

# KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

**April 14, 1998**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 1998, at the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, Greenbush, Kansas.

## **ROLL CALL**

All members were present:

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. Mrs. Brown moved that the agenda be approved. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Chairman Gilmore asked for approval of the minutes of the March Board meeting. Mrs. McMillon moved, with a second by Mrs. Specht, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried.

## **WELCOME AND PRESENTATION ON GREENBUSH**

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Dr. R.V. Haderlein, President of the Service Center Board of Directors, who welcomed the State Board to Greenbush. He thanked the Board for its support of educational funding and noted he was pleased with the results of the state legislative session. Dr. Haderlein told the Board how the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush had grown from a three-room school in 1976 to a 510 acre campus. He introduced Dave DeMoss, Executive Director, who made a presentation on the history, goals and vision of the Service Center. Mr. DeMoss noted that Greenbush was currently serving eighty districts in twenty-five counties in Southeast, East Central and the Flint Hills regions of Kansas. Among the many services he noted that were provided to

districts by Greenbush were access to the nature center and observatory through on-campus and distance learning opportunities; staff development opportunities; access to the media library and computer lab; cooperative purchasing of textbooks, instructional supplies and food purchases; special education services and instruction for the severely disabled; early childhood audiology services; EPA compliance and environmental assistance; a summer program for students; use of the Ropes Challenge course to teach teamwork and problem-solving; tracking of inservice transcripts for QPA compliance; a Parents-as-Teachers consortium; and mentoring for newly graduated teachers within the cooperative from Pittsburg State and Emporia State Universities. Board questions and comments followed. When asked what the biggest challenge faced by the Service Center was, Mr. DeMoss responded it was anticipating new opportunities to serve children.

## **CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

At 10:55 a.m. Chairman Gilmore noted no one had requested to address the Board in the Citizens' Open Forum. The Board took a short break until 11:10 a.m.

## **UPDATE ON STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS**

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

Dr. Sharon Freden, Assistant Commissioner, Learning Services, presented a list of potential candidates for the external review committee to provide technical advice on state assessments. The list had been reduced to ten since the March meeting by Board member recommendations or by the removal of individuals who had indicated they would be unable to serve. Chairman Gilmore recommended that Dr. Ben Wright, University of Chicago, also be removed because of his narrow focus. There were no objections and no further changes were made to the list. Included with the list were proposed guidelines, including statement of purpose, suggested composition, proposed meeting dates and compensation rates for the Assessment Advisory Council to be selected.

In response to Board discussion on the make-up of the proposed Advisory Council and questions about how to vote on the staff recommendation that the Council 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, Dr. Freden explained that staff had attempted to maintain a balance between a curriculum/instruction emphasis and a psychometric emphasis. She further indicated that those with expertise in technical measurement would, for the most part, be competent in large-scale assessments. The Board also discussed the proper way to indicate to staff assent and acceptance of staff recommendations and reports. Mr. Biles, Board attorney, indicated binding action should take the form of a motion and Board vote.

Dr. Wagon made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Specht, that the Board vote for the Assessment Advisory Council, voting for two in the curriculum/instruction category; one in the large-scale assessment category; and two in the technical measurement category. The motion failed on a vote of 5-5. Chairman Gilmore recommended that Board members be given five votes, the number of members on the proposed Advisory Council, but be able to distribute their five votes however they chose: i.e. five votes for one candidate, or one-for-one, in order to indicate a prioritization of preference. As a result of a straw poll to clarify the voting method, the first ballot was conducted with one vote per vacancy on the

proposed Council. Receiving a majority on the first ballot were Dr. James Popham, with seven votes, and Dr. Robert Linn, with nine votes. Receiving a majority on the second ballot were Dr. Eva Baker, with seven votes, and Dr. Mike Kolen, with six votes. Mrs. Specht moved that the Assessment Advisory Council be composed of four individuals, Drs. Popham, Linn, Baker and Kolen. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Board recessed for lunch provided by Greenbush at 12:05 p.m., followed by a tour of the campus. The meeting reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

### **Fiscal Impact of Revised Assessments**

Dr. Freden and Commissioner Tompkins responded to questions about information provided to the Board on the cost of revised state assessments in mathematics, reading, writing, science and social studies. Funding options had also been provided which included administration of a writing assessment every year and a norm reference diagnostic test in reading performed yearly at the second grade level. Reasons cited for the increased cost of administering the assessments included: yearly update of the assessments with only minimal changes made in the last two years; increased number of assessment items; and preparation of unique student-parent score reports and support materials. Questions also concerned information provided about increased costs for development and piloting of alternative assessments to implement provisions of the new IDEA law, estimated to be between \$225,000 and \$250,000 for FY 1999.

### **Recommendations of the Communication Arts Curriculum Standards Committee**

Dr. Freden, Marceta Reilly, Co-Chair of the Communication Arts Curriculum Standards Committee, and other Committee members were on hand to answer questions and discuss Committee recommendations with the Board. Recommendations on grade levels and frequency of testing had been provided to the Board as follows:

1. require a local diagnostic test in reading at grade 2 or 3, with state assessments at grades 5, 8 and 11; and
2. test writing annually at grades 5, 8 and 11.

### ***Reading***

Regarding the locally administered diagnostic test to be given in reading at an early grade level, discussion involved norm-referenced tests versus an individual reading inventory (IRI). It was noted that norm-referenced tests would have a per student cost each time the test was administered, while an oral, IRI would have a one-time cost when the test booklet was initially purchased, plus a moderate cost for teacher training in subsequent years to ensure scoring consistency. Ms. Reilly also indicated that most school districts currently use some form of IRI for Title I students and some larger districts use them to test all students. She recommended that if the Board chose to implement a locally administered IRI at the second or third grade, the choice of tests acceptable to the Department for use by districts could be narrowed and statewide data could be available on the percent of students reading at or below grade level.

Other areas of concern included the number of tests being administered at grade 5 and the increased pressure on students to have reading and writing administered in the same year. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mr. Hill, that the Board adopt the reading assessment recommendations of the Communication Arts Committee as submitted. Discussion followed. A substitute motion was made by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Brown, to require a locally administered, individual diagnostic test in reading (chosen from a Department-approved selection of tests) given in the late fall of second grade, and in grade 4 (instead of 5 as recommended), and grades 8 and 11. Additional discussion followed and the Board took a short break from 3:20 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Discussion continued, with the Board considering the impact of assessing writing at grade 4, in addition to the possible testing of reading at grade 4. Ms. Reilly indicated serious changes in the rubric would be required. The question of whether or not reading and writing assessments needed to be performed the same year was also explored. Dr. Abrams made a substitute motion, with a second by Mrs. Morrison, that the Board require a Department approved, locally administered, individual diagnostic test in reading given in the late fall of second grade, and in grades 5, 8 and 11. A motion by Mrs. McMillion, seconded by Mrs. Specht, to close debate, failed for lack of a two-thirds majority, with a vote of 6-4. After further discussion, an amendment was offered by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mrs. Brown, to add language to suggest that the Board not approve additional assessments at grade 5. The amendment was defeated on a vote of 2-8. The Board returned to Dr. Abrams' motion, which carried unanimously.

### ***Writing***

Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Morrison, that writing be tested at grades 5, 8 and 11. The motion carried unanimously. Board discussion followed on whether the writing assessment should be administered yearly instead of in alternate years as was the current practice. Dr. Freden indicated the cost would be approximately \$150,000-\$175,000 annually for each grade level tested. Dr. Wagon moved, with a second by Mrs. Specht, that writing be tested every year. The motion failed on a vote of 4-6. Dr. Abrams moved that writing be tested annually at grade 5 and in alternate years for grades 8 and 11. Mrs. Holloway seconded the motion which carried on a vote of 6-4.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Because of the time spent on assessment issues and because the Board would be attending a reception and tour at the new Technology Center at Pittsburg State University at 5:00 p.m., Chairman Gilmore suggested that the review of the 1996-1997 Accountability Report be postponed until Wednesday, April 15, 1998. Temporarily skipping over agenda item 9, the legislative update, Chairman Gilmore asked for approval of the consent agenda. Mr. Rundell asked that item 10. f. 3), regarding an accreditation waiver request for USD 297, St. Francis Community Schools, be tabled until the May meeting. Mrs. McMillion made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Dr. Abrams seconded the motion and the motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.

- Confirmed the appointment of Christopher Edwards to an unclassified special project Applications Programmer/Analyst II position under the Adult Basic Education grant, effective March 30, 1998, at a bi-weekly salary of \$1609.76.
- Approved school construction plans for Shawnee Mission USD 512, Johnson County; DeSoto USD 232, Johnson County; Arkansas City USD 470, Cowley County; Kismet-Plains USD 483, Seward County; Marion USD 408, Marion County, and Altoona-Midway USD 387, Wilson County.
- Approved renewal of the Northeast Kansas Educational Service Center Interlocal Agreement No. 608 (Lecompton).
- Approved Cycle I accredited status for: Larned State Hospital - Larned State Hospital Elementary and Larned State Hospital High School; Salina Catholic Diocese - Manhattan Catholic Schools; USD 233 Olathe - Ridgeview Elementary; USD 329 Mill Creek Valley - Paxico Lower Elementary and Mill Creek Valley Junior High; USD 228 Hanston - Hanston Elementary and Hanston High School; USD 305 Salina - Oakdale Elementary; USD 448 Inman - Inman Elementary and Inman Jr./Sr. High School; USD 259 Wichita - North High School; USD 367 Osawatomie - Osawatomie East Elementary; USD 416 Louisburg - Louisburg High School; USD 504 Oswego - Oswego Middle, Oswego Neosho Heights Elementary and Service Valley Elementary; USD 413 Chanute Public Schools - Chanute High School; and USD 490 El Dorado - Grandview Elementary and Jefferson Elementary.
- Approved requests for waivers of state QPA regulations from: USD 232 DeSoto to allow Lee Ann Hanson to teach in special education; USD 250 Southeast Kansas Special Education Coop to allow Kelli Berry to teach in the special education program; and USD 453 Leavenworth to allow Emily McDonnell to serve as Library Media Coordinator for David Brewer Elementary School.
- Approved five-year in-service education plans for Ashland USD 220, Mulvane USD 263, Palco USD 269, Fairfield USD 310, Conway Springs USD 356, Atchison County Community Schools USD 377, Chase-Raymond USD 401, Canton Galva USD 419, Highland USD 425, Abilene USD 435, Healy USD 468, Axtell USD 488, El Dorado USD 490, Syracuse USD 494, Lewis USD 502, Reno County Education Cooperative No 610, Kansas School for the Deaf, and Correctional Program Management, Inc.
- Approved 1997-98 Kansas Charter School Implementation subgrants for: Basehor-Linwood Charter School, USD 458 Basehor-Linwood; and John Dewey Learning Academy, USD 341 Oskaloosa.
- Approved the Kansas State Department of Education Physical Education Curriculum Guidelines.

- Certificates of Approval under the Kansas Proprietary School Act were issued to: Becker CPA Review, Kansas City, KS; RSM Training Inc. d/b/a Comskill of Kansas City, Kansas City, MO; BMSI Institute, Inc., Overland Park, KS; Bryan Career College, Topeka, KS; A.D. Banker & Co., Overland Park, KS; John Casablancas Center, Oklahoma City, OK; Kansas Massage, Topeka, KS; Hays Pathology School of Medical Technology, Hays, KS; Topeka Technical College, Topeka, KS; and National Education Center, Spartan School of Aeronautics Campus, Tulsa, OK.
- Received the Kansas Vocational Education Accountability Report.
- Approved requests for a waiver of K.A.R. 91-5-2 of the driver education regulations for Olathe USD 233, West Smith County (Kensington) USD 238, Marmaton Valley (Moran) USD 256, Clearwater USD 264, Cedar Vale USD 285, Lincoln USD 298, Ness City USD 303, Bazine USD 304, Atwood USD 318, Phillipsburg USD 325, St. John USD 350, Atchison USD 409, Scott City USD 466, Geary County Schools (Junction City) USD 475 and Kansas City USD 500 to implement a performance-based driver education curriculum.
- Received information on Julie Bliese, 1998 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship recipient.
- Approved phase two, 1997-98 Technology Literacy Challenge Fund grants in the amount of \$6,000 for: USD 216 Deerfield, USD 242 Weskan, USD 360 Caldwell, and USD 398 Peabody-Burns; and for USD 290 Ottawa in the amount of \$19,825.

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

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to:

- Negotiate and continue a contract with Families Together, Inc. to provide the management and coordination of training and identification of persons for appointment as education advocates for children with disabilities with the contract amount not to exceed \$83,934.
- Negotiate and renew a contract with Kansas State University for operation of the Kansas Nutrition Training Resource and Information Network (KN-TRAIN), with the contract amount not to exceed \$16,000.

## **LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

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

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis presented Board members with a summary of highlights of the revised school finance plan which included base state aid per pupil (BSAPP) increased by \$50, from \$3,670 to \$3,720, and with correlation weighting for districts with enrollments over 1750, BSAPP of \$66 per pupil; and at-risk per pupil weight increased from 6.5% to 8.0%.

Additionally, Mr. Dennis and Mr. Ken Gentry, Team Leader, Supplemental and Consolidated Programs,

presented information on the \$3 million recommended by the Governor to fund a four-year old at-risk pupil pilot program. The funding level recommended represented only one-third of the amount included in the Board's FY 1999 budget request and was an amount sufficient to provide full funding for only 1350 children. Because allocated dollars would be part of district general fund budgets, only a short turn around time was available to allocate funds for the program. Mr. Gentry presented four funding scenarios for the Board to consider in order to allocate the funds in a timely manner. After a brief discussion of the program and the options, Chairman Gilmore suggested that the Board decision on the funding format to be followed be determined under New Business on Wednesday, April 15, 1998.

Mr. Dennis briefly reviewed highlights of the Governor's revised tax cut plan, status of the Kansas State Board of Education's budget request, state general fund estimates, and the status of several bills of interest.

At 4:45 p.m. Chairman Gilmore suggested that Board reports be moved to Wednesday and adjourned the meeting.

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Kevin Gilmore, Chairman

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Penny Plamann, Secretary

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

**April 15, 1998**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gilmore called the meeting to order at 900 a.m. on Wednesday April 15, 1998, at the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, Greenbush, Kansas.

### **ROLL CALL**

All members were present:

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

Scott Hill  
Bill Wagnon

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Gilmore asked that the agenda be amended to include items carried over from Tuesday, review of the 1996-1997 Accountability Report, Board reports, and the executive session, and include under New Business, approval of a funding plan for grants for a pilot program for four-year old at risk pupils. Mr. Hill moved that the agenda be approved. Mrs. McMillon seconded the motion and the motion carried.

## **REVIEW OF THE 1996-1997 KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**

Dr. Freden reviewed the history of the Accountability Report and answered Board questions. Dr. Freden indicated the 1997-1998 report would include NAEP data and norm reference test data in addition to the ACT and SAT data currently included. She also indicated that most of the data contained in the report was reported elsewhere with the exception of staff development data. Dr. Freden was asked what strengths and weaknesses of public schools were pointed out in the report. She responded that ACT test scores show that Kansas schools are doing well in mathematics, but that data broken down by ethnic and socio-economic groups highlighted areas of concern. Dr. Freden was asked to include recommendations for future action and standard deviation data for all assessment test score data in future reports. She was also asked to allow the Board the opportunity to review a draft of the report before it is printed.

## **PRESENTATION ON TECHNOLOGY**

A presentation to the Board on the use of technology in the classroom was made by Dr. Ken Stanage, Superintendent, USD 362; Mr. Tim Burns, Superintendent, USD 508; Dr. Dave Pendleton, Superintendent, USD 458; and Dr. Randy McDaniel, Superintendent, USD 257. They noted a disparity exists among school districts in Kansas and the ability with which they can offer quality educational experiences using instructional technology for students. Each emphasized the educational enhancements which could be made through the use of available technology, including use of the internet for research, distance learning, individualized instruction opportunities, and collaboration and mentoring opportunities for teachers. They stated several goals for policymakers to consider: equity for all districts with access to quality technology for all students; opportunities for staff training and ongoing support with funds and services to enable staff to keep up with technological advances; and integration of technology into all classroom. Dr. Pendleton reported on opportunities available in some areas of the state for cooperative efforts with local cable providers and other vendors and methods districts might employ to economically implement technology plans. All presentors expressed a hope for continued support at the state and local levels for funding internet access and access to interactive distance education throughout the state. Board questions and discussion included the observation that it was very important for the Board to devote the time necessary to enable it to play a key role in planning for and advancing the use of technology.

The Board took a short break from 10:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

## **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SERVICE PROGRAM**

Dr. Joe Birmingham, Assistant Commissioner for Lifelong Learning; Dr. Tom Burke, President, Kansas City Kansas Community College; and Dr. Richard Drum, President, Dodge City Community College/AVTS; were present to discuss with the Board the report and recommendations of a committee which had been formed to study certain issues regarding the Business And Industry Service Program. Because of an inquiry regarding the appropriateness of business and industry training courses taught by community colleges, area technical vocational schools and colleges which had been received by several legislators, a House Appropriations subcommittee had asked for a response from the Department and the State Board to two questions regarding training of this type and for recommendations pertinent to the issue.

The study committee, composed of AVTS and community college representatives, met to address the questions and make recommendations to bring to the Board for response to the House subcommittee. State Board member, Mr. Hill, was also a member of the study committee. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Morrison, that the State Board of Education approve and forward to the House Appropriations subcommittee the report and recommendations of the study committee. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. McMillion, with a second by Mrs. Specht, further moved that legislative input and membership on any group formed to continue study of the issue and related issues be requested. The motion carried unanimously.

## **BOARD STUDY SESSIONS**

Chairman Gilmore provided Board members with a list of study session topics members had submitted for consideration. Using the list as a ballot, he suggested that each Board member use three votes to indicate their preferences. Members could apply any combination of their three votes to their choices. The top four study session topics chosen were: abstinence-based sex education/review of sex education regulations (7 votes); school-to-work (6 votes); teacher licensure reform (5 votes); and how to infuse state curriculum standards into classrooms around the state (4 votes).

## **APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL**

Members reviewed the composite travel request. Mrs. Holloway noted the omission of a heading indicating a separation between Mr. Hill's and her undesignated travel and also asked that per diem and mileage be added to her request to attend the Governor's Policy Conference on Early Childhood Development and Brain Research. Mrs. Holloway moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the travel requests be approved as amended. The motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

### **Chairman**

Chairman Gilmore indicated that an issue about IDEA funding for private schools needed to be addressed by the Board and the Department.

### **Board Attorney**

Mr. Dan Biles, Board Attorney, reviewed his written report with Board members. He indicated that

March had been a very active month, particularly in the Hunt et. al. v. State Board of Education case, and the Joshua W. v. State Department of Education case. He reported that a settlement proposal had been received from the plaintiffs in the Hunt et. al. v. State Board of Education case, but that he did not recommend Board acceptance of it. He indicated he would like to schedule a meeting with Commissioner Tompkins and Chairman Gilmore to discuss the case. Chairman Gilmore requested that Vice Chairman Rundell also be included in the meeting. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for March be paid as presented. The motion carried.

### **Legislative Coordinator**

Board Legislative Coordinator Scott Hill made brief comments about the end of the session and indicated the charter school bill was dead. Dr. Wagon asked what the Board would be doing in response to activity during the session to restructure postsecondary education and whether the Board had taken a position to affirm the current structure. He noted that the Board should respond to criticism about its coordination and the accountability of community colleges and area vocational technical schools in light of comments contained in the Select Committee on High Education's report. Dr. Abrams noted the peculiar position the Board was in regarding community college support of the proposal to restructure higher education. He expressed the belief the Board's lack of an official response to the proposal left it affirming the status quo. Chairman Gilmore suggested that the Board begin developing its legislative agenda at an earlier date. Mrs. Brown suggested that legislators and state leaders might be invited to an informal discussion of proposed legislative issues in order to avoid working at odds with one another during the session.

### **Commissioner**

Commissioner Tompkins indicated that he and Joe Birmingham, Assistant Commissioner for Lifelong Learning, had discussed a presentation on higher education, how the system currently works and way to improve it, to present to the Board. He also reviewed a plan he had discussed with Chairman Gilmore on a new meeting format to include time for Board study sessions. The format would include time for the public forum, consent agenda, recognitions and board reports on Tuesday, but allow the rest of the day for informal study sessions. Main action items would be placed on the Wednesday agenda with the agenda extending to a full day if necessary. The Board agreed to try the new schedule.

### **Other Board Reports**

Mrs. Holloway briefly reported on the conference on learning disabilities and dyslexia sponsored by Menninger she had attended in March. She indicated she had provided Commissioner Tompkins with a reading research summary to be made available to all Board members. Mrs. Brown reported on the progress being made by USD 259 in its search for a new superintendent.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **At-Risk Four-Year Old Education Grant Pilot Program**

Dr. Wagon moved that the Board adopt option two presented by Mr. Gentry at the Tuesday Board meeting for allocation of the \$3 million appropriated for the education grant pilot program for at-risk four-year olds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill. The motion carried and the Board approved an

administrative funding scenario which would include no limit on the number of at-risk students included in grant applications submitted for consideration; provision for a grant review committee which would read the grant applications and rate them from high to low; and the establishment of a cut score, above which applications would be funded on a prorated basis.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Gilmore thanked Mr. DeMoss and the staff of the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush for their hospitality and efforts made to ensure a smoothly run meeting during the Board's visit. At 11:55 a.m. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Holloway, that the Board adjourn for a fifteen minutes executive session in order to discuss issues regarding non-elected personnel.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Gilmore adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

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Kevin Gilmore, Chairman

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Penny Plamann, Secretary