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SUMMARY OF THE AUGUST 2020 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG

Board Action

- Accepted recommendations of the Accreditation Review Council and awarded the status of accredited to USD 202 Turner, USD 303 Ness City, USD 389 Eureka and Heartspring of Wichita.
- Appointed Brandon Gay (representing adult corrections) and Tobias Wood (representing state agency) to the Special Education Advisory Council effective through June 30, 2023.
- Appointed Cody Calkins to his first term on the Licensure Review Committee effective through June 30, 2023.
- Adopted the Professional Agreement between the Kansas School for the Deaf NEA and the State Board of Education for the term Aug. 1, 2020 to July 31, 2022.
- Adopted the findings of the Professional Practices Commission and revoked the professional teaching license of the individual in case 20-PPC-18.
- Accepted the reopen plans for the Kansas State School for the Blind and Kansas School for the Deaf as presented in preparation for the 2020-21 school year.
- By consensus, agreed that the Coordinating Council should take the lead to centralize work on the topic of postsecondary preparation/transition (last two years of high school and first two years of postsecondary), and to organize appropriate workgroups.

Reports and Discussions

- Commissioner Randy Watson announced proposed metrics evaluating school building and community criteria to assist schools with a holistic look at their reopen stages. These recommendations are to be assessed in conjunction with area health officials.
- Members received an update on recommended new timelines for dyslexia training and support while pending funding for a dyslexia coordinator. Professional learning, universal screenings and tiered-systems of support are a few of the projects to be delayed.
- The Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee has been responding to recommendations regarding alternative licensure pathways. The Board will consider recommendations regarding the Limited Apprentice License offering paraprofessionals a pathway to teacher licensure.
- Strengthening the Kansas early childhood system incorporates many steps. Current focus is on promoting kindergarten readiness; addressing accessibility, availability and quality of services, and streamlining governance. A Community Service Tax Credit program is one new resource.

Next Meeting – Sept. 8 and 9, 2020.

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.