

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Waugh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, August 9, 2004, 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	Iris Van Meter
Sue Gamble	Janet Waugh
Connie Morris	Ken Willard
Carol Rupe	

Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Bacon were unable to attend because of prior commitments. Dr. Wagnon arrived at 1:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Waugh asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. Gamble moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the agenda be approved as proposed. The motion carried 7-0.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Linda Oborny, Assistant Director for Career and Technical Education, provided Board members with an update on vocational education in Kansas, now referred to as career and technical education (CTE). Besides reviewing the history of vocational education in the state, she also discussed state and federal funding sources and the changes in the administration of Carl D. Perkins funds, now under the authority of the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) as the lead state agency for the federal grant, as well as the memorandum of understanding between KBOR and KSDE that divides the resources and responsibilities between the two agencies. Mrs. Oborny also reviewed the components evaluated in the approval process for secondary CTE programs and the timeline for program standards revisions and alignment with national standards. She noted that new accountability standards and their affect on academic and technical skills are linked to requirements of QPA and No Child Left Behind. She pointed out that students entering CTE programs need the same level of academic preparation as students preparing for college. Discussion followed about the preparation of CTE teachers to teach the academic rigor necessary and the importance of teacher recruitment, retention and continuing professional development. There was also discussion about how directing disaffected students into CTE programs can improve their motivation and educational success. Among other areas covered, Mrs. Oborny discussed the role of the Advisory Committee on Career and Technical Education Programs and its four areas of focus: teacher recruitment and retention, program monitoring and improvement, career and guidance, and marketing.

Members present were:

Steve Abrams	Iris Van Meter
Sue Gamble	Bill Wagnon
Connie Morris	Janet Waugh
Carol Rupe	Ken Willard

Mrs. Waugh announced that Mr. Bacon and Mr. Wyatt would be arriving late.

The Board stood for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Wagnon asked that a discussion of accountability reviews be added to Legislative Matters as item 11 d. ??Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Mrs. Gamble, that the agenda be approved as amended.? The motion carried 8-0, with Mr. Bacon and Mr. Wyatt absent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Waugh asked for approval of the minutes of the July meeting. Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Mrs. Gamble, that the minutes be approved as submitted.? The motion carried 8-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

?Commissioner Tompkins provided an update on Congressman Moore's visit with the Board later in the morning.? Mrs. Gamble reported on a meeting she had attended with Congressman Moore where he reported on hearing concern expressed by some Kansas school representatives that Kansas' standards might be too high, making it difficult for schools to make AYP.? She also said he had been told there was a perception that other states' definitions of proficient were much lower than in Kansas.?

Commissioner Tompkins reported that he had met with representatives of ACT and the latest results would be released August 18th.? He noted that SAT results would be released the following week.? Commissioner Tompkins also reported that he had been working with the Board of Regents on a date for a joint meeting.?

REVIEW OF KANSAS INSTRUCTION RESOURCE CENTER

Assistant Commissioner (Pochowski) Posny introduced staff members who had been involved with the development of the KSDE instructional website, the ?Kansas Instructional Resource Center? or KIRC.? She gave Board members a demonstration of the site, showing how the Kansas curriculum standards, benchmarks and indicators are linked to lesson plans and other resources for teachers.? She reported that all the lesson plans available on the website will be evaluated by teachers in the field before being posted on the site. Mrs. Gamble suggested that students also be involved in evaluating the lesson plans for the instructional website.? Dr. Abrams suggested that some explanation be added to the areas in the state standards on the website where no link is shown.?? Dr. (Pochowski) Posny reported that the site would be available to the public within the next few weeks.? The KIRC discussion was paused to allow the Citizens' Open Forum to begin as scheduled.

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Mr. Bacon arrived at 10:30 a.m.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Waugh opened the Citizens' Open Forum at 10:35 a.m.? Those addressing the Board included Peggy Davis, Lenexa, representing Kansas PTA; Keith B. Miller, Manhattan; and Ann Foster, Rossville, representing Kaw Valley CARES.? Chairman Waugh closed the open forum at 10:46 a.m.?

The Board finished its preview of KIRC and took a break from 10:48 until 10:57 a.m.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF TITLE I SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS ON IMPROVEMENT FOR 2004-2005

Board members were given a preliminary list of Kansas Title I schools and districts on improvement for the 2004-2005 school year.? Dr. (Pochowski) Posny reported that schools in the Wichita district were not included because of some problems officials in the Wichita district encountered in verifying data for their schools and that the information on the district would be available within the next two weeks.? Included in the list given to the Board were six school districts and 15 schools.? Of the 30 schools on improvement last year, Dr. (Pochowski) Posny explained, 14 came off improvement this year. Eight of the schools remain on improvement, but made adequate yearly progress (AYP) in 2004. Schools must make AYP for two consecutive years to be removed from improvement status. Two of the schools closed. Six of the seven districts on improvement last year came off improvement in 2004. Five districts are on improvement for the first time this year.? She explained that schools and districts that appear on the list have 30 days in which to appeal their on improvement status. The state has 30 days in which to decide the appeal. Any school, or district, may be removed from the list if an appeal is decided in its favor, but because federal law requires that the information on Title I schools and districts on improvement be released each year prior to the start of school, preliminary information was being announced at this time. A final list of Title I schools on improvement will be made available in October when information about the AYP status of all public schools in Kansas will be made available.? Commissioner Tompkins noted that the point should be made that schools are improving and discussion followed about possible contributing factors.? Dr. (Pochowski) Posny noted that the focus has changed to instruction for each and every student.? A discussion followed about sanctions and how schools are addressing them and parents are reacting to them. Also discussed was the concern that there might still be a problem in some districts with teachers getting assessment data back earlier enough to assist them in planning for the upcoming school year.?

Mr. Wyatt arrived at 11:53 a.m.

ALTERNATIVE TEACHER COMPENSATION

In response to a request from Ms. Rupe that information about alternative compensation plans for teachers be discussed prior to the Board finalizing its 2006 legislative recommendations, Dr. (Pochowski) Posny summarized the four common methods used to compensate teachers.? Ms. Rupe indicated she would like to include a system that would reward teachers in high-needs areas and for increasing student performance in the Board's legislative package.? Commissioner Tompkins mentioned that the Wichita school district has a plan that it intends to pilot for four years.

At 11:58 a.m. the Board recessed for lunch.? The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m.???

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KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Kansas State School for the Deaf

FY 2004 End-of-the Year Report

Superintendent Maile, Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD), shared information with the Board that had been presented to the Legislative Budget Committee for its review of the utilization and viability of the KSSD and the Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB).? He and Superintendent Daugherty, KSSB, answered questions about the possibility of the two schools combining some administrative services.? They mentioned that when it had been tried in the past it had not been wholly satisfactory and that, now, because of staff reductions at both schools, any savings would not be significant enough to offset the problems that would be created.

Dr. Maile reviewed highlights of his end-of-the-year report, including state assessment results.? He also mentioned an upcoming event, D.E.A.F. Sunday, a taste of Olathe fundraising event, which was very successful in its first year last year and has provided an excellent avenue for getting the school involved in the community.? It will be held September 19th.? He also mentioned a grant from KaBoom which will result in the installation of a new Early Childhood playground on August 28th.? The community sponsor for the project is Sprint, which will provide 200 volunteers to complete the installation and other projects at the school in one day. ?Dr. Maile indicated that he had asked all the school?s directors to also include a summary of yearly highlights of their programs in the report.? Included in the school?s long-range plans and needs were the development of distance learning capabilities in cooperation with Greenbush, Deaf Mentoring and Shared reading programs for early childhood and early elementary families, and expanding the capacity for comprehensive evaluation of deaf children and consultation to local school districts.? Dr. Maile also reviewed KSSD?s Capital Budget Plan which will continue with the Roth Building renovation.?

FY 2006 Budget Request

Dr. Maile reviewed how the school would meet a reduced resource allocation of \$375,367.? He indicated they would reduce the school year by four days; maintain 7 additional vacant positions; and eliminate summer school.? If an enhanced budget request were to be approved it would include the purchase of two vehicles; reinstate Capital Improvement Funds for Technology, ATU equipment, furniture, media equipment and library books; and a salary increase for teachers to continue to address the salary disparity between the school and surrounding districts.? A total enhanced budget request would be \$227,660.? He also reviewed the State Institutions Building Fund request which totaled \$876,069.? Mr. Willard moved, with a second by Mr. Wyatt, that the Board approve the KSSD budget request as presented.? The motion carried 10-0.

Kansas State School for the Blind***FY 2004 End-of-the Year Report***

Superintendent Daugherty reported that the KSSB forensics team had taken top honors at the North Central Schools for the Blind Swimming and Forensics Conference in Minnesota in May.? He also shared highlights of activities of students involved in the VIEWS (The Visually Impaired Experience Work Success) program, a joint project of KSSB and the Kansas Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired designed to address vocational and transition issues with students beginning in their freshman or sophomore year of high school.? Mr. Daugherty reported that KSSB had made AYP in all areas and would now be starting its first year of CIM (Continuous Improvement Monitoring).? Other long range plans included a continued concentration on collaboration and partnerships, such as the partnership with the University of Nebraska to train teachers of the visually impaired.? Plans for the coming year include the establishment of low vision clinics across the state, in collaboration with local optometrists and ophthalmologists and Lions Clubs; and a collaborative effort between KSSD and KSH&E for infant intervention services.

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Kansas State School for the Blind (continued)***FY 2006 Budget Request***

Mr. Daugherty noted that the proposed FY 2006 budget allocation would allow KSSB to continue its programs and services at or above FY 2005 levels.? To accomplish a reduced resources allocation of \$235,013 would necessitate the elimination of six positions and reductions in commodities, travel and contract services.? Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the State Board approve the FY 2006 KSSB budget as proposed.? The motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**FY 2006 Budget**

Mrs. Morris moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the State Board approve the FY 2006 budget as tentatively agreed to in July.? In the discussion that followed, Mr. Willard reported on a call from a superintendent who appreciated the Board?s recommendation for a K-3 reading and math program, but stated he would prefer the flexibility of having the money included in base state aid per pupil (bsapp).? Mr. Dennis and several other Board members explained to Mr. Willard, who had been unable to attend the July meeting, how a compromise had been reached to have the reading and math program as a separate line item.? Mrs. Gamble expressed concern that the Board had not added additional funding for increases in at-risk and and bilingual weighting.? She stated that even adding \$107 million to bsapp would not adequately cover the need to address the two weighting categories.? Mrs. Waugh stated that she felt strongly that the State Board was the one body in the state that looks out for the educational needs of children, and because she felt that the current budget recommendation was not doing enough for them, she would be unable to vote for the motion.? The motion carried 7-3, with Mrs. Gamble, Dr. Wagon and Mrs. Waugh voting ?no?.

Helping Schools License Plate Program

Deputy Commissioner Dennis reviewed the legislation passed during that last session that created a "Helping Schools" license plate which could be issued beginning January 1, 2005 provided sufficient plates are ordered to guarantee an initial issuance of at least 500. ??He indicated that Department staff had worked

on several designs, which he passed out, for Board consideration and approval.? Dr. Wagon expressed frustration with the amount of staff and time involved with the project at a time when there are so many legitimate demands on the Department.? He also felt it was a waste of time for the Board to be involved in the decision-making process on the plate?s design. Dr. Abrams concurred.? Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Willard, that the Board allow staff to make the final decisions about the license plate and that the Board move on to more important issues.? The motion carried unanimously.?

2005 KSBE Legislative Proposals

Ms. Rupe asked that a request for an interim committee study of alternative compensation for teachers be included in the legislative package.

Dr. Wagon, expressing concern about maladministration within USD 501 that allowed the district to lose \$554,000 in an international counterfeit check scam, discussed the need to address school district fiscal accountability and efficiency.? He stated that the USD 501 problem has given those who don?t think schools need more funding, additional justification for their position.? Dr. Wagon stated further, that the Board should look at the way local districts spend money and find ways to give credibility to Emporia State?s and the Governor?s initiatives to create administrative efficiencies, and disseminate information about best practices across the state and give districts incentives for implementing them.? Dr. Wagon asked staff to come up with a proposal for model accountability reviews for districts to be included in the State Board?s legislative package.? Several Board members agreed with Dr. Wagon.? Whether the proposal should include fiscal management and academic efficiencies was also discussed.? Mrs. Gamble asked about other things that might already be occurring in the state to address fiscal accountability and

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efficiency and expressed concern about the additional time and focus such an effort would take away from other projects.? Mr. Wyatt questioned whether it was the Board?s responsibility to tell local districts how they should manage their money.? Mr. Dennis mentioned several options that were available to districts, including a Department-sponsored website where districts can share ways to save money.? Mr. Bacon suggested that a common form for districts to fill out so the Board could track trends and make suggestions to districts if things looked out of line in certain areas might be feasible.? Chairman Waugh noted that there appeared to be a majority of Board members in favor of Dr. Wagon?s suggestion and asked staff to develop a proposal for model district accountability and efficiency reviews to be included in the Board?s legislative recommendations package.

Mr. Dennis handed out a tentative schedule of 2004 interim committee meetings, as well as lists of the committees, their membership, and the topics being studied.? He also handed information on State General Fund receipts for FY 2004 and another one for July of FY 2005.

The Board took a break at 3:28 and returned at 3:35 p.m.

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR THE HISTORY/GOVERNMENT STANDARDS

Dr. Abrams and Dr. Wagon had been asked to work with the standards writing committee to develop some

compromise language for the civics/government and geography standards.? Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the Board recommend to the committee that it incorporate the proposed language into the History/Government Standards.? The motion carried 9-1, with Mrs. Gamble voting ?no??.? The recommended language follows:

Civics/Government:

The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of governmental systems of Kansas and the United States and other nations with an emphasis on the United States Constitution, the necessity for the rule of law, the civic values of the American people, and the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of becoming active participants in our representative democracy.

Geography:

The student uses a working knowledge and understanding of the spatial organization of Earth's surface and relationships between peoples and places and physical and human environments in order to explain the interactions that occur in Kansas, the United States, and in our world.

Commissioner Tompkins introduced Lynn Stanley who would be working with the History/Government standards in place of Kim Rasmussen, who had resigned to accept another position.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Willard, that the consent agenda be approved as presented. The motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- ? Received the monthly personnel report.
- ? Confirmed the appointment of Sara Schiefelbein to the position of Administrative Assistant, School Improvement and Accreditation, effective July 12, 2004, at an annual salary of \$19,432.
- ? Approved modification of the North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperative Interlocal Agreement #636.

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- ? Approved school construction plans for USD 461, Neodesha, USD 259, Wichita (3); USD 252, Southern Lyon County; USD 337, Royal Valley; USD 376, Sterling; USD 480, Liberal; St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School, Sedgwick County; USD 464 Tonganoxie; USD 343 Perry Public Schools; USD 253 Emporia; USD 261 Haysville; USD 500 Kansas City; USD 312 Haven Public Schools; USD 261 Haysville; and USD 424, Mullinville.

- ? Approved accredited status for the following schools: USD 229 Lakewood Elementary; USD 247 Cherokee Elementary and Weir Elementary; USD 259 Cessna Elementary, Woodland Health/Wellness Magnet Elementary, and Mead Middle; USD 267 Andale Elementary; USD 275 Eastern Heights Elementary, Winona Elementary, Eastern Heights High, and Winona High; USD 369 Burrton

Elementary and Burrton High; USD 379 Longford Elementary and Wakefield High; USD 381 Spearville Elementary and Spearville Jr/Sr High; USD 383 Woodrow Wilson Elementary; USD 401 Raymond Jr. High; USD 419 Canton-Galva Elementary; USD 445 Roosevelt Middle; USD 477 Ingalls Elementary and Ingalls High; USD 500 Grant Elementary and Eugene Ware Elementary; USD 502 Lewis Elementary and Lewis High; USD 509 South Haven Elementary; Sacred Heart Elementary, Emporia; Prince Of Peace Catholic School, Olathe; St. Margaret Mary Elementary, Wichita; and St James Catholic-Augusta.

? ?Approved request for a waiver of K. A. R. 91-31-24 from USD 455, Hillcrest Rural Schools, to allow it to delay conducting its Cycle II accreditation visit until November 10, 2004.

? Approved request for a waiver K.A.R. 91-31-24 from Clearwater Middle School, USD 264, which would allowed it to continue operating under the Cycle II SIP, waive conducting the Cycle III first on-site visit, and would use the 2004-2005 school term to begin the revised QPA process with its new building staff members.

? Approved request for a waiver of K. A. R. 91-31-24 from Emmett Elementary School, USD 321, to allow it to delay conducting its Cycle II accreditation visit until November 1, 2004.

? Approved request for a waiver of K.A.R. 91-31-24 from All Saints Elementary School, Catholic Diocese of Wichita, to allow it to conduct the Cycle II QPA/KNCA accreditation visit before June 30, 2005.

? Approved requests for waiver of K.A.R. 91-31-16 through 91-31-30 from the following schools to allow them to be pilot schools for the second year of the Pilot Quality Performance Accreditation System: USD 233 Olathe for Central Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Heatherstone Elementary, Northview Elementary, Regency Place Elementary, Rolling Ridge Elementary, Scarborough Elementary, Washington Elementary, Westview Elementary, Oregon Trail Jr. High, Pioneer Trail Jr High, and Santa Fe Trail Jr. High, Olathe Northwest High; USD 328 Lorraine for Quivira Heights Elementary/Jr. High, Quivira Heights High, Wilson Elementary, Wilson Jr. High, and Wilson High; USD 497 Lawrence for Lawrence Virtual Charter School; and Catholic Diocese of Wichita for St. Joseph Catholic School.

? Accepted the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for ?New Program Approved with Stipulation? status for The University of Kansas' new program, Transition to Teaching, through June 30, 2006; "Approved with Stipulation" status for two of Wichita State University's programs, Elementary (I, K-6) and Adaptive Special Education (A, K-6, 5-8, 6-12, PreK-12), through June 30, 2005; and ?Approved? status for the rest of Wichita State University's programs through December 31, 2007.

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? Accepted the recommendation of Commissioner Tompkins to renew Visiting Scholar certificates valid for the 2004-2005 school year for: Richard Harrison to be employed as a behavior analyst for the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center; and Daniel Botz to teach part-time one advanced placement

economics class each semester in the Salina high schools, with the fall semester course taught at Salina High School South and the spring semester course at Salina High School Central.

? Approved 2004-2005 Community Service Programs for Expelled or Suspended Students for: Chase County, USD 284, \$48,490; Durham-Hillsboro-Lehigh, USD 410, \$52,634; Hugoton, USD 210, \$23,962; Leavenworth, USD 453, \$130,070; Peabody-Burns, USD 398, \$53,736; and Shawnee County Family Resource Center, \$86,500.

? Approved 2004-2005 Comprehensive School Reform Grants as follows: *Year One: Comprehensive School Reform Grants, Title I, Part F*: USD 259, Wichita -? Kelly Elementary, \$95,000, Lawrence Elementary, \$99,952, and Pleasant Valley Middle School, \$105,367; USD 290, Ottawa, Hawthorne Elementary \$58,064; USD 453, Leavenworth, Nettie Harnett Elementary, \$74,894; USD 470, Arkansas City, Roosevelt Elementary, \$75,000; USD 500, Kansas City Central Middle School, \$67,495; *Year One: Comprehensive School Reform Grants, Title V, Fund for the Improvement of Education*: USD 259, Wichita, West High School, \$98,911; USD 435, Abilene, Abilene High School, \$147,500; USD 470, Arkansas City, C-4 Elementary, \$50,000; USD 500, Kansas City, Schalgle High School, \$100,000; USD 501, and Topeka, Chase Middle School, \$118,986; *Year Two: Comprehensive School Reform Grants, Title I, Part F*: USD 258, Humboldt, Humboldt Elementary, \$70,646; USD 259, Wichita, White Elementary, \$71,800; USD 330, Wabaunsee East, Mission Valley East Elementary, \$85,000; USD 380, Vermillion, Centralia Elementary, \$69,505; and USD 475, Geary County, Lincoln Elementary \$50,000; *Year Three: Comprehensive School Reform Grants, Title I, Part F*: USD 101, Erie-St. Paul, Galesburg Elementary, \$61,939; USD 361, Anthony-Harper, Anthony Elementary, \$52,500; and USD 428, Great Bend, Park Elementary, \$55,000; *Year Three: Comprehensive School Reform Grants, Title V, Fund for the Improvement of Education*: USD 259, Wichita, Hamilton Middle School, \$61,640; and USD 346, Jayhawk, Blue Mound Elementary, \$64,600; with funding for USD 500, Central Middle School and Schalgle High School contingent upon submission of clarifying information.

? Approved 2004-2005 Homeless Children/Youth Program grants for USD 233, Olathe, \$35,080; USD 259, Wichita, \$120,452; USD 261, Haysville, \$19,404; USD 457, Garden City, \$9,473; USD 475, Geary County, \$13,860; USD 500, Kansas City, \$72,045; and USD 501, Topeka, \$53,872.

? Issued an FY 2004 commercial driver training school license to North East Kansas Driving School, LLC, Atchison, KS.

? Issued orders granting the applications from USD 290, Ottawa, and USD 417, Council Grove, for authority to hold elections on the question of issuing bonds over the school districts? bond debt limitation.

Contracts Approved:

The State Board authorized the *Commissioner of Education* to:

? negotiate and continue a contract with the KU Center for Research, Inc., to continue to assist in the management of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Program, with the contract amount not to exceed \$217,860; and

? negotiate and enter into a contract with Continuing Education Media Productions to videotape and edit

Board Chairman ? Appointment of Delegate and Alternate to the NASBE Annual Meeting

Chairman Waugh asked for any volunteers to attend the NASBE Annual Meeting and serve as a delegate or alternate delegate representing the Board.? Because Mr. Willard would be attending a Policy Symposium on Abstinence Education and HIV Prevention in conjunction with the meeting, Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that he be appointed as the Board delegate and alternate.? The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Mrs. Gamble reported that she had attended the legislative interim committee meeting on school finance.? Because the committee would be studying the issue of suitability, she asked that the Board?s representatives delineate to the committee the Board?s definition of a suitable education.

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles reported that he had appeared before the interim school finance committee and had also spoken with Representative O?Neal who had expressed interest in pursuing the bill defining suitability that he had sponsored during the last legislative session.? Mr. Biles also provided an update on the school finance lawsuit.? Mr. Bacon moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the Board accept Mr. Biles? report and that his fees for services and expenses for July be paid as presented.? The motion carried 9-0.

Other Board Member Reports

Dr. Wagon reported on the Education Commission of the States Annual Policy Forum and several of the sessions he had attended.? He also mentioned a problem associated with nominations for Milken Teacher of the Year.? He indicated that nominations were carried over from one year to the next and that it was important for districts to keep information on their nominees updated yearly.

Mr. Bacon asked for an update on the scoring errors on the Education Testing Service?s Principles of Learning and Teaching assessment.? Commissioner Tompkins indicated Kansas had issued provisional licenses for those who had job offers and would not require them to pay another license fee.

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Requests for Future Agenda Items

There were no requests for future agenda items.

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Policy Committee Report

In order to not keep Congressman Moore waiting, the report from the Policy Committee was postponed until later in the meeting.

Mr. Wyatt arrived at 9:30 am.

CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN MOORE

Chairman Waugh welcomed Third District Congressman Dennis Moore who had accepted the invitation to visit with the Board.? After Board members introduced themselves, Congressman Moore shared his views about some of the education issues yet to be resolved by Congress.? He specifically mentioned the need for the Congress to fully fund its share of IDEA and NCLB.? He noted that he had introduced a resolution that

would require adequate funding to help states implement the requirements of NCLB. Congressman Moore also responded to questions from Board members who also shared their perceptions concerning problems in educational policy that needed to be addressed at the federal level. Congressman Moore requested that a letter be sent to him delineating concerns with NCLB that the Board would like to have addressed.? He indicated he would share it with his colleagues in Washington and work on addressing those concerns.

The Board took a break from 10:30 to 10:36 a.m.

Dr. Wagon moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the agenda be suspended and that the Policy Committee Report and the Report on Methods of Election be moved to the end of the meeting so the meeting could proceed with the panel presentation and discussion of the impact of race and poverty on student achievement.? The motion carried 7-0, with Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Gamble, and Mr. Willard temporarily out of the room.

DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT OF RACE AND POVERTY ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Assistant Commissioner (Pochowski) Posny presented an overview of factors contributing to the achievement gap, noting that socioeconomic status affects it more than any other, and that race and ethnicity are highly associated with socioeconomic status.? She added that the gap between the academic achievement of students who are disadvantaged--and black or Hispanic--and students of affluence is widening.? She also shared research about how to improve education for low-income students.? What works, she pointed out, included: early intervention; high expectations for all students; curriculum aligned to standards; decisions based on data that result in changes in instruction; frequent and ongoing monitoring of pupil progress; use of research-based approaches to professional development; active engagement of parents and community partners; and a system-wide approach to improving instruction.

Four district superintendents had been invited to assist the State Board in learning more about closing the gap in Kansas and to share their efforts to raise the bar while closing the achievement gap. Winston Brooks, USD 259, Wichita, whose district accounts for 20% of students in Kansas, discussed problems with the Center for Education Testing and Evaluation with the current round of assessments.? Regarding efforts in Wichita to close the achievement gap, he spoke about collaborations with industry in the current school year and shared five-year trend data for the state reading and math assessments.? He pointed out that gains are being made in every area and that the gap is closing.

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Gloria Davis, USD 443, Dodge City, discussed the shifts in demographics in the district over the last ten years, with Caucasian students dropping from 61% in the 1993-1994 school year to 41% in 2002-2003; Hispanics students rising from 32% in 1993-1994 to 53% in 2002-2003, African-American students staying at about 3%, a slight drop in Asian students from 4% to 2%, and an increase in American Indians students to 1%.? 66% of all students in the district are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, with 85% of minorities eligible. Additionally, Ms. Davis reported, in addition to more than 500 kindergarteners this year, Dodge City had 900 births last year. Ms. Davis noted that it was important to address the learning needs of the current population of students in the district and that strategies used ten years ago were no longer effective.

To that end, the district has developed a three- to five-year academic enhancement plan which focuses on reading, mathematics, writing, diversity and technology. Key elements of the plan include: extended learning programs; all-day kindergarten; expanded summer school; an expanded early childhood program; kindergarten Jump Start classes; newcomers classrooms; instructional specialists; class size reduction initiatives; and staff development which includes tuition support for those enrolling in master's programs for math, reading specialists and ESL endorsements, and educational opportunities for instructional paraprofessionals.?

Tony Sawyer, USD 501, Topeka, reported on increases in scores in district schools and shared some of the strategies being undertaken to deal with the achievement gap.? He indicated that the district has consulted with the Education Trust and has begun a program with district administrator that focuses on professional development strategies and involvement in schools and the classroom.? He noted that it was important to have teaching strategies that incorporate previous learning; curriculum aligned with standards; and adequate learning time.? The district has been looking at how the high schools are structured to develop classes that will allow struggling students to have the time and attention they need, providing double class periods and tutoring if needed.? Mr. Sawyer reported that the effort will be extended to the middle schools next year.? He also stressed the importance of making learning challenging and exciting, as well as the need to reward students and teachers for achievement.? The need for communities to acknowledge teachers and administrators and provide them with adequate pay was also cited.

Ray Daniels, USD 500, Kansas City, shared demographic information about the district and discussed the impact of economic flight on the district's current socioeconomic configuration.? He indicated that district wide reform had been implemented four years ago with a focus on three areas: teaching and learning; continuous improvement; and building relationships.? He reported that it was important for children to believe that someone cares about them and staff had been challenged to change how they relate to students academically and socially.? Small learning communities have been a key strategy and small teams with the same teacher for four years have been established in high school and a similar strategy has been implemented in middle school.? He indicated that all teachers loop, with students and teachers benefiting.? A family advocate system has also been put in place so that each child has an advocate and the teacher meets with the family for one hour each semester.? Mr. Daniels also mentioned the concept of collective responsibility in the district, where every adult in the district is responsible for every child and the adults take care of each other.? Mr. Daniels shared assessment results for the last four years and shared some of the lessons that had been learned.? He noted that districts need focus and vision; leadership at all levels, with instructional coaches in every building; consistent, ongoing staff development; persistence; and relationships with parents and students.? He added that for the past seven years school has been dismissed two hours early every Wednesday to provide staff with the time to work on teaching strategies for every child.? He also added there are no quick fixes or silver bullets.

Board members thanked the panel participants and discussed specific problems and strategies with them.??

