroom effectiveness is provided to teachers during the month-long program. It was reported that of the 245 students who had participated, 42% of KGA graduates had graduated from high school, 9% had obtained a GED, and 24% were still in school. Accompanying Dr. Bailey and Ms. Fillingim was Kathy Sandstrom, Hays High School mentor-teacher, who shared her experience and enthusiasm for the program and its long-lasting effects on her work with students and other teachers of at-risk students.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Gilmore asked if Dr. Wagon would like more information about items 12 g. and h., which were pulled at the beginning of the meeting. Dr. Wagon asked that the items be voted on separately. Mrs. McMillon made a motion to approve the consent agenda, minus items 12 g. and h. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.

Confirmed the appointments of Linda Rowe to an unclassified special project Office Specialist position under the Kansas Commission on National and Community Service grant, effective February 16, 1998, at a bi-weekly salary of \$802.40; Jerry Jackson to an unclassified special project Office Assistant III position funded by Title VI-B Indirect Cost funds at a bi-weekly salary of \$628.80; and Jaye Parkerson to an unclassified special project Office Assistant III position under the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund grant at a bi-weekly salary of \$628.80.

- Approved school construction plans for Triplains USD 275, Logan County; Lorraine USD 328, Ellsworth County; Shawnee Mission USD 512, Johnson County; Beloit USD 273, Mitchell County; and Blue Valley USD 229, Johnson County.
- Approved renewal of the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center Interlocal Agreement (Oakley).
- Approved modification of the Interlocal Agreement proposed by the Tri-County Special Education Cooperative.
- Adopted proposed revisions to State Board policies and guidelines.
- Approved recommendations from the Certification Review Committee.
- Received minutes of September 22 and October 20, 1997, meetings of the Quality Performance Accreditation Advisory Council.

- Denied requests from Amy Louise Timp and Kristin Lee Miller for visiting scholar certificates to teach students with behavior disorders.
- Approved requests from JoAnn Hinton, Kimberly Willis and Dr. Vincent Barone to receive visiting scholar certificates to teach students with behavior disorders for Leavenworth County Special Education Cooperative for the 1997-98 school year.
- Approved Cycle I accredited status for: Brookridge Day School; USD 229 Blue Valley - Leawood Elementary and Oak Hill Elementary; USD 321 Kaw Valley - St. Marys High School; USD 476 Copeland - Copeland Elementary, and South Gray Jr. High School; USD 495 Ft. Larned - Larned Middle School; USD 308 Hutchinson Public Schools - Hutchinson High School; USD 511 Attica - Puls Elementary and Attica High School; USD 259 Wichita - Gammon Elementary; and USD 205 Bluestem - Bluestem High School and Bluestem Middle School.
- Approved a requests for a waivers of state QPA regulations from: the East Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative to allow Tracey Powell to be an instructor in the gifted program for Louisburg Public Schools; Winfield USD 465 to allow them to move the date of their onsite QPA/NCA visit from June, 1999, to September, 1999; and Capital City Special Purpose School USD 501 to allow them to substitute a behavior component as a third QPA target area.
- Approved five-year in-service education plans for Barber County North USD 254 and Macksville USD 351.
- Approved 1997-98 Kansas Charter School Implementation subgrants for: School-Community Resource Center, USD 312 Haven; Dropout Recovery Program, USD 361, Anthony-Harper; and Cornerstone High School, USD 499, Galena.
- Approved 1997-98 Educate America Act Open Competition with an Emphasis on Technology Subgrants for Chanute USD 413, Derby USD 260, ESSDACK Interlocal 622, Hays USD 261 Consortium, McPherson USD 418, Olathe USD 233, Salina USD 305, South Central Kansas Education Service Center 628, Southwest Plains Regional Service Center 626, Spring Hill USD 230 Consortium, Technology Excellence in Education Network 632, Wamego USD 320, and Wichita USD 259.
- Certificates of Approval under the Kansas Proprietary School Act were issued to: Professional Real Estate Education, Overland Park, KS; Hoffman International, Overland Park, KS; International Aviation & Travel Academy, Arlington, TX; The Brown Mackie College, Salina, KS; The Brown Mackie College, Olathe, KS.
- Approved requests for a waiver of K.A.R. 91-5-2 of the driver education regulations for Goddard USD 265, Plainville USD 270, Ottawa USD 290, Eureka USD 389, Axtell USD 488, Oswego

USD 504, Marysville USD 364 and Shawnee Mission USD 512 to implement a performance-based driver education curriculum.

- Approved a new program, "Communications Network Technology," at Northwest Kansas Technical School.
- Approved Technology and Internship grants for Mike Higgens, \$5,190; Joseph Chretien, Jr. \$5,413; Carla Lehman, \$1,800; Susan Bowles, \$3,000; Julie Bath, \$3,000; Northeast Kansas ATS and Wenger Manufacturing, MAC Industries, Schuetz Tool and Die and Sabetha Economic Development, \$44,000; and Colby Community College, North Central Technical College of WISC., and Kansas Dental Association, \$30,000.
- Approved vocational educational participating agreements effective July 1, 1997 through June 30, 2000, between Kaw Area Technical School and USDs 321, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 345, 372, 434, 437, 450, 454 and 501.
- Received the Kansas-Training Information Report for FY 1997.
- Issued orders to USD 358 Oxford, Sumner County granting it authority to hold elections on the question of the district's general bond debt limitation.
- Approved 1997-98 second phase Technology Literacy Challenge Fund grants for: USD 207 Leavenworth-\$8,536; USD 208 Wakeeney-\$6,000; USD 231 Gardner-\$20,612; USD 302 Smoky Hill-\$6,000; USD 310 Fairfield-\$6,000; USD 330 Wabunsee East- \$6,000; USD 333 Concordia-\$10,604; USD 397 Centre-\$6,000; USD 411 Goessel-\$6,000; USD 419 Canton-Galva-\$6,000; USD 451 Baileyville-\$6,000; USD 429 Troy-\$6,000; USD 512 Shawnee Mission-\$309,470; and North Central Kansas Educational Service Center 621-\$40,432.

### ***Contracts Approved:***

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to:

- Negotiate and enter into a contract with the University of Kansas to operate the eighth annual Kansas Governor's At-Risk Academy, with the contract total not to exceed \$95,000.
- Negotiate and enter into a contract with the University of Kansas to design and complete a cross case analysis of the completed studies and grant activities of the Supported Education in Kansas Project (SEIK) with the contract amount not to exceed \$4,500.

### **APPOINTMENTS TO THE KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dr. Wagon expressed concern about appointing a State Board of Education member to a Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) term which would run longer than the Board member's

current State Board term of office. Wagnon nominated Mrs. Mary Douglass Brown to the Executive Board and the Board of Directors of the KSHSAA. Mrs. Morrison seconded the motion. Dr. Abrams offered a friendly amendment, agreed to by Dr. Wagnon and Mrs. Morrison, to appoint Mr. Scott Hill, already a member of the KSHSAA Board of Directors, to serve on the Executive Board and Mrs. Brown to serve on the Board of Directors. The motion carried.

### **DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL FOR STATE EDUCATION INSPECTOR GENERAL**

In order to assess Board interest in further pursuit of the issue, Chairman Gilmore asked that the Board revisit a proposal for a state education inspector general which was presented at the February Board meeting. A straw poll indicated that there was not enough interest for further study of the plan.

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL**

Members reviewed the composite travel request. Mrs. McMillon asked that approval for salary be added for a Read Across America event on March 2, 1998. Mrs. Specht asked to add approval of salary and mileage for attendance at a Mini QPA Conference in Greenbush on March 31, 1998.

Mrs. Holloway asked for approval of mileage expense for Read Across America at a Shawnee school March 2, 1998. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the travel requests be approved as amended. The motion carried.

Chairman Gilmore asked for Board volunteers to serve on the QPA Advisory Council Selection Committee. Dr. Wagnon and Mrs. McMillon agreed to serve. Chairman Gilmore also asked Board members to provide him with topics in order to develop a long-term agenda for study sessions. He also requested that staff communicate with Brenda Welburn who had facilitated the Board planning session to see if she would be available to return for a session with the Board on the development of strategic directions.

### **Board Attorney**

Mr. Dan Biles, Board Attorney, reviewed his written report with Board members. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mrs. Morrison, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for February be paid as presented. The motion carried.

### **Legislative Coordinator**

Board Legislative Coordinator Scott Hill made note that the number one concern of the Senate Education Committee concerning the special education legislation was that the legislation should not exceed federal law in any area. He also briefly noted upcoming legislative activity on the proposal to restructure postsecondary education and the charter school law.

### **Policy Committee Chairman**

Dr. Abrams indicated there was no new activity by the Policy Committee nor was a meeting in April planned. He was asked if there were any pending issues that the Committee anticipated studying and if it would be appropriate to examine policies regarding the duties of the Board Chairman.

## **Commissioner**

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed his written report to the Board and indicated hearings had been held on dissolution of the USD 501 Special Education Cooperative. He also indicated he had included for Board review a tentative schedule for the April Board meeting in Greenbush. Dr. Tompkins briefly discussed the school-to-work grant and the upcoming site visit that is to be the final step in the grant approval process. He also discussed Board concerns about the program and suggested that state implementation grantees might be invited to address the Board. He noted the Distinguished Program in Teacher Education Award recently awarded to Fort Hays State University, and made note of the April 16th meeting of the Joint Advisory Committee on Governance.

## **Other Board Reports**

Mrs. Holloway handed out copies of the new Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) brochure for Board members' information. She also asked about the 1996-1997 Accountability Report recently sent to Board members and requested that in the future the Board be able to review the report prior to distribution. Dr. Wagon requested that Board time be made available to review the current report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Gilmore asked that the personnel item to be addressed in executive session be postponed until the next meeting. There being no further business, Chairman Gilmore adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p. m.

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Kevin Gilmore, Chairman

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Penny Plamann, Secretary

# **KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **MINUTES**

### **Meetings at the Special Schools**

**March 11, 1998**

#### ***Kansas State School for the Blind***

Staff of the Kansas State School for the Blind entertained Board members, students and special guests at a coffee beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the elementary students' great hall of the New Student Residence. At 9:00 a.m. the group went upstairs to the secondary students' great room where Mr. William Daugherty, Superintendent of the School, formally welcomed guests and presented a brief history of the school and

the evolution of the campus. He introduced State Board members and special guests present and thanked all those who had been instrumental in planning and construction of the new building. He then invited those present to tour the building with the meeting to reconvene at 10:00 a.m.

Board members present were:

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

Mrs. Morrison and Mrs. Specht were absent.

### **PRESENTATION OF EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM**

Mr. Daughtery introduced Dr. Linda Ross, Director of Residential Services, and other staff members who discussed their roles in the extended day program at KSSB. Lori Smith, school social worker and member of the transition team, shared highlights of her work as the point person for a student's transition to independence and details about the apartment living experience available to students as part of their transition. She noted that the apartment program was designed to fit each student's independence level with the goal of developing his or her own potential and self-confidence. Jaqueline Briggs, Extended Day Program Manager, reported on staff efforts to plan, coordinate and schedule fun and leisure activities which foster self-discipline, teamwork, self-reliance and responsible behavior. She also noted opportunities available for local community involvement and volunteer work and coordination with public school organizations. Lois Drew, extended day teacher, and Laura Heyer, overnight residential staff, also shared their experiences with the program and made a special presentation of appreciation on behalf of the extended day staff to Ms. Briggs and Dr. Ross. Other staff were also recognized. In conclusion, Wendy Raines, a high school senior and an extended day student, spoke briefly about how she had personally benefited from the program.

### **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 the 1997 Distinguished Service Award to NedRa Bonds, Kansas City artist, noted for her work in the local community promoting cultural diversity and a sense of community for urban residents. State Board Chairman Kevin Gilmore presented the 1997 Kansas Special Needs Arts Educator of the Year Award to Nancy Kremeier, teacher in Blue Valley, USD 229. Each award recipient was also presented with artwork created by a student.

The meeting recessed a 11:10 for lunch with students and staff in the school dining room and then Board members departed for Olathe.

### ***Kansas State School for the Deaf***

Board members arrived at the State School for the Deaf in Olathe at 1:00 p.m. for the afternoon meeting which began in the library/media center in the Philip A. Emery Elementary Center. Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Specht and Mrs. Holloway were unable to be present.

Gerald Johnson, Superintendent of KSSD, opened with a brief welcome and introductory remarks. He shared the school's mission statement, "*Total Accessibility to Language and Education Excellence in a Visual Environment*," and how staff worked to incorporate that goal into all aspects of their efforts in working with a nucleus of schools in rebuilding deaf education. He indicated that QPA had given the school the green light to be more aggressive about change and the school's focus was directed to implementing the same kinds of changes for deaf students as those found in other public schools, using the same curriculum and same assessments. He introduced Pam Shaw who talked about research-based school improvement and some of the programs being used at the school, including the Star Schools Project, an English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) program model being followed in addressing the bilingualism of signing students in an English-speaking world. She reported that the goal was to have students totally immersed in English by high school. The expected results of the five year project are a standards framework, staff development materials, a parent guide to bilingualism and development of teaching materials and assessment tools. Ms. Shaw also provided an update on the status of the cooperative effort with KCPT, PBS Channel 19, in providing captioning, and the success of the visual storytelling project.

Ms. Shaw introduced Mona Huggins, School Librarian, who reported on opportunities offered for development of problem solving skills, particularly "Odyssey of the Mind," a national program encouraging the use of teamwork in problem solving. Sandi Kelly, Principal, reported on efforts to help students develop social skills, individual responsibility and alternative thinking skills. She also highlighted the use of Premier Agenda, assignment notebooks designed for student use from the elementary level through high school.

Nancy Eads, ASL/English Coordinator, provided background on the importance of supporting students in their development of visual listening skills and the connection between reading and visual listening comprehension. She also discussed the tools necessary to assess a student's listening comprehension level and the importance of incorporating ESL elements in teaching methods and assessment programs. Larry Finn, Mathematics Chair at KSSD, and Chris Kurz, student at Kansas University, elaborated on this idea in highlighting mathematics assessments and the differences in presentation necessary for students whose primary language was ASL.

At 2:30, the group moved to the computer lab in the Roberts Middle and High School Building for a refreshment break and the balance of meeting. Dr. Abrams and Mr. Hill were not able to stay for the remainder of the program.

Luta Pleiss, KSSD teacher, used the new furniture in the computer lab to highlight some of the accommodations necessary for creating and enhancing the visual environment for students. She discussed the computer literacy requirement for all students and the education components contained in the curriculum being used. She also reported the success of the joint project with Olathe High School being used to develop cooperative learning between KSSD students and public school students. Becky Goodwin reported on the popular video editing program available to students and shared some examples of the students' work. Mona Huggins discussed the Web TV pilot program, undertaken with a KCPT 19 MoKan grant, and the development of the school's internet homepage. Micki Keck, Learning Center Coordinator, provided an update on the new Learning Center in the residential hall and Pam Shaw briefly reported on video conferencing.

Mr. Johnson concluded the day noting that the school had just completed a twenty-year building plan and that planning for the next twenty years was now underway. Components of that plan needed to include renovation of existing buildings, including the possible construction of a new middle school building; restyling of the middle school program; development of an early childhood/infant program; and the addition of more parking.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Kevin Gilmore, Chairman

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Penny Plamann, Secretary

### ***Notes from Board Strategic Planning Meeting March 9, 1998***

#### **Mission Statement**

The Kansas State Board of Education promotes student academic achievement by providing educational vision, leadership, opportunity, accountability and advocacy for all Kansans.

#### **Policy Initiatives for 1998**

##### **1. Assessments & Standards**

###### *Comments:*

- \_ simplify
- \_ measurement of improvement of individual students

- \_ report results to teachers in a timely manner
- \_ report data longitudinally
- \_ evaluate for content to assess academics
- \_ adopt standards
- \_ secure public support for standards

## **2. Teacher Certification**

### *Comments:*

- \_ increased local input
- \_ continue to discuss new licensure design to have buy-in and ownership by major stakeholders
- \_ link teacher certification with classroom performance
- \_ link recertification hours to practice
- \_ review design elements in proposed redesign, but use current regulations as basis
- \_ analyze for fiscal impact

## **3. Reading**

### *Comments*

- \_ assess early grades in reading and provide remediation
- \_ identify/create good models integrating best practices in reading instruction
- \_ target resources to at-risk students
- \_ focus on urban readers