SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 2020 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MTG

Board Action

- Accepted the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council and conditionally accredited St. Patrick Elementary, a private system in the Kansas City Catholic Diocese.
- Approved allowing public and private systems, as a voluntary option, to suspend Kansas Education System Accreditation activities through June 30, 2021 or to continue in the KESA process as normal. Systems will still report social emotional and academic data.
- Declared a time of emergency whereby any person holding a five-year substitute teaching license or an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate with a baccalaureate degree may teach through June 30, 2021. The extension increases the available number of days a substitute teacher may teach in any one assignment.
- Assigned Jim McNiece and Ben Jones to the Spring Break Calendar Alignment Work Group teaming with Board of Regents designees and others.
- Assigned Jim McNiece to the Education Commission of the States P-3 Policy Academy team for Kansas.

Reports and Presentations

- Bill Faflick, Executive Director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, provided the organization's annual report of operations and answered questions about safety practices.
- Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson presented his annual report and progress on State Board outcomes. He spoke about lessons learned during the pandemic and the importance of continuing to strive toward the Board outcomes.
- Members recognized the 2019 ABC Award recipients as named by the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force. They are Cindy Couchman, Superintendent at Buhler; Cory Gibson, Superintendent at Valley Center; Dyane Smokorowki, Director with Wichita USD 259; Shannon Ralph, teacher at Gardner Edgerton High School; Tabatha Rosproy, Winfield Early Learning Center and National Teacher of the Year.
- Complete High School Maize was honored as a National School of Character.
- The Kansas Teacher of the Year team participated in an open dialogue with members about supports needed for teachers, schools, students and families during the pandemic.
- Other discussions centered on personalized professional development for licensed educators, the annual licensed personnel report and work of the Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee.

Next meeting: The next State Board meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 10.