KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2000

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Voth called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2000, 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	Linda Holloway
John Bacon	I.B. "Sonny" Rundell
Mary Douglass Brown	Harold Voth
Val DeFever	Bill Wagnon
Scott Hill	Janet Waugh

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Voth asked for approval of the agenda. Mrs. DeFever asked that item 14 i., recommendations from the Certification Review Committee, be pulled from the consent agenda. Mr. Bacon asked that item 14 p., a contract with Dr. Whelan to investigate special education complaints, be pulled. Mr. Voth indicated that approval of the salary schedule for the Kansas State School for Blind and Kansas State School for the Deaf should be moved from the Wednesday agenda and added as a sub-item under 12, legislative matters. Mrs. Holloway asked that item 14 s., FY 2001 Carl Perkins Tech Prep continuation grants, be pulled. There being no further changes, Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Hill, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Voth asked for approval of the minutes of the special Board meeting April 5th and the Board meeting in Troy, KS April 10th -12th. Mrs. Brown noted that her name should be removed from the list

of Board members who attended the Doniphan County tour on April 10th. Additionally, Mr. Voth indicated that Dr. Wagnon?s name should be added to those in attendance on April 11th and Mr. Rundell?s name be removed. There being no further corrections, Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis introduced Rhonda Holt, Physical Education Teacher, from Peterson Elementary in Wichita, and the recipient of the 2000 National Physical Educator of the Year Award presented by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Ms. Holt discussed the increase in health problems such as obesity and diabetes which are occurring in children at earlier ages because of the lack of regular physical activity. She also provided the Board with statistics on the decline in participation in physical activities and physical education as age and grade increase. She noted the benefits to the brain from increased physical activity and increased school performance in children who exercise regularly. Ms. Holt stressed the importance of teaching to the national physical education standards in order to help students become healthy, productive individuals for the rest of their lives, noting that the standards helped them learn to make healthy choices and understand the value of an active lifestyle. Ms. Holt also described the Physical Dimensions, Physical Focus, Physical Essentials and Physical Connections curriculum, the development of which was funded by the Kansas Health Foundation. She noted that once Physical Essentials is in place for elementary students, Kansas will be the only state in the nation to have a comprehensive physical education curriculum for students from pre-kindergarten through college. Ms. Holt answered questions about the award process. Dr. Wagnon suggested that Ms. Holt?s comments be included in the Department newsletter and that Ms. Holt and other health educators advise the Board about health and fitness issues of students. At the conclusion of her presentation she was given a certificate of recognition from the Board and stood for pictures with the Chairman and the Commissioner.

HORATIO ALGER AWARD RECIPIENT

Deputy Commissioner Dennis introduced Amber Sheeley, a senior from Atchison County Community High School, Effingham, and recent recipient of a $10,000 Horatio Alger National Scholarship Award. Mr. Dennis reported that the Horatio Alger scholarships are awarded to students with critical financial need who have overcome challenges, excelled in academics, co-curricular activities and community service, and have exhibited the potential and aspiration to make a unique contribution to society. Ms. Sheeley reported on the scholarship application process and her trip to Washington, D.C. where she met with other Horatio Alger Scholarship recipients. Ms. Sheeley stated that she believed that in order to

receive this or any other scholarship, one must set one?s goals high and strive to reach them and that no matter where a person comes from they can achieve what they set their mind to. Ms. Sheeley indicated she would be attending Northwest Missouri State University with the intention of going into the teaching field. In response to a Board member question, she stated that the adverse circumstances she overcame occurred when her mother was injured in 1996 and she took over the care of her six younger brothers and sisters for a month and a half while maintaining her grades in school and continuing her participation in extracurricular activities. Ms. Sheeley reported she participated in volleyball, basketball, track and softball, 4-H, church activities and belonged to several school clubs. She introduced Mr. Donaldson, her high school principal, whom she credited with helping her meet the scholarship application deadlines, and other members of the district who were present. At the conclusion of her presentation she was given a certificate of recognition from the Board and stood for pictures with the Chairman and the Commissioner.

CITIZENS? OPEN FORUM

Chairman Voth opened the citizens? open forum at 10:30 a.m. Addressing the Board were: Peg Dunlap, representing Kansas NEA, Topeka; Thair Whitmer, Lawrence; Jack Krebs, representing the Kansas Citizens for Science, Lawrence; Charles Volland, Junction City; and Dr. Sharon Freden, KSDE. Mr. Volland was representing the Confidence in Public Education Task Force and was in attendance to present Commissioner Tompkins with the Friends of Education ABC award. Dr. Freden also presented the Commissioner with a token of appreciation from the staff of the Department. Chairman Voth declared the open forum closed at 10:55 a.m.

The Board took a short break until 11:08 a.m.

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS FOR EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT, SCHOOL, AND READING EXCELLENCE

Dr. Sharon Freden, Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services, presented the recommendations for recognition programs for school, student and reading excellence. Recognition categories included: exceptional student performance and reading excellence; reading excellence in students based on improvement; teachers for excellence in teaching reading; and exceptional school performance and reading excellence in schools. Dr. Freden pointed out that suggestions made by Board members at the April meeting had been incorporated into the summary of the action which staff would take upon the Board?s adoption of the recommendations. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the Board approve the recommendations for programs recognizing student and school performance and reading excellence. The motion carried. Discussion included the timeline for implementation of the recommendations. Dr. Freden indicated that funding for the scholarship programs would have to be included in the Board?s FY 2002 budget request and that, if approved, the earliest time for implementation would be the 2002-2003 school year. She indicated that the other recognition programs could begin this year.

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REPORT ON CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS FOR LOW ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Sherrill Martinez, Director, Planning and Research, presented a report on causes and solutions for low achievement, the first report to the Board from its research agenda. She indicated that all students need a caring adult and caring, competent teachers. She noted that though there are many programs available, success depends on tailoring programs to each child and the local situation. Dr. Martinez reviewed the major policy areas that need to be addressed to ensure effective schools and learning experiences for all students. Those areas include: 1) expanded early childhood learning opportunities for children and their families and programs that include preschool and all-day kindergarten; 2) challenging standards and curriculum for all children; 3) appropriate measurement of standards to guide improvement efforts; 4) accountability system including student and school recognition programs; 5) increased parent and community involvement in education in building caring relationships and a safe environment; and 6) investment in principals, teachers and teaching. Dr. Martinez reviewed current initiatives in the policy areas as well as possible next steps that could be taken. Also included in the report were summaries of effective programs to address poor reading and math skills, characteristics of effective schools and school reform models. Board discussion followed about the next steps to be taken. Dr. Martinez suggested that policy implications could be used as a starting point for a Board study session for discussion and prioritization of options. Dr. Abrams stated that before the Board proceeded any further, it was important that good working definitions of low achievement and other issues be developed. It was also recommended that successful programs outside Kansas should be investigated, as well as evaluation information on reading programs such as KALL and Reading Recovery. It was noted that longitudinal data supporting the benefits of programs was very important. The expense of various programs was also discussed.

PUBLIC HEARING DATES

Proposed Amendments to Inservice Education Regulations and

Proposed Amendments to the Institutional Accreditation and Program Approval Regulations

Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the State Board set a public hearing date on the proposed inservice education regulations for August 8, 2000, at 1:30 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, in the State Board Room, and that a public hearing on the amended institutional accreditation and program approval regulations be held at 1:35 p.m., or as soon as possible thereafter, on the same

date and in the same location. The motion carried.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:56 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

STAFF COMMENTS ON PROPOSED EDUCATOR LICENSURE REGULATIONS

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed the staff responses to public comments received at the thirteen hearings that had been held across the state on the proposed educator licensure regulations. Also in attendance to answer Board member questions were Paul McNabb, Professor in Special Education at Emporia State University, Jerry Stewart, Special Education Director for USD 259, and Trudy Stegelman, representing the Learning Disabilities Association. Regarding 91-1-201, licensure level parameters, staff recommended no change in response to comments supporting distinct license level parameters for K-6, 5-8 and 9-12 in order to address the unique demands of teaching young adolescents. In discussion concerning the issue, Commissioner Tompkins expressed his concern for some of the smaller districts in the state which might experience staffing problems if there were a separate licensure level for 5-8 and 9-12, because of the limits the levels would impose on the use of the same teacher in both middle and high school classes. Commissioner Tompkins was asked for information on the percentage of students and number of buildings impacted by various scenarios for endorsement levels to address the middle and high school age ranges. He indicated that the staff recommendation was for the specialized training needed for working with middle school-aged adolescents to be imbedded in the preparation for a broader licensure level. Regarding the restricted teaching and restricted district leadership license. Board members asked

to be assured that the allowance for two one-year renewals also require a report on progress made toward completion of the applicant?s plan for full licensure. In fact, the desirability of this revision was questioned.

Based on comments from the field, the Commissioner noted that staff recommended a return to the use of adaptive and functional endorsements in special education, with content in emotional-behavioral to be included in both the adaptive and functional standards. Additional questions for Board consideration regarding special education endorsements included whether there should be separate endorsements for special education director and for special education transition teacher, neither of which was recommended by staff. Jerry Stewart, Paul McNabb, Alexa Pochowski, Team Leader of Student Support Services, and Trudy Stegelman were asked for their comments, with Stewart and McNabb indicating that a separate endorsement was not necessarily needed for a transition teacher if the special training required could be provided through professional development and additional coursework. Ms.

Stegelman indicated that the unique needs of special education students required the use of highly trained professionals. Dr. Stewart expressed concern about the lack of a recommendation for a special education director endorsement. Commissioner Tompkins indicated that for both transition teacher and special education director, special competencies would be required and those competencies could be built into the standards when district leadership standards were developed and that employment standards, developed by Student Support Services, could be used to qualify for reimbursement for individuals hired to provide transition services. The preparation necessary for special education teachers to be able to address the special learning needs of more than one disability was also discussed. There was additional discussion regarding the amount of specialized preparation required for each disability that teachers must deal with in the classroom. Dr. Stewart and Dr. McNabb spoke about how the adaptive and functional endorsements could be used to help address the educational goals of different students and that after the initial evaluation necessary to determine special education eligibility, development of the IEP should be based not on the category of the disability, but on all the educational needs of the student. In order to accomplish that goal, teachers would require more knowledge than found in just one area such as behavior disorders or learning disabilities. Dr. Stegleman, on the other hand, stated her belief that each category required more training than could be provided for a general adaptive or general functional endorsement. She suggested that perhaps a way could be developed for a teacher to train for an adaptive endorsement with credit for additional specialized training for learning or behavior disabilities, or mental retardation. This proposal was discussed by the Board and Commissioner Tompkins was asked if it was possible for a model to be developed for the Board to review that would reflect how the proposal would be accomplished. Dr. McNabb indicated that until standards were developed for the endorsements, it would be difficult to prepare such a model.

Commissioner Tompkins reported that, since national standards were available for use in developing standards, psychology should remain as a separate endorsement as requested by the field. He noted that staff recommended no change to the initial recommendation for a comprehensive social studies endorsement. Mrs. Brown stated that there were too many competencies required in the comprehensive endorsement and suggested that it be broken down to three endorsements, history, economics/ geography, and government. The recommendation to eliminate dual licenses for speech/language pathologist, school social worker and school nurse was discussed. Commissioner Tompkins noted that staff recommended the respective licensing boards be encouraged to develop or continue to offer a board certification specialty field for professionals who work in schools. Commissioner Tompkins reported that staff recommended the Board choose between one of two options for science endorsements. Option one would include endorsements for biology, chemistry, physics and earth/space science. Option two would include endorsements for earth/space science, life science and physical science. No decision was made by the Board. Commissioner Tompkins reported that because of concerns expressed by the field, staff recommended that the vocational certification regulations be extended through July, 2003, to allow time

for the development of a system to accommodate those concerns. At the end of Commissioner Tompkins? review of the recommendations, Chairman Voth called for a break at 3:39 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:55 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Fiscal Year 2001 Budget

Kansas State School for the Deaf

Superintendent Gerald Johnson reviewed the FY 2001 budget for the Kansas State School for the Deaf as approved by the legislature and its impact on FY 2001 operations. He indicated that shrinkage was increased from 4% to 5.1%, or $285,000, which would mean leaving several unfilled positions open. Although a salary increase of 2.75% had been approved for professional staff, those salaries were still below three of the surrounding school districts. He indicated that operating monies were $34,000 below current services and that the request for additional dollars to fund tuition for students at JCTEC, funding for non-Johnson County families using services of the Johnson County Mental Health Center, and funding for a technology specialist had not been approved. The capital outlay request for $103,100 had been approved allowing the school to proceed with implementation of its technology plan. All but two part-time positions had been retained and capital improvement funds approved would allow for safety and accessibility improvements in the Roberts Building, air conditioning work in the Roth Building, a roof on the swimming pool and maintenance building, and improved parking. Mr. Johnson presented a revised salary schedule for Board approval, noting that it included an increase of 2.5% granted by the legislature in the final hours of the session. Mr. Rundell moved that the Board accept the report and approve the FY 2001 salary schedule for the Kansas State School for the Deaf. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bacon and carried unanimously.

Kansas State School for the Blind

Superintendent Bill Daugherty reviewed the FY 2001 budget for the Kansas State School for the Blind as approved by the legislature and its impact on FY 2001 operations. He indicated that $25,000, half of the request for professional fees and services for speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy for IEP-mandated services, had been approved; $16,000 had been added back into the budget to reduce shrinkage from 5% to 4.5%; $78,390 had been approved from the State Institutional Building Fund to upgrade fire alarms; and $35,631 in matching funds for the Tech Lending Library had been approved. He also indicated that his quarterly report included information about a problem with water pressure to the new fire hydrant system and that the school was on a fire watch until new line could be laid. Mr. Daugherty also reported on a Senate subcommittee concern about lack of close coordination between KSSB and other state agencies concerned with the education and welfare of children. He briefly noted the ways the school does collaborate with other agencies. Mr. Rundell moved that the Board

accept the report and approve the FY 2001 salary schedule for the Kansas State School for the Deaf. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Brown and carried unanimously.

Kansas State Department of Education

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis reviewed highlights of the FY 2001 budget, based on final action of the 2000 legislature. He reported that base state aid per pupil had been increased by $50, increasing it as planned to $3,820 for FY 2001; the four-year old at-risk program was expanded by $1 million to increase services to 2,230 children; inservice education was funded at $2.6 million with a provision to transfer up to $2 million of unused FY 2000 general state aid; juvenile detention facilities were funded at the amount requested; special education funding was maintained at 85% of excess costs; and Parents as Teachers grants were increased by $772,000, with the local match reduced to 65%. Discretionary grant funding was not approved, but line item appropriations were approved to fund Agriculture in the Classroom at $30,000, the Cultural Heritage Center at $30,000, and environmental education grants at $30,000. Communities in Schools was funded at the requested level. Though not requested, $500,000 was again

appropriated for the experimental wraparound program for school violence prevention. Other programs for which money was appropriated but not requested, include $100,000 to fund relocation of the Cultural

Heritage Center in Dodge City; $50,000 to fund renovation of building in Wellington to house an aerospace simulation training center; $250,000 to expand a vision therapy project begun in 1999; and $1 million for mentor teacher grants in the 2001-2002 school year, with standards, criteria, training models, and training to be implemented during 2000-2001. The technology infrastructure program was not funded, nor were education excellence grants. Funding for mentor program grants in reading, math and language arts was reduced by $765,169 and state operations were reduced by $599,630, eliminating, among other things, funding for Kansas history materials and the second read for the 5th grade writing assessment. Added to state operations was $25,000 for mastery of basic reading skills and $68,753 to cover development expenses for the mentor teacher program.

Education Legislation

Mr. Dennis briefly provided Board members with a summary of 2000 education legislation, highlighting the legislation for the plan for mastery of basic skills and charter schools. He indicated the Board could establish the criteria for prioritizing applications. He also handed out a timetable for the development of the FY 2002 budget. Dr. Wagnon asked if the Board was going to participate in the school finance study.

Mr. Dennis gave Board members a suggested letter to present to the School Finance Task Force listing issues and options that the Board could provide specifics on when the Task Force meets in September. Board discussion followed and it was decided to continue the discussion at the Board?s Wednesday meeting. Mr. Dennis also gave Board members copies of a performance audit report on high-capacity telecommunications services provided to school districts.

ST. PETER?S CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CONDITIONAL ACCREDITATION

Dr. Steve Adams, Team Leader for School Improvement and Accreditation, and Barb Kirkegaard, Education Consultant, presented a request for conditional accreditation status for St. Peter?s Cathedral Elementary School in the Kansas City Catholic Diocese. They briefly reviewed for the Board deficiencies found at the school on which the recommendation was made. Ms. Kirkegaard also described the process that had been undertaken prior to the accreditation visit to assist the school. Mr. Hill asked that he be provided with the assessment data for the school. It was noted that the school could choose to not seek accreditation or the Board could choose not to accredit the school. Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon, that the Board approve conditional accreditation status for Kansas Catholic Diocese, St. Peter?s Cathedral Elementary School. The motion carried 9-1, with Mr. Hill voting "no".

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. DeFever had pulled from the consent agenda the item for approval of the Certification Review Committee?s recommendation. She indicated her desire for the Board to be provided in the future with additional information about alternative routes for achieving certification to which the Committee referred in its recommendations for approval. Mr. Bacon asked how the amount had been developed for the contract with Dr. Whelan for investigation of special education parent complaints. Dr. Pochowski indicated it was based on estimates of time required at $200 per day. Mrs. Holloway indicated her question about the Carl Perkins III Tech Prep continuation grants had been answered. All the items were returned to the consent agenda for approval. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the consent agenda be approved. The motion carried.

In the consent agenda, the State Board:

- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the appointment of Randy Stout to an unclassified special project Grant Writer position under the Local Consolidated Plan, effective May 1, 2000, at hourly rate of $19.40.

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- Approved school construction plans for Goddard, USD 265, (4 projects); Shawnee Mission; USD 512, (2 projects); Spearville, USD 381; Riley County Schools, USD 378; Salina, USD 305; Morris County, USD 417; Waconda, USD 272; Chapman, USD 473; Leavenworth, USD 453; Dodge City, USD 443; Nemaha Valley Schools, USD 442; Seaman Schools, USD 345; Olathe, USD 233; and Wichita, USD 259.

- Received the third quarterly reports from the Kansas State School for the Blind and the Kansas State School for the Deaf.

- Approved renewal of the Iuka Center for Excellence in Education Interlocal Agreement No. 624.

- Approved Cycle 1 accredited status for Kansas City Catholic Diocese: St. John Elementary, St. Agnes Elementary and Holy Cross Catholic School; Salina Catholic Diocese: Sacred Heart Elementary (Plainville), St. John Elementary (Beloit), St. John High School, and St. Joseph Elementary (Oakley); USD 500 Kansas City: D.D. Eisenhower Middle School; USD 345 Seaman: Seaman High School; USD 379 Clay Center: Clay Center Community Middle School; and USD 465 Winfield: Country View Elementary, Pleasant Valley Elementary, and Webster Elementary. Approved Cycle 2 accredited status for USD 231 Gardner-Edgerton-Antioch: Gardner Elementary, Gardner-Edgerton High School, and Edgerton Elementary; USD 412 Hoxie Community Schools: Hoxie Elementary and Hoxie High School; USD 457 Garden City: Garden City Sr. High School; USD 361 Anthony-Harper: Chaparral High Anthony; USD 383 Pratt: Pratt Sr. High School; USD 234 Ft. Scott: Ft. Scott Sr. High School; and USD 366 Woodson: Yates Center Elementary, Yates Center High School, and Independence Middle School.

- Approved requests for waiver of state QPA regulations for the 1999-2000 school year from districts to utilize the services of individuals to teach courses as follows: USD 253-John Lexow to teach ESL at the secondary level; USD 333-Natalie Vogt to serve as Library Media Specialist at the secondary level; USD 407-Janet Funk to serve as Library Media Specialist at the middle level; Central Kansas Cooperative in Education-Jennifer Carnes to teach Mentally Retarded at the elementary level and Mike Keith to teach Mentally Retarded at the secondary level; Cowley County Special Service Cooperative-Charlotte Gibson to teach Behavior Disorders at the elementary level; McPherson County Special Education Cooperative-Erlene Whilhite to teach Mentally Retarded at the secondary level; and the Special Services Cooperative of Wamego? Linda to teach Mentally Retarded at the secondary level. Additionally, QPA waivers were granted to allow Prairie View Special Purpose School and Southard Special Purpose School to postpone their accreditation visits to June 30, 2001, extending their accreditation for one year.

- Accepted the recommendations of the Certification Review Committee in cases 1813-1814, 1816-1823, and 1826.

- Reappointed Linda Lilja, Susan Gronquist, Shawn Kovacik, Bill Neuenswander, Karen Norton, Milt Pippenger and Barbara Palmer to their second three-year term of on the Teaching and School Administration Professional Standards Advisory Board.

- Reappointed Christy Leavings to her second three-year term of office on the Certification Review Committee.

- Reappointed Ken Petz, Elizabeth Reust, Margaret Caison and Consuelo Perry to their second three-year term of office on the Professional Practices Commission.

- Established the certification fee for FY 2000-2001 at $24.00, effective July 1, 2000.

- Approved a Parents as Teachers expansion grant for USD 497 Lawrence in the amount of $4,000.

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- Approved the funding of FY 2001 Special Education IDEA Title VI-B Continuous Improvement Projects to seventy-six local education agencies, with the total amount of the grant awards being $3,401,547.

- Approved FY 2001 Carl Perkins Tech Prep grants in the amount of $50,000 to Smith Center USD 237, Colby USD 315, Rock Creek USD 323, Hiawatha USD 415, Lyndon USD 421, Nemaha Valley USD 442, Winfield USD 465, Manhattan Area Technical College, Barton County Community College, Butler County Community College, Cloud County Community College, Hutchinson Community College, Johnson County Community College, Kansas City Kansas Community College, and Pratt Community College.

- Approved FY 2001 Carl Perkins III Competitive grants for Regional Non-Traditional Centers in the amount of $37,500 for Barton County Community College, Coffeyville Community College, Highland Community College, and North Central Kansas Education Service Center.

- Approved Carl Perkins Statewide Leadership grants for the Manhattan Area Technical College, $6,500; and Kansas State University, $5,578.

Contracts Approved:

The Superintendent of the Kansas State School for the Blind was authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Accessible Arts, Inc. for services in the arts (drama, movement, dance, visual arts, music) for Kansas individuals with disabilities with the contract amount not to exceed $150,000; and to exchange with Accessible Arts, Inc. student art services for KSSB facilities use.

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to:

- Negotiate and enter into a contract with Texas Technical University, Sowell Center for Research in Visual Impairment, to provide Braille training, with the contract amount not to exceed $61,100;

- To negotiate and enter into a contract with Dr. Richard Whelan to investigate and prepare written reports on special education parent complaints, with the contract amount not to exceed $50,000; and

- To negotiate and enter into a contract with the Center for Research and Learning, University of Kansas, for delivery of on-line teacher instruction, with the contract amount not to exceed $49,392.

RECESS

There being no further business, Chairman Voth recessed the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

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Harold Voth, Chairman Penny Plamann, Secretary

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

May 10, 2000

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Voth called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2000, 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 I.B. "Sonny" Rundell

John Bacon Harold Voth

Mary Douglass Brown Bill Wagnon

Val DeFever Janet Waugh

Linda Holloway

Mr. Hill arrived at 9:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Voth indicated that the school finance issues and options letter presented by Mr. Dennis on Tuesday would be added to the agenda after the item regarding the social studies and science assessment indicators and that the salary schedules for the Kansas State School for the Blind and the Kansas State School for the Deaf would be deleted. Mrs. Holloway moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF

Mr. Lanny Gaston, Department Director of Personnel, introduced new staff members: Kelly Kaberline, Secretary I, Kansas Office for Community Service, and Michelle Taylor, Office Assistant III, Nutrition Services.

KANSAS ELECTRONIC EMPLOYMENT BOARD (KEEB)

Dr. Pochowski, Team Leader, Student Support Services, presented background on the Kansas Electronic

Employment Board. She reported that KEEB was initiated under the responsibilities of the Comprehensive System of Personnel Development, now the State Improvement Plan, under IDEA. She indicated that because of shortages of special education teachers, recruitment and retention was a major issue. As a result, the Department sponsored a statewide technical assistance project. A recent innovation of that project is the web-based education employment board, KEEB. Dr. Pochowski introduced Dale Brown, the Recruitment and Retention project director, and Ted Gray, who works with Mr. Brown and had done much of the programming for the website. Mr. Brown demonstrated the features of the website and explained the capabilities and potential for districts and job applicants. He discussed plans to work with secondary and post-secondary institutions to do early recruitment into the education field and the addition in the near future of a careers in education section. Mr. Brown showed how districts are able to post jobs on-line through an on-line form, and how an applicant can access those postings through a search feature by geographic zone or by endorsement level and apply for opening with an on-line application, as well as submitting an application to several districts at one time. For those interested in Kansas teaching jobs, links had been created to sites about life in Kansas, including communities, and schools, universities, and newspapers with web sites. Another feature was a link to the Department of Education?s Certification site, where information about certification regulations and the certification procedure was available. Mr. Brown indicated that 60% of Kansas districts are using the site and that percentage would rise to 85% in the coming year. He also reported that 83,453 individuals had accessed the site between January and April of this year, 21,000 more than all of 1999. A job fair finder which had been added this year had proved to be very popular and Mr. Brown indicated that the section had already been accessed 15,000. The web site can be accessed at *www.kansasteachingjobs.com*.

KANSANS' ATTITUDES TOWARD EDUCATION (KATE IX)

Mr. Ted Vannocker, Director of Operations of the Jones Institute for Excellence in Education, Emporia State University, was present with Eldon Moore and Brian Schrader from the Jones Institute.
Mr. Vannocker reported that the Kansans' Attitudes Toward Education (KATE IX) study was patterned after the national Gallup poll on education, but Kansas specific and was the first to be done since 1993. Funding for this study was provided by the Kansas National Teachers Association, with a small amount provided by the Jones Institute. Eldon Moore reviewed the demographics of the respondents and reviewed the differences in KATE IX and the previous study, KATE VIII. Brian Schrader, Project Research Director, reviewed the major themes in public perception found in the KATE IX. HE reported that questions rating the quality of Kansas schools and including questions on teacher, administrator, and

quality of schools, showed a small but negative decline in public perception. Respondents perceived that teachers were not paid enough, administrators were paid too much, and that teachers needed more authority for instituting and maintaining discipline in the classroom. Additionally, respondents viewed the issue of teacher authority for discipline was one of the major solutions cited for improving the quality of schools. He reported that private schools were viewed as better than public schools and that there was public support for instituting vouchers to pay for private schools. He indicated that there was also strong support for raising new taxes for classroom improvements and to make technology more available in public schools. Extending the school year did not receive much support from respondents, nor did changing the school districts. Mr. Schrader reviewed the data tables for questions comparing responses to earlier studies, broken down by types of respondents. At the conclusion of his presentation, Commissioner Tompkins suggested that a breakdown on the responses the quality of schools by those with children in the K-12 schools and those without children in school. Board questions and discussion followed. Mr. Bacon suggested that the Department pay for a yearly study.

The Board took a brief recess from 10:15 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE ASSESSMENT INDICATORS

Dr. Steve Adams, Team Leader for School Improvement and Accreditation, presented the social studies and science standards with revisions for the indicators that had originally been marked for state assessment, indicating that the number of indicators needed to be reduced for the assessment contractor in order to produce assessments that were realistic in the length of time they would take to complete. He noted that the writing committees had been asked to prioritize those standards that represented the key concepts they wanted to have assessed. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Dr. Abrams, that the State Board accept the indicators suggested for inclusion in the science and social studies assessments. Dr. Wagnon, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, asked to divide the question between the two sets of standards. A vote on the motion to divide carried 6-4, with Dr. Abrams, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Holloway voting "no." Mrs. Waugh stated that the science standards document which had been adopted was an inferior document and therefore the standards and benchmarks would be inferior and not serve the students of Kansas well. Mrs. Brown pointed out inaccuracies in a quote at the beginning of the social studies document that needed to be corrected. The vote on the social studies indicators carried 10-0. The vote on the science indicators carried 604, with Mrs. DeFever, Mr. Rundell, Dr. Wagnon, and Mrs. Waugh voting "no."

BOARD ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL FINANCE

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis briefly updated the Board about the proviso in the special education funding bill that the Department and the school districts compute actual excess costs. He reported that staff had been developing an instrument for districts to use and that it would be sent out in July with short workshops scheduled throughout the state to assist districts in its use.

Mr. Dennis asked Board members for their input on the issues and concerns the Board would like to share with the Governor's Task Force on School Finance, noting that the first meeting of the group was May 24th. Dr. Wagnon stated he was opposed to all categorical aid including Local Option Budgets (LOBs) and correlation weighting, adding that the legislature should provide adequate per pupil funding, and that he hoped the task force would look at the issue. He noted that the addition of every new category, the legislature was moving away from statewide equitable funding. Several Board members agreed with Dr. Wagnon and discussion followed about categorical aid. Mr. Hill expressed concern for the need for low enrollment weighting for providing adequate funding to small districts, because needs were not always equal. Dr. Wagnon stated the Board should come up with a funding system based on the cost of school improvement. Discussion followed about LOBs. Mrs. DeFever noted it was important that the Board let the Task Force know of its interest in providing it with the Board's concerns about the school finance formula and possible recommendations to improve it. Mrs. DeFever, with a second by Mrs. Waugh, moved that the Board approve for inclusion in communication with the Governor's Task Force on School Finance on May 24th, the issues contained in the letter proposed by Mr. Dennis, with the addition of LOBs and possibly others that might arise from the Board's budget preparation and discussion of the issues through the summer, with a presentation to the Task Force in September. The motion carried.

STATE BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Abrams presented policy changes presented to the Board in April for Board action. They included Policy 1010, Operation of the State Board of Education, which contained changes in the manner in which the Board would conduct its business, dropping Robert's Rules of Order and adding new language; and guidelines on bond elections. Mrs. DeFever expressed her concern that the policy stated that any item on the agenda could be acted on by a motion duly made and seconded, whether the item had been designated as an action item, receive item, discussion item or information item. She indicated that she was concerned because it might not always allow the Board enough time for discussion. Mrs. DeFever also asked if passage of the revised policies would still leave the door open for possible taping of the meetings. Dr. Abrams responded that policies could be changed if the Board so desired. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the Board approve the policy changes as recommended by the Committee. The motion carried.

ELECTION OF THE KANSAS BOARD SELECTIONS FOR NASBE YEAR 2001 OFFICERS

Board members reviewed the nominees for NASBE Yea 2001 officers. Selected on the first ballot were Corine Hadley, President; Betty Preston, Vice President; and Cyrus Richardson, Central Area Director. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mr. Bacon that the names be forwarded to NASBE as the Kansas State Board of Education's vote for 2001 officers. The motion carried.

NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO AT-LARGE POSITION ON THE KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (KSHSAA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Rundell nominated Clint Scroggins of Syracuse and Mr. Bacon nominated Bill Trout of Olathe for consideration by the KSHSAA Board of Directors for election as at-large members. Mrs. DeFever moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that the Board forward the names of Mr. Scroggins and Mr. Trout as nominations for an at-large position on the KSHSAA Board of Directors. The motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles reviewed his recent activity on behalf of the Board, including recent activity on the state and federal school finance litigation. He also reported on the special education appeal, indicating that the U. S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals had affirmed dismissal of Commissioner Tompkins and the State Board as defendants in the case. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Holloway, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for April be paid as presented. The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Mrs. DeFever reported on her attendance at the legislative wrap-up session.

Commissioner

Commissioner Tompkins had Dr. Freden report on the external assessment reviewers meeting which would be held at the Embassy Suites in Overland Park, 10601 Metcalf, June 8th and 9th. She said the agenda had not been determined yet and asked Board members for input on the agenda for their discussion with the reviewers from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on June 9th. Dr. Tompkins reviewed the process that will be used for selecting members of the Steering Committee for the School Accreditation Study. He indicated the committee would meet four times over the summer and it would be very important that whoever was nominated be willing to attend all four meetings. He also briefly reviewed the process that would be used to find a replacement for Gerald Johnson, who is retiring as the Superintendent at the Kansas State School for the Deaf.

Other Board Member Reports

Mrs. DeFever spoke briefly about several meetings she had recently attended, including the most recent Educate America Act-Goals 2000 meeting in Salina. She reported she had also attended a KASB regional meeting and a care-givers appreciation workshop, where information on early childhood learning and nutrition were highlighted.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Members reviewed the composite travel budget. Dr. Wagnon asked to add a meeting with a parents' group in Topeka, May 16, the Hiawatha budget workshop May 30th, and a new superintendents' workshop on June 12th in Emporia. Dr. Abrams asked that a meeting with special education directors in Derby, April 24th be added. Mrs. DeFever asked to add the NASBE Governmental Affairs meeting in Washington, June 16-17th be added, as well as the meeting with the external reviewers on June 9. Mr. Bacon asked that Pomona Middle School graduation actives on May 16th be added. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the travel requests be approved as amended. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Voth asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mrs. Holloway, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried and Chairman Voth adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Harold Voth, Chairman Penny Plamann, Secretary