

## KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Meeting Minutes April 19, 2016

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim McNiece called the monthly meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2016, in the Board Room at the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. Mr. McNiece welcomed those in attendance, including several participants from the Kansas Educational Leadership Institute's superintendent mentor/mentee program. He acknowledged that April is National Autism Awareness Month and encouraged supporting all Kansans with autism.

**4/19/2016**  
**A.M. Session**  
(00:00:07)

#### ROLL CALL

Board members present were:

John Bacon	Deena Horst	Steve Roberts
Kathy Busch	Jim McNiece	Janet Waugh
Carolyn Wims-Campbell	Jim Porter	Ken Willard

Board member Sally Cauble was absent, but participated by phone beginning at 10:05 a.m. for the Commissioner's Report.

#### STATE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman McNiece read both the Board's Mission Statement and *Kansans CAN* Vision Statement. He then asked for a moment of silence after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Ms. Wims-Campbell moved to approve the April 19 agenda. Mrs. Busch seconded. Mr. Willard asked to pull Item 18 f. (continuation of Istation contract) from the consent agenda for discussion and separate action. Ms. Wims-Campbell and Mrs. Busch agreed to the amendment. Motion carried 9-0, with Mrs. Cauble absent.

**MOTION**  
(00:04:28)

#### APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Roberts moved to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting. Mr. Willard seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

**MOTION**  
(00:05:52)

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Randy Watson began his report by sharing a video news clip about rethinking college admissions and redefining achievement beyond test scores alone. He relayed national research from the Georgetown Policy Institute about job market growth, even through the recession, and a correlating need for employees with higher education. Dr. Watson then provided an update on state assessment testing this spring. Work is ongoing to provide a more balanced assessment system with new reporting functions, plus optional interim assessments to help drive instruction and formative tools to build student learning. He briefly noted work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on teacher shortage. This 26-member committee is evaluating short, medium and long-term goals to address teacher recruitment and retention in Kansas, symbolizing similar issues nationwide. The Kansas Education Fellows through its pilot program will deliver a one-day training overview of the outcomes to schools that wish to have the training at no cost. There will be three small teams of distinguished educators who will work with their peers over the summer. Dr. Watson addressed questions and comments about reasons to develop interim assessments, the importance of teacher retention and ensuring diversity in the profession.

(00:07:27)

### **CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

(00:29:22) Chairman McNiece declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:29 a.m. Speakers and their topics were: John Morton, Emporia State University — agenda for A Kansas Conversation May 7 at ESU; Jeff Burey, Midwest Professional Golfers' Association — existence of Golf in Schools program; Meagan Meneley, Kansas World Language Association — support of Seal of Biliteracy proposal and benefits to students; Gehrig Geissinger, Abilene High School student — support of Seal of Biliteracy to certify proficiency; Dustin Wilson, Abilene High School student — encourage adoption of Seal of Biliteracy; Connie Blanchard, KSDE World Language Advisory Committee — benefits of foreign language competency in career and technical education preparation; John Richard Schrock, Emporia — science illiteracy and support for teacher training in the content field. Chairman McNiece declared the Citizens' Forum closed at 11 a.m.

### **ACTION ON REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING PLANS FOR VIRTUAL EDUCATION AND DIPLOMA COMPLETION PROGRAMS**

(01:00:10) Education Program Consultant Jessica Noble reviewed recommendations presented last month to update the requirements and monitoring plans for virtual education and diploma completion programs. These proposed plans were vetted by the Charter and Virtual Education Advisory Council, the Diploma Completion Advisory Council and were available for public comment from the field. She also showcased the new searchable online educational directory for virtual schools and programs. Mr. Roberts moved to adopt the proposed Kansas Virtual Education Requirements and Monitoring Plan and the Kansas Diploma Completion Program Requirements and Monitoring Plan. Mrs. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0, with Mrs. Cauble participating by phone. These will become effective July 1.

**MOTION**  
(01:05:40)

### **BREAK**

Board members took a break until 11:18 a.m.

### **ACTION ON LICENSURE PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR ART, GIFTED, MUSIC, INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND VOCAL MUSIC**

(01:08:16) Dr. Scott Myers, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, presented for adoption five sets of higher education program standards: Art, Gifted, Music, Instrumental Music and Vocal Music. These standards help institutions of higher education develop teacher preparation programs. Revision committee members and KSDE staff were present to field questions. During discussion, questions arose about repeated use of the word diverse in the standards and use of the term licensure standards. Additional discussion followed about the process and rationale for identifying students as gifted in elementary and secondary schools. Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the revised educator preparation program standards for Art (PreK-12), Gifted (K-6, 5-8, 6-12, PreK-12), Music (PreK-12), Instrumental Music (PreK-12) and Vocal Music (PreK-12). Mrs. Horst seconded. Discussion continued about the reference to licensure standards; suggestions for a title change were offered. Motion carried 7-3, with Mr. Roberts, Mr. Bacon and Mr. Willard in opposition. Mrs. Cauble voiced her vote by phone.

**MOTION**  
(01:31:51)

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (PART I)**

(01:36:47) Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis began his report on education legislation by reviewing provisions of Senate Substitute for House Bill 2655 and its financial impact on districts as the legislature attempts to address equity as directed by the Court. He noted that the Kansas Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments for May 10 on the school funding measure.

### **LUNCH**

At noon, Chairman McNiece recessed the meeting for lunch until 1:30 p.m.

### **RECEIVE BIENNIAL REPORT FROM COALITION OF INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

**P.M. SESSION**  
(01:49:41) The Coalition of Innovative School Districts is required to report twice a year to the State Board of Education. Currently, there are six districts designated as Innovative. Bev Mortimer, Chair of the Coalition, gave a summary of Year Three meeting topics, then introduced presenters for the day. Dr. Cindy

Lane with USD 500 highlighted initiatives in Kansas City Kansas schools, including completion of Individual Plans of Study by 6th and 7th graders using a web-based dashboard and the reinstatement of a Teaching Fellows program in collaboration with Pittsburg State University. Other district highlights were shared by Mike Slagle of Blue Valley USD 229, Bill Mullins of Marysville USD 364 and Ms. Mortimer from Concordia USD 333. The Coalition will be selecting a new Chair upon the retirement of Ms. Mortimer this summer. Other CISD are McPherson USD 418 and Hugoton USD 210.

**ACTION ON FINAL ORDER (LICENSURE)**

Board Attorney Mark Ferguson summarized the background of the case and answered questions. Mrs. Busch moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue findings of fact and conclusions of law to support the decision and Final Order of the Board to cancel and revoke the professional license of Suzette Ramos. Mr. Willard seconded. Motion carried 10-0, with Mrs. Cauble participating in the vote by phone.

**MOTION**  
(02:24:28)

**ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

The Professional Practices Commission was represented by Chair Linda Sieck, who brought forth 12 cases regarding breach of contract. Mr. Porter moved to adopt the findings of the Professional Practices Commission and its recommendation for licensure suspension. Ms. Wims-Campbell seconded. Motion carried 10-0. The cases presented for action were: 15-PPC-44 Sarah Futrell, 15-PPC-45 Qawiy Ali, 15-PPC-46 Sherbert Harvey, 15-PPC-47 Amanda Bracket, 15-PPC-60 Jamie Kelsey, 15-PPC-61 Lisa Fowles, 15-PPC-62 Cynthia Moore, 15-PPC-64 Michael Forbis, 15-PPC-65 Susan Gamby, 15-PPC-66 Ryan Haggerty, 15-PPC-67 Seth Snyder, 15-PPC-68 Kristen Ledesma.

**MOTION**  
(02:29:08)

In a separate vote, Mrs. Busch moved to adopt the findings of the PPC and its recommendation for licensure suspension for case 15-PPC-63 Alisha Shipley. Mr. Willard seconded. Motion carried 9-0, with Mrs. Cauble absent for the vote.

**MOTION**  
(02:30:46)

**ACTION ON BOARD ATTORNEY CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Chairman McNiece explained that the contract with Gates, Shields and Ferguson is presented for renewal as the first of four one-year optional extensions. Mr. Roberts moved to approve renewal of Contract ID 40370 with Gates, Shields and Ferguson, P.A. for providing legal services for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 with no increase in rates. Mrs. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-1, with Mrs. Cauble voting by phone and Mr. Bacon in opposition.

**MOTION**  
(02:31:57)

**RECEIVE INFORMATION ON SEAL OF BILITERACY DIPLOMA CREDENTIAL**

Education Program Consultant Phyllis Farrar introduced a proposal on behalf of the KSDE World Language Advisory Council that would award a diploma credential to students who attain proficiency in English and one or more other world languages upon completion of high school. The Seal of Biliteracy certification would be recognized at either a Gold or Platinum level. There was discussion about issuing a separate certificate rather than placing a seal on a high school diploma. Other questions centered on determination of proficiency and languages accepted. A guidance document is being prepared to define specifics of the credential, which is available for both native and non-native English speakers. Julie Ewing, Education Program Consultant, assisted with the presentation. Action on the Seal of Biliteracy is anticipated in May.

(02:32:29)

**UPDATE ON LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT FOR DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING STUDENTS**

Board members last month requested an update on legislation, introduced as Senate Bill 444, that would create a language assessment program for deaf or hard of hearing students. Laura Jurgensen, KSDE attorney with Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services, informed the Board that the proposed legislation has been combined with other K-12 bills. As outlined, a language assessment

(03:04:27)

program would be coordinated by the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A 16-member advisory committee, including one State Board of Education member, would be charged with specific tasks and report on results to aid in the action plan. The language assessment would be administered to those birth to age 2 by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and to those ages 3-8 by local school districts. Mrs. Waugh and Mr. Willard commented that the issue of language assessments had not been previously brought to the State Board.

**BREAK**

Board members took a 15-minute break until 3:10 p.m.

**RECEIVE NON-ACCREDITATION REQUEST**

(03:15:33)

Commissioner Watson reported on receiving a written request from St. John's Military School, Salina, to voluntarily discontinue accreditation through the Kansas State Board of Education and seek accreditation through AdvanceEd. He addressed questions about why formal action of acceptance was needed, explaining that it would be a public record of the withdraw.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (Part II)**

(03:26:32)

Mr. Dennis continued his legislative update from the morning answering questions about the legislature's proposed school finance plan and next steps as the court reviews it. He then reported on the extraordinary need state aid program. He distributed draft guidelines, which described how to apply and committee review. Board members' questions centered on the timeline and approval process, as well as a recommendation to add a school administrator's signature on the application. In other legislative news, Mr. Dennis reported on:

- Senate Bill 323 that combines multiple education related topics
- Review of school bond requests
- Working after retirement legislation
- SB 367 concerning amendments to the juvenile justice system

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION**

(04:05:22)

Mrs. Busch moved to approve the Consent Agenda excluding item 18 f. (contract with Istation), which Mr. Willard requested for separate action. Mrs. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

- received the monthly Personnel Report for March.
- confirmed the unclassified special projects personnel appointment of Sean Hoffman as Consultant on the Child Nutrition and Wellness team effective May 23, 2016, at an annual salary of \$48,848.80.
- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year:  
*Math - Extension on the number of days on an emergency substitute license - Lee Elder, USD 385; Physical Education - Extension on the number of days on an emergency substitute license - Cole Cannon, USD 453; English Language Arts - Extension on the number of days on an emergency substitute license - Joanna Smith, USD 479; High Incidence Special Education - Kelsey Schowengerdt-Marquez, USD 489.*
- approved the Education Flexibility Partnership (Ed-Flex) waiver request for USD 265 Goddard.
- authorized the following school districts to hold elections on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation: USD 233 Olathe, USD 462 Central, USD 489 Hays and USD 490 El Dorado.

*authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and*

- continue a state assessment contract with the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) with the contract amount not to exceed \$7,000,000 for the period June 2016 through December 2017;

- initiate a contract bid process for selecting a vendor to mentor educational interpreters who serve western Kansas public schools, with the contract amount not to exceed \$30,000 per year for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021 (vendor to be determined);
- initiate a contract bid process for selecting a vendor to operate a statewide program for the identification and training of education advocates for children with disabilities, in a contract amount not to exceed \$265,000 per year for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021 (vendor to be determined).

**SEPARATE ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEM**

Mr. Willard questioned contract renewal of a vendor for the statewide Kansas Reading Success program when the first full year of data is not available yet. Ms. Wims-Campbell moved to authorize the Commissioner of Education to exercise the option to renew the contract with Istation for the purpose of providing a reading intervention program for all PK-8 students in Kansas, with a contract amount not to exceed \$2,100,000 per fiscal year through June 30, 2021. Mrs. Horst seconded. Motion carried 8-1-1, with Mr. Roberts in opposition and Mr. Willard abstaining.

**MOTION**  
(04:14:35)

**BOARD REPORTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairman McNiece asked for State Board representation at graduation ceremonies for the Kansas State School for the Blind May 19 and Kansas State School for the Deaf May 25. Mr. Porter will be the designee at KSSB's graduation; Mr. Roberts will be the designee at KSSD's ceremony.

(04:15:21)

Communications — Chairman McNiece commented on outreach efforts and distribution of the *Kansans CAN* vision postcards.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Board Attorney Mark Ferguson announced that the federal court lawsuit by Citizens for Objective Public Education (COPE) involving the Next Generation Science Standards adopted by the State Board of Education had been dismissed by the 10th circuit court of appeals. He will circulate the court's opinion from April 19.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

During individual Board member reports, Mrs. Busch has been speaking about the *Kansans CAN* vision to various groups; Mr. Willard finished his Challenge Award presentations, participated in the National Teacher Hall of Fame selection, and attended a Mayor's Day Proclamation for National Volunteer Week; Ms. Wims-Campbell presented Challenge Awards at Landon Middle School and Avondale West Elementary, attended a proclamation with members of the Kansas Volunteer Commission, reported on KSHSAA board meetings and a national deaf conference; Mrs. Waugh reported on a business panel discussion with several Chambers of Commerce in the greater Kansas City area; Mrs. Horst talked about the Coalition of Innovative School Districts' meeting in Hugoton, visits with the Commissioner at Manhattan schools and the Master Teacher award dinner.

**INDIVIDUAL MEMBER REPORTS**  
(04:20:02)

In his Chairman's Report, Mr. McNiece called reminded members of nominations for participating on the Special Education Advisory Council and the Accreditation Advisory Council. He also reported on several activities of the National Association of State Boards of Education, including the legislative conference in D.C. and regional meeting June 24-25 in Arkansas. Finally, he commented on May activities including the Governor's Scholar's Awards program and National Teacher Appreciation Week.

**Requests for Future Agenda Items:**

Mr. Willard requested a full discussion on the rationale and need for a gifted designation; Mrs. Horst requested that the Kansas Master Teachers be invited to speak; Mrs. Cauble requested to hear from the Ulysses High School freshman who is also enrolled at Harvard; Mr. Roberts asked to present his math standards to the Board and for STEM licensure to be a topic.

### **BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL**

Additions to the travel requests were: Ms. Wims-Campbell May 7 Kansas Conversation at ESU; Mrs. Horst May 1 Governor's Scholars Program, May 13 visit to Atchison schools; Mr. Porter April 28 superintendents' meeting at Greenbush; Mr. Roberts May 7 Kansas Conversation; Mr. Willard May 12 IPS training at ESSDACK. Mr. Roberts moved to approve the travel requests and additions. Ms. Wims-Campbell seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(04:53:41)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman McNiece adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m. He reminded Board members of the accreditation work session starting at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Kansas State High School Activities Association building. The next regular State Board meeting will be May 17 and 18 in Topeka.

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Jim McNiece, Chairman

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Peggy Hill, Secretary

### **WORK SESSION ON ACCREDITATION — WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016**

The Kansas State Board of Education convened at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, for a work session, which was held at the KSHSAA offices, 601 Commerce Place, Topeka. Board members in attendance were: Chairman McNiece, Vice Chair Wims-Campbell, Mr. Bacon, Mrs. Busch, Mrs. Horst, Mr. Porter, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Waugh and Mr. Willard. Mrs. Cauble was absent.

Commissioner Randy Watson provided an overview of the day's itinerary built upon how districts envision utilization of a systems approach and focusing on the results in the 5 Rs rubric. Currently, in Kansas all schools are accredited under the Quality Performance Accreditation model. Deputy Commissioner Brad Neuenswander outlined the history of accreditation work over the past several years.

Superintendents from six school districts each described their approach to aspects of the proposed accreditation model. Presenters and a key topic were: John Allison, Wichita USD 259 — utilization of the MTSS framework and district support teams that aid school improvement plans; Marlin Berry, Olathe USD 233 — focus on a school system, not a system of individual schools; Cindy Lane, Kansas City Kansas USD 500 — weekly analysis of data and use of universal model in all buildings; Craig Wilford, Derby USD 260 — driven by strategic plan and school improvement plans, but awaiting further direction on accreditation model; Kay Lewis, Humboldt USD 258 — moving beyond the QPA checklist, but needing guidance to overcome district fragmentation; Mike Berblinger, Buhler USD 313 — college and career-ready instructional framework through planning, teaching and reflecting. Other staff members from several of the featured districts also contributed to the presentations.

A working lunch offered the opportunity to prepare questions for the afternoon discussion. Among discussion topics were how to keep individual buildings from losing identity and ownership of problems, pros and cons of multi-year accreditation, districts entering the accreditation cycle at different phases, complexity of the process and rubric, lack of manpower in smaller districts or private schools for intense data collection, strategy of goals vs. rules, need for clear measurements; opportunity for professional development for districts needing assistance, important criteria the state should know about schools, and requests to hear from other small districts.

The proposed Kansas Education Systems Accreditation model will be a receive item on the May agenda.