

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Melanie Haas called the Wednesday meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 15, 2023, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

(00:08:10)

ROLL CALL

The following Board Members were present:

Betty Arnold	Deena Horst
Michelle Dombrosky	Ann Mah
Melanie Haas	Jim Porter
Dennis Hershberger	Danny Zeck
Cathy Hopkins	Jim McNiece

RECEIVE UPDATED KANSAS EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS (KELS)

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood, KSDE, presented the Early Learning Standards (birth to pre-kindergarten) which have been in the process of revision. She explained what the standards are, what they refer to, and why they are important.

Sheila Bertelsen, Education Disability Specialist, Bright Beginnings-Dodge City USD 443, shared how, as a teacher working directly with young children, she and her fellow teachers use the standards extensively to identify the level a child enters at and how to help them bloom.

Amy Meek, Director of Early Childhood, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, explained her work and how the standards are used by the programs, families and learning centers she is involved with.

Michelle Gilbert, Provider Services Manager, Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas, works with licensed childcare providers across 33 counties in home, center-based settings, and licensed head start programs. She works with providers and teachers to get them connected to the standards so they can use them with children and families.

Jennifer Pishny, Developmental Inclusion Specialist, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities Infant Toddler Specialist Network, shared her observation how important the standards are to those who are teaching young children. One of her providers showed her four notebooks, full of the present EL standards which the teacher used every day as guidance.

Natalie McClane, Early Education Program Consultant, KSDE, works with preschool at risk programs and parents who want to make sure their children are ready for school. She refers them to the EL standards for guidance.

Amanda Peterson noted that the team started in February 2022 to create the fourth revision of the KELS. The document is used in a wide range of places and needs to be user friendly. She explained that the standards are not to be used a curriculum, to exclude children from a program, or to serve as an assessment, but as a guide to support providers and children.

Sheila Bertelsen shared the importance of kindergarten readiness. KELS is a consistent guide for age-appropriate skills and helps prepare young children to enter kindergarten. She emphasized KELS is a tool that is utilized every day to identify kindergarten readiness.

Jennifer Pishny shared the history of the KELS which were created in 2006 and are now being revised for the fourth time. She shared the participants involved in this update and gave examples of some specific revisions.

Natalie McClane went through the document with the Board and pointed out major changes in the text.

These standards will be presented for a vote in December.

There was an in-depth discussion with the Board.

APPROVAL OF KANSAS STANDARDS FOR LIBRARY AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Nathan McAllister, Humanities Program Manager, KSDE, described the work on these library standards. They are curricular standards, meant to guide librarians and libraries statewide. They were presented last month in depth and this month are to be voted on. Mr. McAllister specifically thanked co-chairs Rachel Yoder and Dr. Mirah Dow who worked on this review.

Dr. Horst moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Kansas Standards for Library and Informational Literacy as presented. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voting against.

BREAK

RESEARCH WORK: TNTP AND HANOVER PROPOSALS

Dr. Ben Proctor, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services, KSDE, presented two partnering contracts, one with The New Teacher Project (TNTP) and the other with Hanover Research.

TNTP was founded in 1997 and currently works in 35 states. They emphasize High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) in school systems. They will work statewide to audit what materials are currently being used. The curriculum audit would take place January – March 2024 and cost \$54,417. A survey would be developed, administered, analyzed, reported on, and next steps would be recommended.

Hanover Research proposes to work for two years, starting in January 2024. They will assist and advise KSDE staff in the development of the School Improvement-KESA process. They will provide advisement and research briefs. The first four months would focus on research summaries connecting the four fundamentals and key structures that support implementation of the fundamentals and identify the most impactful lead indicators. January – June 2024 would also be a time to develop the needs assessment or gap analysis process and the protocol that will establish a

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MOTION
(01:13:52)

(01:30:34)

baseline of KESA fundamental implementation and develop a systems action plan. The annual cost would be \$300,000.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE COLLEGES IN KANSAS

Matt Lindsey, President, Kansas Independent College Association and Foundation (KICA), shared the present state of 21 accredited, non-profit, undergraduate degree-granting institutions across Kansas. They are not part of the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), although the colleges work with KBOR in the area of financial aid. He shared a map of the KSBOE districts and the colleges in each. Overall, these schools are growing. At present the student enrollment is above 17,000. There are many out of state students attending these private colleges. Mr. Lindsey noted that in Kansas private colleges are not for wealthy students. More of their students come from low-income families, and the percentage of students who finish is very high. Average tuition is 30% lower than the national average. Student debt is relatively low. He compared the student debt to the price of a Chevy Malibu; about \$24,000. He noted that the largest majors are service professions such as teaching and nursing. His schools grant 17% of the teacher education bachelor's degrees in Kansas. They average 180 teachers hired by Kansas districts per year. He noted that there has recently been a drop in students finishing teaching degrees. He shared information about how these colleges instruct in the Science of Reading. Rise Reading and Made by Dyslexia are two popular modules. He sees a slow increase in needing remedial course work. Approximately 5% of students needed at least one remedial course in the year 2021-22. These are not just Kansas students; this is a global issue.

(02:10:12)

BREAK

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Craig Neuenswander introduced the 2023 legislative priorities document with changes that Mrs. Mah and Dr. Horst tentatively made. The Board went through each section and amended items. They focused on concurrent enrollment, school bus stop arm violation, special education funding, open enrollment, reducing the waiting time for teachers who want to return to classroom teaching after retirement, funding LETRS training beyond 2024, early childhood education funding, state support on bond and interest, and supporting the dyslexia coordinator. There was consensus that these items should be incorporated into a 2024 legislative priorities document which will be presented in December for a vote.

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Dr. Watson noted that this will be the last time Dr. Neuenswander is before the Committee as he will be retiring at the end of the month. Dr. Horst especially noted how effective he has been in legislative hearings. The Board gave Dr. Neuenswander a standing ovation.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Receive monthly personnel report
- b. Act on personnel appointments to unclassified positions
- c. Act on Ed-Flex Waiver for USD 211 Norton Community Schools
- d. Act on recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee
- e. Act on recommendation for Licensure Waivers
- f. Act to approve local professional development plans
- g. **Removed**

(03:49:42)

- h. Act on Hutchinson Community College SkillsUSA Contract
- i. **Removed**
- j. Act on Title IV Part A: A Stronger Connection Grant Awards.
- k. Act on request from USD 410 Durham-Hillsboro, for capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid
- l. Act on request from USD 410 Durham-Hillsboro, to hold a bond election

Dr. Horst moved that the State Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda (except for G and I which will be voted on separately). Mrs. Dombrosky seconded. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Arnold was absent.

MOTION
(03:50:32)

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

- g. Act on 2024 Volunteer Generation Fund Grant Awards

Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve Item g from the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded. Motion carried 7-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky voting against and Mrs. Arnold absent.

MOTION
(03:51:17)

- i. Act to approve contract for continuation of Migrant Data System

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve item I from the Consent Agenda. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion passed 6-3 with Mrs. Dombrosky, Mr. Hershberger and Mr. Zeck voting against. Mrs. Arnold was absent.

MOTION
(03:52:16)

CHAIR REPORT

Chair Haas reported on the Kansas State Legislature 2023 Special Education and Related Services Funding Task Force which has now been called to meet on January 5, 2024 at 1 p.m. This is the Friday before the 2024 Legislative Session begins. She is appointed to the Task Force as the representative from KSBOE.

ACTION ON BOARD TRAVEL

Dr. Horst moved to approve Board travel requests as presented. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Arnold was absent.

MOTION
(03:56:19)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dennis Hershberger shared the work of "Ag in the Classroom" which tries to encourage classes to create indoor projects. They have over 800 teachers in their membership and a budget deficit of \$30,000.

Michelle Dombrosky gave an update on the School for the Deaf. There has been an issue about past students receiving vocation certificates rather than diplomas. There are meetings taking place to discuss and investigate this issue. Mrs. Dombrosky anticipates this issue will be brought before the Board in January.

BOARD ATTORNEY REPORT

Mr. Ferguson reported on the Kansas Attorney General opinion released in October which applies to the open meetings act and executive sessions. He shared his participation in the NICOSEA conference, made up of attorneys who work with state education boards, held in conjunction with the annual conference of the National Association of School Boards of Education (NASBE). Mr. Ferguson noted he is the only private practice lawyer in the association. The others are all state employees. He shared the agenda for the conference.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jim Porter would like to have a discussion on items Ann Mah shared from the KASB: reduce the number of hours required to get a license for someone who has a degree in the content area and look at the use of the term "success" in postsecondary measure as it implies the other 30% is not successful. Also, he wants to take action on the cooperation request from the Board of Regents on reading.

Deena Horst would like information about AI artificial intelligence. What are the positive aspects and the concerns for K12 education?

Dr. Watson greeted Kansas administrators seated in the audience and invited them to come forward and introduce themselves: Jim Goracke, Superintendent USD 376 Sterling; Mark Dodge, Superintendent USD 348, Baldwin City; and Korenne Wolken, Special Education Director, ANW Coop in Chanute.

Ann Mah mentioned November is Native American month. Many schools are having programs about Native American heritage. 60 dancers are performing today up in the Seaman district.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Haas adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m. The next regular meeting for the Kansas State Board of Education is December 12 and 13, 2023.

ADJORN
(04:20:53)

Melanie Haas, Chair

Deborah Bremer, Board Secretary