

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2000

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Voth called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 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 reported that staff had requested that item 15 b. be pulled from the consent agenda. Mrs. Brown asked that consent agenda item 15 j., concerning recommendations from the Evaluation Review Committee, be pulled for further information. There being no further changes, Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairman Voth asked for approval of the minutes of the January, 2000 meeting. Mrs. Brown asked that the minutes be corrected to indicate the critique on the 1998 state communication arts standards she handed out to Board members at the January meeting had come from Dr. Sandra Stotsky, Philosophy of Education Research Center, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Mrs. DeFever moved, with a second by Mrs. Holloway, that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Mr. Lanny Gaston, Director of Personnel, introduced new Kansas Department of Education staff: Carrie Conley, Secretary I, Student Support Services; Crystal Davis; Education Program Consultant, Student Support Services; Deborah Hewitt and Renee Wohletz, both in a Secretary I position in School Improvement and Accreditation; and Mende Barnett, Secretary I, Technical Education. Unable to be present, but mentioned by Mr. Gaston were Corine Frankland, Education Program Consultant, Student Support Services; Linda Rowzer, Office Assistant III, Personnel/Agency Budgeting and Program Accounting; and Allison Wolters and Karen Shade, School Food Service Consultants, Nutrition Services.

QUARTERLY REPORTS AND BUDGET APPEAL UPDATES

Kansas State School for the Blind (KSSB)

Superintendent Bill Daugherty reviewed activities at the Kansas State School for the Blind, including the Oregon Trail project and the National Council on the Humanities award; receipt of the Braille Literacy Award by KSSB student Laridda Williams; the boys' track team conference title; and a visit by Dr. Sally Mangold, noted Braille expert, whose Braille tutorial will be piloted by the school. Mr. Daugherty also gave an update on the school's FY 2000 and FY 2001 budget appeal.

Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD)

Superintendent Gerald Johnson reported that this is KSSD's 140th year of operation. He briefly reviewed student census information and called on Terry Lanning to give the Board a status report on recommendations regarding policies and procedures for the residential program made by the Review Committee. Mr. Johnson also gave an update on the school's FY 2000 and FY 2001 budget appeal.

Page 2

MINUTES

February 8, 2000

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Voth declared the Citizen's Open Forum open at 10:28 a.m. Appearing to speak before the Board were Dr. David Johnson, Overland Park, representing the Unitarian Universalist Church; Kristin Brumm, Lawrence; Jack Krebs, Lawrence, representing Kansas Citizens for Science; John Van Kappel, Leawood; and Debbie Nuss, Manhattan. Chairman Voth declared the open forum closed at 10:45 a.m. and called for a break until 10:55 a.m.

Mr. Hill left the meeting.

REPORTS FROM CONDITIONALLY ACCREDITED SCHOOLS**Dighton High School**

Dr. Steve Adams, Team Leader, School Improvement and Accreditation, introduced representatives from Dighton High School, USD 482, who were present to report on the corrective action plan which had been implemented as a result of the high school's Cycle I conditional accreditation. Dr. Adams also introduced Roger Timken, Principal of Dighton High School. Angie Lawrence was present to report on staff development; monthly staff analysis of data; and reading comprehension and problem solving strategies. Susan Irwin discussed parent and recent graduate surveys on the effectiveness of the school and its academic standards. Kenroy Wilson reported on the action plan to improve problem solving across all curriculum areas. Jesse Adcock reported on strategies to improve reading comprehension and Leonard Rodenbur reported on future plans to continue the improvement process, noting that all faculty members were working together and served on either the reading or mathematics committees.

Sunset Elementary

Jan Erickson, Education Program Consultant, School Improvement and Accreditation, introduced representatives from Sunset Elementary, USD 305, who were present to report on the corrective action plan developed as a result of the elementary school's Cycle I conditional accreditation. She also introduced other school staff who were present. Kendra McNeal and Bernice Goodwin, QPA and Site Council Chair and Co-Chair reported on the steps taken to address the lack of the use of data by staff and lack of staff involvement in the QPA process. Mathematics Co-Chairs, Sue Blakey and Laura Tiffany, reported on the corrective action plan for mathematics that was implemented in the Fall of 1998. Rachel Lorsch and Melinda Gray reported on reading strategies and associated staff development. Jeannie Hrabec and Debbie Webb reported on writing strategies.

Kristy Jones, Education Program Consultant, School Improvement and Accreditation, introduced representatives from Crest High School, USD 479, who presented a report on the corrective action plan developed as a result of the high school's Cycle I conditional accreditation. She also introduced other members of the district and school staff who were present. Wanda Weldon reported on the school's self-evaluation process and the use of data for instructional decisions. Chris Hopper reported on the action steps taken by the school, including evaluation of instruction and strategies, and results-based staff development. Keith Mambeck reported on data assessment, interpretation and evaluation training, and the use of data in the identification of inequities, measurement of achievement and modification of strategies.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Hill was present for the afternoon session.

MINUTES

February 8, 2000

PUBLIC HEARING**Special Education Regulations - K.A.R. 91-40-1 through 91-40-53**

Chairman Voth opened the public hearing on proposed special education regulations at 1:30 p.m.. Those appearing before the Board to present comments were: Cynthia Kelly, Topeka, Kansas Association of School Boards; Jane Hanson, Topeka, Learning Disability Association of Kansas member; Les Ganninger, Overland Park; Karl D. Hockenbarger, Topeka, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Health Care Policy; Trudy Stegelman, Topeka, President of Learning Disabilities Association of Kansas; C. William Anderson, Jr., Topeka, Kansas/Western Missouri Branch of the International Dyslexia Association; Angie Schreiber, Emporia; Mary Kay Culp, Lenexa, Kansas Catholic Conference; Peg Dunlap, Topeka, Kansas NEA; Sue Stacey, McPherson, Special Education Advisory Committee; Bonni Pennie, Topeka, Families Together, Inc.; Jackie Richardson, Topeka, Kansas Association of School Psychologists; Joe Swalwell, Learning Disability Association of Kansas member; Lorrie Wolf, Ft. Riley, Kansas/Western Missouri Branch of the International Dyslexia Association; and Jim Germer, Topeka, Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. Chairman Voth closed the hearing at 2:35 p.m.

The Board took a break until 2:45 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF KANSAS PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis introduced Kansas exemplary school principals who were present to address the Board. First to speak was Mr. John Geuy, Principal of Buhler Elementary, USD 313, and the 1999 Kansas Distinguished Elementary Principal. Mr. Geuy shared some of his philosophy about being a good principal and noted the importance of several qualities which included listening to students and having an open door policy; allowing teachers to teach and encouraging the very best from teachers and students; leading by example and being a visible, involved leader; communicating with staff, students, parents and the community; helping all students to be successful; and being a risk-taker when looking at strategies to improve student learning.

Dr. Donna Severance, Principal, of the Sumner Academy of Arts and Science in Kansas City, Kansas, had been honored as the 1999 MetLife Secondary Principal of the Year. She shared insights about what makes a good principal and spoke of the need to encourage continued staff development for leadership and teachers, the importance of interpersonal skills and the ability to listen to others, the need to be receptive to new ideas, the necessity of a clear vision and the ability to communicate it to others, involvement in professional organizations and the importance of networking, and to always remember that students are the reason for all decisions that are made.

Mr. Stephen Flear, Principal of Spring Hill Middle School, had been recognized as the 1999 Kansas Middle School Principal of the Year. Mr. Flear indicated how important it was to a principal to have a good support system; to be able to take risks to accomplish school improvement and to have good communication to foster good home and school relationships. Mr. Flear reported on strategies in his school to maintain a good school climate that fostered student involvement. Those strategies included math, vocal and band competitions, no-cut basketball, frequent monitoring of student school progress and weekly eligibility checks; maintaining a safe and orderly environment, and having high expectations of students.

Board questions and discussion that followed addressed the issue of recruiting building principals and teacher certification. Certificates of appreciation were given to the three principals by the Chairman and Commissioner with a brief time for picture taking.

Page 4

MINUTES

February 8, 2000

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION STATE PLAN, FY 2001-2004

Dr. Merlyne Hines Starr, Team Leader, Technical Education, presented the Vocational Education State Plan, FY 2001-2004, which is required for submittal to the U.S. Department of Education under provisions of the 1998 Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act. Dr. Starr and Commissioner Tompkins answered questions about the distribution and administration of the funds since the transfer of the community colleges to the Board of Regents in 1999.

PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Representative Ralph Tanner, Chairman of the House Education Committee was present to address the Board concerning education issues under consideration by his committee, as well as other matters. Representative Tanner handed out several documents for the Board to read at their leisure. He indicated that education reform measures before the House of particular interest to him included: funding for early childhood programs including all-day kindergarten for at-risk children and a half-day early learning program for at-risk four-year-olds; literacy by third grade in reading, writing and mathematics, and a pilot voucher program for at-risk students; improvements in teacher performance including mentor programs for first year teachers, funding to help defray the cost and a salary incentive for National Board certification for teachers, and financial assistance for teachers in training to go into teaching in hard to fill subject areas; competency exams for licensing and recertification, and FBI background checks of all new teachers; and teacher technology training at the training institution level. Representative Tanner indicated that he believed additional areas that needed to be addressed included improvement in teacher performance and accountability and providing qualified teachers in hard to fill

geographical areas. Representative Tanner expressed concern about what he believed were current shortcomings in current teacher preparation programs and of many teachers in the classroom. Those concerns included a lack of training in general knowledge; inadequate training in a teacher's major field; teachers teaching out of their field; the growth of the curriculum; the blurring of disciplines or competencies; and poor teacher competence in technology. In the Board discussion that followed, Representative Tanner was asked how the Board should work with the legislature to get its proposals supported. He suggested more communication to find common ground and shared goals. Also discussed was how to address the problem of demanding more and longer training of teachers in teacher preparation programs for no increase in compensation once hired.

Dr. Wagon left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Kansas Department of Education

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis reviewed the current status of FY 2000 and FY 2001 budgets. He also reported on concerns expressed by a number of school districts and interlocals about school districts being placed in a separate group by the Health Care Commission in the future. He presented a proposed motion recommending that school districts remain in the pool that the Board might want to adopt and forward to the Health Care Commission. After discussion of the pro's and con's of adopting such a motion at the current meeting, Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the Board forward a statement in support of retaining the option of unified school districts and interlocals to participate as a part of the state health insurance group and that the school groups not be made a separate group unless health insurance premiums for them would be no greater than the state rates. The motion carried on a vote of 8-1 with Mr. Rundell voting "no".

Mr. Dennis reviewed the status of education-related bills and answered Board questions.

Page 5

MINUTES

February 8, 2000

CONTRACT FOR EXTERNAL REVIEW OF REPHRASED KANSAS SCIENCE STANDARDS

Mr. Ron Nitcher, Team Leader, Agency Budgeting and Program Accounting, explained the negotiated procurement process that was used by the negotiated procurement committee which included Mrs. Waugh and Mrs. Holloway in selecting the contractor to recommend to the Board for performance of an external review of the rephrased Kansas science standards. Board discussion followed about the process and Mr. Nitcher answered questions. He indicated there was interest within the Department to work with

the Department of Administration and the legislature to find an alternate method for the Board to use in contracting for services such as the external review. Also discussed was the tight timeline in place which required that the review of the standards be completed by the first week of March in order to have time to complete the additional work necessary for the implementation of the assessment in the Spring of 2001. The question was raised that allowed the Board time to respond to recommended changes. Mrs. DeFever stated the Board should not by-pass the process for the sake of the timeline and doing so would affect its credibility. Mr. Hill stated that the standards were already in place and suggested that the Department go forward with development of the assessment of the standards in their current form with an external review performed as time allowed after a new contracting process was in place. He stated he was uncomfortable with having such a short time to review possible changes which would have to be acted on at the March Board meeting. Mrs. Waugh noted that was similar to how the science standards were originally adopted in August. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the Board accept the recommendation of Mrs. Holloway and Mrs. Waugh, and approve the contract with StandardsWorks for an external review of the science standards with the contract amount not to exceed \$8,850. Additional discussion followed and Mr. Dennis explained, when asked, that money for the contract would come from either the state general fund for testing or from the consolidated administrative pool for Title I. The motion failed on a vote of 4-5, with Mrs. Holloway, Dr. Abrams, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Voth voting "no".

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Brown shared her concerns about the approval recommended by the Evaluation Review Committee of a new program in middle level social studies at Pittsburg State University. Of particular concern were the two weaknesses cited which stated the lack of evidence that students would acquire knowledge of the structure and operation of Kansas government or would acquire knowledge of the comparative political and economic systems and their relationships to those characteristics of the United State. Board discussion followed and Mr. Ken Bungert, Team Leader, Certification and Teacher Education, was asked to explain the review process for new programs and the implications of weaknesses cited in the approval process. After further discussion, Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Brown, that the item be tabled until the March meeting and that the Board have a presentation on the item by a member of the Evaluation Review Committee at that time. The motion carried.

Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mr. Hill, that the consent agenda be adopted with the exception of the item on the new program in middle level social studies at Pittsburg State University. The motion carried.

- In the consent agenda, the State Board:
- Received the monthly personnel report.
- Confirmed the appointment of Carla Malmstrom to an unclassified special projects Secretary I position under the Reading Excellence Act Grant, effective January 24, 2000, at a biweekly pay rate of \$644.80.
- Approved school construction plans for USD 229 Blue Valley (4 projects); Wichita Independent School; USD 497 Lawrence (3 projects); USD 480 Liberal; USD 202 Turner-Kansas City; USD

489 Hays; Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Overland Park; Barclay College, Haviland; USD 389 Eureka; USD 385 Andover; Fort Scott Community College; Hesston College; USD 373 Newton; Trinity Catholic High School, Hutchinson; USD 231, Gardner-Edgerton-Antioch; and Central Christian Church, Wichita.

- Approved a modification of the High Plains Educational Cooperative Interlocal Agreement.
- Approved Cycle I accredited status for Wichita Catholic Diocese: Christ the King Catholic Elementary; USD 232 DeSoto: Clear Creek Elementary; USD 252 Southern Lyon County: Hartford High School; USD 312 Haven Public Schools: Haven Elementary; and USD 361 Anthony-Harper: Anthony Elementary.
- 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 210 – Kristina Johnson to teach secondary Technology Education; USD 230 – Marsha Lytle to serve as Library Media Specialist at the secondary level; USD 259 – Suzanna Kay Bloir-Pappan to teach elementary Interrelated Special Education and Rohini Vieth to teach elementary Gifted Education; Learning Cooperative of North Central Kansas USD 233 – Elizabeth Murray to teach secondary Interrelated Special Education; USD 498 – Tiffany York to teach secondary Spanish; USD 502 – Melody Davies to serve as K-12 Library Media Specialist; Brown County Kansas Special Education Cooperative Interlocal #615 – Wesley Miller to teach secondary Gifted Education; Doniphan County Education Cooperative #616 - Amy Allen to teach secondary Interrelated Special Education; High Plains Educational Cooperative #611 – Giselle Fleming to teach elementary Learning Disabilities; Tri-County Special Education Interlocal #607 – Shelly Charter to teach elementary Gifted Education; and USD 347 – Tanya Herrmann to substitute teach for a 40-day assignment. Additionally, a QPA waiver was granted to USD 259 Wells Alternative Middle School to allow them to extend their accreditation cycle for one year.
- Approved the inservice education plans from Wellington USD 353, and Haviland USD 474.
- Received the summary of the September 20, 1999 Quality Performance Accreditation Advisory Council Meeting.
- Approved a Visiting Scholar Certificate for Mark Ternes to allow him to teach secondary biology and general science for USD 259.
- Accepted the recommendation of the Evaluation Review Committee for Wichita State University: "*approved with stipulation*" status through December 31, 2002 for Library Media (G, K-12).
- Approved Parents as Teachers expansion grants for USD 209 Moscow in the amount of \$409 and USD 232 DeSoto in the amount of \$2,667.
- Received a report on the 1998-1999 Even Start Family Literacy Program.
- Received a summary of the 1998-1999 Education Excellence grant program.
- Approved Carl Perkins Statewide Leadership grants for Development of an Innovative Curriculum Model, Washburn University, in the amount of \$7,500; and Professional Development for Marketing, Emporia University, in the amount of \$5,600.
- Issued an order for Wellington USD 353, Pratt USD 382, and Atchison USD 409, granting them authority to hold an election on the question of the districts' general bond debt limitation.
- Approved the FY 2000 Summer Food Service Program State Plan.

Page 7

MINUTES

February 8, 2000

Contracts Approved:

The Commissioner of Education was authorized to negotiate and continue a contract with:

- Families Together, Inc. to coordinate year-one consortium of family-centered practice training, with the contract amount not to exceed \$44,5000; and
- Kansas State Department of Health and Environment for the purpose of completing on-site inspections of meal preparation and service sites that will be utilized in the Summer Food Service Program, with the contract amount not to exceed \$10,500.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. DeFever moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell that the Board recess into Executive Session for a period of ten minutes for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of nonelected personnel so the privacy, confidentiality and other rights of such personnel would not be violated, and that the open meeting of the Board resume in the Board Room at 6:33 p.m. The motion carried. At 6:33 p.m. the open meeting resumed.

RECESS

There being no further business, Chairman Voth recessed the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Harold Voth, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2000

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Voth called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 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 THE AGENDA

Chairman Voth asked for approval of the agenda. Dr. Abrams asked that a new item, informational debates on the science standards, be added to the agenda prior to Board reports. Mr. Hill moved, with a second by Mrs. Holloway, that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried.

Mr. Hill left the meeting.

1998-1999 KANSAS CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Mrs. Judi Miller, Coordinator, Consolidated and Supplemental Programs, introduced Dr. Phyllis Kelly to present the Kansas Charter School Accountability Report for 1998-1999. Based on the experience of compiling the information for the first charter school accountability report, Dr. Kelly suggested the Board might want to address several evaluations issues for use in the next accountability report. They included whether charter schools should be required to operate as separate schools and not considered part of another school in the district; to participate in the state assessment process and report their data as separate entities; to have a separate report card even if they are considered affiliated with another school in the district; to be evaluated any differently than other public schools in the district; and if parental and community satisfaction were important as an assessment of school impact. Board discussion and questions followed about what data the Board could require and whether charter schools should be held to the same standards of improvement as other schools. Dr. Wagnon moved, with a second by Dr. Abrams, that staff be directed to develop an accountability model for use in evaluating the effectiveness of charter schools. The motion carried. The Board also discussed the possibility of proposing legislation to clean up the current law, better define what a charter school should be, and increase the number of charter schools.

RENEWAL OF CHARTER SCHOOL PETITIONS

Mr. Rod Bieker, Department General Counsel, presented the renewal of the charter school petitions for Greenlawn Elementary, USD 493, and McPherson Alternative School, USD 418. He also commented briefly on the Board's lack of authority to ask for accountability criteria for renewal of petitions. He indicated that the law required that a charter school report be submitted to the Governor and legislature annually and that the Board could require what information would be included in the report. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mrs. Holloway, that the Board approve renewal of charter school petitions for Greenlawn Elementary, USD 493, and McPherson Alternative School, USD 418. The motion carried.

Page 2

MINUTES

February 9, 2000

The Board took a break from 9:55 a.m. until 10:05 a.m.

STATUS REPORT ON KBI BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. Ken Bungert, Team Leader, Certification and Teacher Education, reported on the first 36,000 KBI criminal background checks on teachers and administrators employed in Kansas public schools during the 1998-1999 school year. Of those, Mr. Bungert predicted that approximately ten cases would result in some kind of action taken. Mr. Bungert answered Board questions, and indicated that the Board would have to decide at some future time if the process was cost-effective. He also explained that as a fee-fund section, all certification activities were funded out of a \$24 application fee. He further stated that the amount of the fee collected was established by legislation and was currently at the maximum allowed.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

Mr. Kevin Ireland, staff attorney, presented the findings and recommendations of the Professional Practices Commission to the Board for action. Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Dr. Wagnon, that the State Board adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of the Professional Practices Commission in cases No. 99-BR-04, 99-BR-06, 99-BR-07, 99-S-08 and 99-FC-09, and approve the recommendations of the Commission. The motion carried.

Mr. Hill returned to the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

USDE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS PERFORMANCE REPORT

Dr. Alexa Pochowski presented the Special Education Programs Performance report prepared as required by the U.S. Department of Education. Performance indicators reported were the number of students participating in assessments in reading, writing and mathematics and the scores for those students in special education, scores for students in special education less the scores for gifted, and scores for the whole student population. These comparisons were used throughout the report. Other indicators reported were attendance, graduation and drop-out rates and suspensions/expulsions. Also included in the report were comparisons of disabilities by race and by LRE (least restrictive environment). Dr. Pochowski answered Board questions. She was asked what policy implications the report suggested for the Board to consider and indicated she would review the report with that in mind and bring any recommendations to the Board.

CONTRACT TO CONDUCT FEDERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FINANCE STUDY

Dr. Pochowski explained that no recent, accurate and comprehensive data was available on the amount spent on special education. She noted that the last study was done eleven years ago and that the number of students served in Kansas since that time has risen by approximately 15,000. Dr. Pochowski reported that all states including Kansas would be part of a federal special education finance study, but Kansas would have only two sample districts included in the basic study. She recommended that the Board approve a contract with the American Educational Research Institute to expand the study to thirty districts. The benefit of the expanded study would be that Kansas would have an accurate picture of special education finance in the state. Information to be gained from the study would include the average special education expenditure per pupil, the expenditure and service implications of the move to serve special education students in the least restrictive environment, and how funding and provision of special education compares to and affects the funding and provision of general education. Dr. Pochowski reported that funding for the expanded study would come from the State Improvement Grant and from federal state set-aside funds for state level activities that support programs and activities for students with disabilities. Mrs. Waugh moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the Board authorize the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and enter into a contract with the American Educational Research Institute, with the contract amount not to exceed \$193,000. The motion carried.

Page 3

MINUTES

February 9, 2000

REPORT ON BRAILLE LITERACY STUDY

Dr. Pochowski presented the results of a Braille literacy study requested by House Concurrent Resolution 5010 (1999). The statewide study was to assess the literacy and reading speed of blind pupils and legally blind pupils on a grade level basis; assess whether the most effective and appropriate communication media, such as Braille or large print, are being used; and include multiply disabled blind

students. Conclusions of the study of twenty-five students were that students in a conventional literacy program were receiving instruction in appropriate primary and secondary literacy media; that reading rates could be faster; students in functional literacy programs, with two exceptions, were in appropriate literacy of communication modes; and that additional information and/or assistance may be needed. Recommendations from the study were that teachers of students with visual impairments should implement targeted strategies for increasing reading rates; statewide procedures and expectations for conducting regular and ongoing functional vision assessments should be implemented; a statewide system should be implemented for assuring that current ophthalmological, optometric and clinical low vision evaluations are maintained; and services of a specialist in visual impairment for students who have additional disabilities should be provided. It was further recommended that a similar study be conducted on the literacy skills of students with low vision who use print as a primary medium and Kansas teachers of students with visual impairments need to continue being trained to conduct quality learning media assessments. Asked if the study satisfied the concerns of the citizen groups which had expressed dissatisfaction with the teaching of Braille in the state, Dr. Pochowski indicated that it probably did not. She said that those concerns would be met when a study of visually impaired students was conducted as well. Two related issues were the capability of teachers to teach Braille, which would also be addressed, and that fact that more assistance was needed for visually impaired students in the classroom. She also added that the primary concern of the groups was that students be able to read in whatever medium was appropriate.

STATE BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Abrams, Chairman of the Board Policy Committee, presented the Committee's recommendations and asked for questions. Noting none, Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Voth, that the Board approve the policy changes recommend by the Committee. The motion carried. Policies and guidelines included in the vote were 1006, Boardsmanship Expectations, guidelines for discussing and addressing issues; and removal from state board guidelines of items addressing postsecondary issues.

Dr. Abrams asked for questions from members about the proposed policy changes being offered for review. Mrs. DeFever asked about the Board's self-assessment as required in the mission and vision statement. Discussion followed about how often the assessment should be undertaken and what should be included. It was pointed out that the Board was to perform the assessment annually. Mrs. DeFever expressed concern about stating in policy that any item can be brought to a vote if approved by a vote of six members of the Board. She indicated that normally the Board would receive an item for review one month and vote on it the next. Dr. Abrams stated that the Committee was only stating in policy what they already had the authority to do. Mrs. DeFever asked that, in keeping with the Board's stated governing style of being proactive rather than reactive, that it would be very helpful to her as she dealt with the legislature, for the Board to take a position on legislative issues as early as possible. Discussion also included ways to simplify the minute-taking process. Mrs. DeFever, Mr. Hill and Mr. Bacon indicated they would like to have the meetings recorded. Mr. Rundell suggested that the Commissioner, the Board Attorney and the General Counsel look at the process and develop some options to simplify it. Also discussed were procedures for public hearings and the charge to the Commissioner and Board Attorney to call into question, as appropriate, whether proper procedure and board policies are being

followed.

Page 4

MINUTES

February 9, 2000

Changes recommended included the Preface, Mission and Vision Statement; Policy 1002, Governing Style; Policy 1003, Policies, Regulations and Guidelines; Policy 1005, Board Member Development; Policy 1007, Officers – Election, Tenure and Duties; Policy 1010, Operation of the State Board; and Policy 1013, Public Hearings.

NASBEE NOMINATIONS

The Board had no nominations for NASBE 2001 officers.

BOARD DESIGNEES FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES AT KSSD AND KSSB

Mrs. Holloway volunteered to attend graduation ceremonies at the Kansas State School for the Deaf, May 24, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Waugh volunteered to attend graduation ceremonies at the Kansas State School for the Blind, May 19, 2000 at 1:00 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL DEBATES ON KANSAS SCIENCE CURRICULUM STANDARDS

Dr. Abrams moved, with a second by Mr. Hill, that the State Board originate an effort to start a dialog in the major newspapers of Kansas and sponsor some informative debates about the State Science Curriculum Standards. Additionally, the chair and the vice-chair are directed to appoint a committee to make the appropriate arrangements including, but not limited to: newspaper contacts, number of debates, dates, location, participants, co-sponsors (if any) and other items needed to further the goal of sponsoring the informative debates and participating in a newspaper dialog. Board discussion followed. Dr. Abrams was asked what he hoped the debates would accomplish. He stated that he envisioned the debates as an opportunity to clarify misperceptions about what the Board had actually done and would provide an opportunity to defend the Board's position. Mrs. Holloway agreed that misinformation about the Board's action was going out all over the nation and debates would allow Board members to face those who were misrepresenting what the Board had done. The Board continued to discuss what could be gained by sponsoring debates. Mr. Rundell stated the Board had taken a stand and that arguing its position would not accomplish anything. He also expressed concern about lowering the standard for Board behavior with taking a defensive posture. It was also mentioned that individual Board members already had the choice to participate in debates if they so desired. Mr. Bacon suggested that an informational press release might be an effective method of providing information to the public and discussion of that idea followed. There was some concern expressed on whether the newspapers would

choose to publish a release from the Board. Mr. Hill indicated that some type of informative meetings across the state would provide an opportunity to respond to those that continue to call the Board's action into question. Mr. Bacon also suggested that talking points be prepared for Board members for use when addressing groups. Mr. Hill agreed that something was needed to clear up misinformation to help local district avoid potential legal issues. Dr. Wagnon responded that one of the problems with a press release was in interpreting the implications because of differences in opinions on the Board. He suggested that Board members use the comparison of the standards that was prepared by Legislative Research. Further discussion followed and included questions about the cost of sponsoring debates and preparing a press release. Mrs. Holloway indicated that Kansas City public television was interested in sponsoring the debates and Dr. Abrams stated that there would be no cost to the Board if public television sponsored them.

Mr. Hill moved, as a substitute motion, seconded by Mr. Bacon, that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Commissioner, utilizing other Board members as necessary, be authorized to engage in informative measures to inform the educational community and general public of the Board-adopted science standards. The motion failed 4-6, with Mrs. DeFever, Mrs. Waugh, Mr. Rundell, Dr. Abrams, Mrs. Brown, and Dr. Wagnon voting "no". A vote on Dr. Abrams original motion failed on a vote of 4-6, with Mr. Voth, Mr. Bacon, Mrs. DeFever, Mrs. Waugh, Mr. Rundell, and Dr. Wagnon voting "no".

Page 5

MINUTES

February 9, 2000

BOARD REPORTS

Chairman

Chairman Voth passed around Senate Resolution 1804 commending Kansas teachers of the year.

Board Attorney

Mr. Biles reported on his recent activity on behalf of the Board. Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mr. Hill, that Mr. Biles' fees for services and expenses for January be paid as presented. The motion carried.

Legislative Coordinator

Mr. Hill reported on attendance at subcommittee meeting on charter schools where a bill was passed out that would take the cap off the number of charter school, but would limit them to no more than two per district. The bill also included an appeal procedure a local Board denies a petition. He indicated the

subcommittee was concerned about charter school accountability.

Mr. Hill announced he would not be running for reelection because of his family situation.

Commissioner

Commissioner Tompkins reviewed his written report. He reported on the effort to rejuvenate the Business/Education Coalition; the status of the work being done on developing a set of guidelines for internet-based enrollment; and a CD-Rom developed on the legislative process in Kansas. Dr. Tompkins indicated that an additional day may be needed for the March meeting because of the annual visits to KSSD and KSSB. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Mr. Rundell, that the Commissioner work with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to work out the details for additional meeting time, if needed. The motion carried.

Board Member Reports

Mrs. DeFever reported on her attendance at the NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee meeting in January, her participation on the boundary line study committee and attendance at several legislative hearings. Mrs. Holloway indicated she had been asked to be part of the NASBE Distinguished Service Committee. She also reported having received a letter from Senator Jerry Moran in which he noted his support of full funding for special education. Mrs. Brown shared a written report on her attendance at the Education Leaders Council annual meeting and shared some of the highlights with the Board.

APPROVAL OF BOARD TRAVEL

Mr. Rundell moved, with a second by Mrs. DeFever, that the travel requests be approved requested. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Voth asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Brown moved, with a second by Mrs. Waugh that the meeting adjourned. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Harold Voth, Chairman

Penny Plamann, Secretary