

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Board Retreat

August 8-9, 1997

August 8, 1997

Members gathered in the meeting room of the Inn at Willowbend at 4:30 p.m. The following members were present:

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

Dr. Andy Tompkins, Commissioner of Education, reviewed progress made during the past year on the priorities the Board had established at its 1996 retreat. Dr. Tompkins asked for ideas for future agenda items. School choice (scheduled for September, 1997), the definition of school choice and home schooling were suggested.

Representative Mike O'Neal, Chairman of the House Education Committee, reviewed for the Board HCR 5021, the core curriculum proposal, that was considered during the 1997 legislative session. He noted that his approach to core curriculum came from a legal position and a response to court cases over the constitutional mandate to states for education. He stated that education defined as whatever schools have decided to offer is insufficient legally and that the courts are asking legislatures to define the educational package the states are offering. Representative O'Neal indicated the issue of local versus state funded curricular choices could not be decided until the basic portion being funded by the state was defined. Representative responded to questions and comments from Board members.

The meeting recessed at 6:00 p.m. and members gathered at the Olive Tree Restaurant for dinner.

*Mrs. Morrison joined the retreat at 8:30 p.m., August 8, 1997 and Mr. Rundell attended the August 8, 1997 only.

The Board reconvened at 8:30 for the evening session. The evening session consisted of a discussion of state assessments and the Board members were joined by the following testing consultants:

Dr. Eva Baker, Director of CRESST (Center for Research on Evaluation, Student Standards, and Testing) and Professor of Education at UCLA

Dr. Thomas Haladyna, Professor of Educational Psychology and Research at Arizona State University West Campus

Dr. John Poggio, Co-Director of the Center for Education Testing and Evaluation, and Professor of Psychology and Research in Education at The University of Kansas

Dr. James Popham, Director of IOX Assessment Associates in Los Angeles, Professor Emeritus at UCLA Graduate School of Education

Dr. George K. Cunningham, Professor, University of Louisville

Dr. James P. Comerford, National Assessment Consultant, CTB/McGraw- Hill

The consultants provided information on their areas of expertise and the Board responded with questions. The evening session continued until 11:00 p.m.

August 9, 1997

The Board met informally for breakfast in the dining room of the Inn at 8:00 p.m. and reconvened for a continuation of their discussion of state assessments at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Rundell was unable to be present for the Saturday session.

Over a working lunch, the test consultants shared their recommendations with the Board. Chairman Gilmore asked they provide these recommendations to the Board in writing and these are included as part of these minutes.

After the consultants concluded their recommendations, Board members continued their discussion of assessments and the remainder of the agenda was set aside.

Chairman Gilmore directed the Boards focus to be on whether the State Board should continue testing with The University of Kansas, with the performance assessments in science, social studies, mathematics and reading being dropped as a state mandate, but continued voluntarily at the local level

and paid for by the state. The writing assessment would continue to be given as a performance based test.

The meeting concluded at 4:45.