

**KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES**

May 24, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Abrams called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2006, in the Commissioner's Office in the State Board of Education Building, 120 SE 10th Avenue in Topeka, Kansas.

ROLL CALL

Members present were:

Steve Abrams	Carol Rupe
John Bacon	Iris Van Meter
Sue Gamble	Bill Wagnon
Kathy Martin	Janet Waugh
Connie Morris (by phone)	Ken Willard

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bacon moved, with a second by Mrs. Martin, that the board recess into executive session at 1:35 p.m. for a period of 30 minutes for the purpose of consultation with the board attorney so that the attorney-client privilege could be preserved, and for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of nonelected personnel so that the privacy, confidentiality and other rights of such personnel would not be violated, and that the open meeting of the board resume at 2:05 p.m. The motion carried. The open meeting resumed at 2:05 p.m. Mr. Bacon, with a second by Mr. Willard, moved that the executive session be extended for an additional thirty minutes and that the open meeting resume at 2:35 p.m. The motion carried. The open meeting resumed at 2:35 p.m. Dr. Wagnon, with a second by Mr. Bacon, moved that the executive session be extended for an additional thirty minutes and that the open meeting resume at 3:05 p.m. The motion carried. The open meeting resumed at 3:05 p.m. Board members took a break until 3:10 p.m. At 3:10 p.m. Mr. Willard moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the executive session be extended for an additional thirty minutes and that the open meeting resume at 3:40 p.m. The motion carried. The open meeting resumed at 3:40 p.m.

The board took a break from 3:40 until 3:45 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF HIRING PROCESS FOR NEW DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

The board discussed whether Board Policy 3002 had been followed when developing the position descriptions and establishing the process for hiring the Deputy Commissioner for the new Division of School Innovations and hiring a replacement for Dr. Posny in the position of Deputy Commissioner for Learning Services. The policy, which states, "The Commissioner shall not establish the qualifications or method of selection of Assistant Commissioners without consulting the Board", was felt by some board members to have been bypassed. The position descriptions for each position were examined and discussed by the board members. Dr. Wagnon and Mrs. Gamble expressed their views about what they felt were shortcomings in the educational and experience requirements for the positions. In response, it was pointed out that they were minimum requirements. They also shared their concerns about the new division and its separation from department staff working directly with the field. Commissioner Corkins noted that he had kept board members informed through Friday Letters and updates at board meetings

about plans as they were developing and had consulted frequently with the board leadership regarding details. He stated that he had made a good faith effort to meet his responsibility to the board. Mrs. Waugh, Mrs. Rupe, Dr. Wagnon and Mrs. Gamble voiced their opinion that the policy required more formalized participation by all board members in the process. Mrs. Gamble indicated that all board members had been elected by a constituency that they were responsible to and she felt that consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair was not sufficient to fulfill the policy. Mrs. Rupe noted that the board leadership was not the board.

Mrs. Morris applauded the Commissioner for moving forward with the process and agreed that board members had been kept up to date about it. She discussed her feeling that it was inappropriate to have a special meeting to address the concerns of one board member and noted that the normal procedure would be to hold those concerns until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Chairman Abrams pointed out that the meeting had not been called because of a board member's concerns, but because the board would be meeting to consult with its attorney. He added that because of the timeliness of the issue he had tried to be responsive by using the opportunity which had arisen to address it. Mrs. Rupe suggested that the discussion be added to the June board meeting. Dr. Abrams pointed out that the recruitment process was to the point where it was hoped confirmation by the board of appointments to the positions would be made at the June meeting. During the discussion, Mrs. Waugh added that she also would like to have the issue delayed and be given the opportunity to study the qualifications more thoroughly. It was suggested that the board policy be revisited by the Policy Committee, but there was no consensus on the suggestion.

Commissioner Corkins reviewed the hiring process that was being used and explained how the interviews would be conducted. Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Morris expressed their confidence in the board leadership and in the Commissioner's decisions regarding the process for the interviews and establishment of the new division.

Mrs. Morris moved, with a second by Mrs. Waugh, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion failed on a vote of 4-6, with Dr. Abrams, Mr. Bacon, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Van Meter and Mr. Willard voting "no".

Mr. Bacon moved, with a second by Mrs. Van Meter, that the Commissioner proceed with the process that was in place to hire the new deputy commissioners and establish the new division. The motion carried 6-4, with Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. Rupe, Dr. Wagnon and Mrs. Waugh voting "no".

Mrs. Van Meter said that when the board members had hired Commissioner Corkins, they had the confidence he would carry forth in the manner they wanted. She pointed out that at each board meeting some board members have found something to criticize him for. She expressed her concern about the lack of support for the Commissioner voiced in public by some board members and her desire for it to stop. Chairman Abrams said he wouldn't want to inhibit anyone on the board from expressing their opinions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Martin moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Steve Abrams, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary