MINUTES

Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, April 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Kathy Busch called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2020. The meeting was conducted virtually using interactive communication. It was broadcast livestream for the public due to restrictions prohibiting mass gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Busch’s opening remarks were in appreciation for the hard work and adjustments of the department and many, many others within the school community during the past month.

ROLL CALL
The following Board members participated:
Kathy Busch  
Ann Mah  
Jean Clifford  
Jim McNiece  
Michelle Dombrosky  
Jim Porter  
Deena Horst  
Steve Roberts  
Ben Jones  
Janet Waugh

STATE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Chairman Busch read both the Board’s Mission Statement and Kansans Can Vision Statement. She then asked for a moment of silence after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA
Chairman Busch announced an additional agenda item to discuss and act on potential State Board support for a multi-organization letter to Kansas Congressional delegates naming funding priorities for another federal emergency supplemental package. Mrs. Dombrosky also asked that separate votes be taken on Consent Items 13 m. (Brooks Publishing contract) and 13 n. (Meta-Metrics Inc. contract). Mr. Porter moved to approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mr. Roberts abstaining.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES
Mrs. Dombrosky moved to approve the minutes of the March 10-11 regular Board meeting. Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the March 12 special Board meeting. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

UPDATE AND REPORT ON CONTINUOUS LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR SCHOOLS
Commissioner Randy Watson summarized the sequence of events since the last regular State Board meeting as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak in Kansas. This included consideration of the Coronavirus spread, travelers to unknown locations returning to school and college campuses after spring break, daily conversations with education advocates and health officials, and concern for public safety. On the weekend of March 14-15, Dr. Watson summoned the present Kansas Teacher of the Year and two former Kansas Teachers of the Year to lead the way for creating Continuous Learning Guidance for the state’s students and educators to utilize until the end of the 2019-20 school year in case school buildings were closed. Superintendents were kept

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.
informed and a team was assembled to create an implementation guide. In addition, steps in the waiver process were initiated to serve school meals during the time of closure. On Tuesday, March 17, Governor Laura Kelly announced Executive Order 20-07 to temporarily close all K-12 school buildings or facilities for student instruction until May 29 with specific exceptions. Kansas was the first state to do so for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Watson reiterated the specifics of the Order and the authority granted to waive the 1,116 attendance hours required. Instruction would continue by utilizing small groups (the same 10 people or less in a confirmed space), online learning and paper packets.

Dr. Brad Neuenswander reported on establishment of a Continuous Learning Task Force of about 40 educators who helped create the guidance document. He also talked about creation of a webpage to house the guidance, implementation guide and waiver application for school systems. The three chairs of the Task Force informed Board members during the meeting about their work and credited support of all those involved. In addition, a Family Resource Guide was prepared. School districts spent one week personalizing their Continuous Learning Plans based on the Task Force’s guidance and rolled out the plan to their school community. The formal Continuous Learning Plans and waiver applications are brought to the State Board for approval this month. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions or comment.

There was a 10-minute break at 11:19 a.m.

Following the break, Dr. Watson and Mischel Miller, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, revealed the process for submitting and reviewing Continuous Learning Plans and the waiver application packet. Systems indicated how many attendance hours were to be waived from the 1,116 required and submitted assurances to pay currently employed staff. In all, about 350 packets were received from public and private systems. These provided information on delivery of instruction, resources and implementation. A team of approximately 25 KSDE staff members reviewed the submissions before they were presented to the Board. Members asked questions, including ones about student engagement, receipt of feedback and graduation credit for seniors. They asked for a report at the May Board meeting on these topics, plus statistics on meal service.

CITIZENS’ OPEN FORUM
No written public comments were submitted for the meeting.

LUNCH
At 12:03 p.m., Chairman Busch recessed the meeting for lunch until 12:45.

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM E-CIGARETTE/VAPING TASK FORCE
At 12:45 p.m., Chairman Busch reconvened the meeting and welcomed Dr. Mark Thompson, who represented the E-Cigarette/Vaping Task Force in presenting best practice recommendations for schools to implement regarding student discipline for those who are caught using or possessing Electronic Nicotine Delivery System devices or components. The recommendations provide schools with flexibility to implement the approach to discipline that works best for their particular setting. Dr. Thompson commented on adjustments to the draft presented in March. These addressed removal of suspensions as best practice, terminology consistent with policy language on tobacco products, and optional consequences for first offense. Dr. Horst moved to approve the recommended Best Practices for Student Discipline for E-Cigarette/Vaping Policy Violations developed by the E-Cigarette/Vaping Task Force. (Motion read by Dr. Thompson). Mr. Jones seconded. Discussion included penalties for distribution, emphasis on education and changes in behavior, and similarity of respiratory system distress between vaping and COVID-19 symptoms. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.
ACTION ON APPOINTMENTS TO KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
By Statute, the Kansas State High School Activities Association has representation from the State Board of Education on both its Executive Board and its Board of Directors. Current representatives are Jim McNiece, whose term continues through June 30, 2021, and Deena Horst, whose term ends June 30, 2020. Dr. Horst also serves on the KSHSAA Executive Board and is eligible for an additional two-year term. Chairman Busch moved to confirm the reappointment of Deena Horst to serve on the KSHSAA Board of Directors and Executive Board, beginning with the term July 1, 2020. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

RECEIVE KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGIC PLAN
KSDE Early Childhood Director Amanda Petersen described the work of her team and the Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund in developing a strategic plan to benefit Kansas children and families. The wholistic approach focuses on building blocks, strong families, healthy development and early learning. Seven goals are outlined in the five-year plan, and Mrs. Petersen reviewed each of the goals. She also talked about support for child care providers, public-private sector partnerships, implementation of the plan through collaboration and what’s ahead. Board members will vote to accept the “All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan” at the May meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF KANSAS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARS FOR 2020
The Career and Technical Education Scholar recognition program is an opportunity to give state-level honors to outstanding CTE students finishing their senior year of high school. Students apply for the certificate and demonstrate achievement of specific criteria. CTE Scholar Coordinator Gayla Randel announced that there are 57 Kansas CTE Scholars for 2020, noting they recorded more than 8,900 volunteer hours. She reviewed the application criteria, which includes workplace experience and community service, then answered questions about generating more interest in the program. Board members received a list of the students’ names, school of attendance, field of study and career interest.

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA
Mr. McNiece moved to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding Items 13 m. and 13 n. for separate votes. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

• received the monthly Personnel Report for March.
• confirmed the unclassified personnel appointment of Stephanie Hill as Education Program Consultant on the Teacher Licensure and Accreditation team, effective March 2, 2020, at an annual salary of $56,118.40.
• accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year: Reading Specialist — Jessica Withington, USD 105. High Incidence Special Education — Micaela Espinoza, USD 500. High Incidence Special Education — extension on number of days under an emergency substitute license — William Germaine, D0608. Low Incidence Special Education — extension on number of days under an emergency substitute license - Amanda Klein, D0618.
• approved issuance of a Visiting Scholar license valid for 2019-20 and continuing through the 2020-21 school years to Daniel Treber and Olathe USD 233 for instruction of Spanish.
• approved, with modifications, the in-service education plans for USD 293 Quinter, USD 297 St. Francis and South Central Kansas Special Education cooperative 605.
• issued Calendar Year 2020 license to InSpireKC Foundation Driving School.
approved the Tri-County Special Services Cooperative Agreement.

approved the proposed creation of the Maize Special Education Cooperative effective June 30, 2021.

approved the proposed creation of the Goddard Special Education Cooperative effective June 30, 2021.

approved the proposed creation of the Ark Valley Special Education Cooperative effective June 30, 2021.

approved dissolution of the Sedgwick County Area Educational Services Interlocal Cooperative effective June 30, 2021.

authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and extend the contract with BTU Consultants to assist KSDE with the tasks required to enhance and maximize participation of Kansas school districts in the E-Rate program with the period of the extension from June 30, 2023 to June 30, 2025;

Initiate a contract bid process for the purpose of investigating special education complaints with said contract effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2030, in an amount not to exceed $700,000 out of IDEA VI-B Funds and with the vendor to be determined.

SEPARATE ACTION ON CONSENT ITEMS

Following the amended agenda recommendation, separate votes were conducted on consent items 13 m. and 13 n. Mr. McNiece moved to authorize the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and enter into a contract with Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc. for the purpose of making the Ages and Stages Questionnaires available statewide in an amount not to exceed $624,999.25 for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 8-2, with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

Dr. Horst moved to authorize the Commissioner of Education to enter into a multi-year contract with MetaMetrics, Inc. for Lexile and Quantile measures with the total contract from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2026 not to exceed $1,440,000 or $240,000 per year. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 8-2 with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

Board members took a break from 2:03 to 2:10 p.m.

ACTION ON CONTINUOUS LEARNING APPLICATIONS FROM SCHOOL DISTRICTS

During the time school facilities are temporarily closed, the legislature gave permission for school districts to apply for an exemption from the 1,116 school hour requirement in KSA 72-3115. To be approved, districts had to submit continuous learning plans for meeting the immediate need of supporting learning outside of normal practices and agree to continue paying hourly staff according to their current pay schedule. A review team at KSDE evaluated the plans and waivers before they were submitted for State Board approval.

Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the continuous learning plans and waivers for exemption from the 1,116 hours for school districts alphabetically from Abilene through Cunningham. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.

(Abilene USD 435, Altoona-Midway USD 387, Andover USD 385, Argonia USD 359, Arkansas City USD 470, Ashland USD 220, Atchison USD 409, Atchison County Community USD 377, Attica USD 511, Auburn Washburn USD 437, Augusta USD 402, Baldwin City USD 348, Barber Co. USD 254,
Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the continuous learning plans and waivers for exemption from the 1,116 hours for school districts alphabetically from De Soto through Hutchinson. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.


Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the continuous learning plans and waivers for exemption from the 1,116 hours for school districts alphabetically from Independence through Mulvane. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.


Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the continuous learning plans and waivers for exemption from the 1,116 hours for school districts alphabetically from Nemaha Central through Russell. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.
Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the continuous learning plans and waivers for exemption from the 1,116 hours for school districts alphabetically from Salina through Woodson. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.

Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the continuous learning plans and waivers for exemption from the 1,116 hours for all private school systems in Kansas. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(Accelerated Schools of Overland Park, Annoor Islamic, Ascension, Bethany Lutheran of Kansas City, Bishop Miege, Bishop Ward, Branches Academy, Brookridge Day School, Christ the King Kansas City, Christ the King Topeka, Corpus Christi, Cure of Ars Elementary, Dodge City Diocese, Faith Lutheran, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Hayden, Heartspring, Holy Cross Catholic, Holy Cross Lutheran, Holy Family Topeka, Holy Name of Jesus, Holy Rosary WEA, Holy Spirit Catholic, Holy Trinity Lenexa, Holy Trinity Paola, Hope Lutheran, Independence Bible School, John Paul II, Lake-mary, Life Preparatory Academy, Linn Lutheran, Mater Dei, Maur Hill Mount Academy, Most Pure Heart Mary, Nativity Parish, Our Lady of Unity, Prince of Peace, Resurrection Catholic, Sacred Heart Emporia, Sacred Heart Kansas City, Sacred Heart Ottawa, Salina Diocese, St Agnes, St Ann, St Benedict, St Gregory, St James Academy, St John Catholic, St John Lutheran Alma, St Joseph Shawnee, St Matthew, St Michael the Archangel, St Patrick, St Paul, St Paul Lutheran, St Rose Philippine Duchesne, St Thomas Aquinas, Sts Peter Paul, Topeka Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran Atchison, Trinity Lutheran Winfield, Wellington Christian, Wichita Diocese, Xavier, Zion Lutheran)
Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the continuous learning plans and waivers for exemption from the 1,116 hours for the four state schools in Kansas – Parsons State Hospital, Lawrence Gardner, Kansas State School for the Blind, Kansas School for the Deaf. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

Additional information was provided on development of ParentCamp pilots beginning in Sedgwick County, and engaging high school seniors through a project to help their peers through graduation and transition to postsecondary. The Kansas Board of Regents and KSDE are leading this project. Both initiatives support Continuous Learning Plans.

**ACTION ON LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Mr. Porter informed members of a meeting the prior day with other education organizations during which a letter was drafted to the Kansas Congressional Delegates naming funding priorities for a fourth federal emergency supplemental package related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Board of Education was invited to participate as a signatory on the letter. Mr. Porter moved to temporarily suspend Board rules and allow for a vote on this matter, which was not designated as an action item. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 8-0-2 with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining. Dr. Horst then moved to add the State Board of Education to the names on the letter in support of ideas mentioned as funding priorities. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 8-1-1 with Mr. Roberts opposing and Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

**BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL**

Board members had the opportunity to make changes to the travel requests for approval. Mr. Jones moved to approve the travel requests and updates. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**Requests for Future Agenda Items**

- Follow-up on Continuous Learning Plan implementation, including how many students are turning in work, frequency of engagement and graduation requirements. (Mrs. Mah)
- Continuous Learning Plan update from districts - reflection of their plan and lessons learned. (Ms. Busch)
- Report on meals served, and any increase, during closure of school buildings and day care facilities. (Dr. Horst)
- Discussion on preparations for return to school in the fall. (Ms. Busch)
- Discussion on his proposals regarding the Kansas Public School System. (Mr. Roberts)

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis provided information on select House and Senate bills followed in the 2020 legislative session. At this time, he noted, it was uncertain whether the legislature would return for the end of the session. Mr. Dennis then provided general information about the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act and the amount of funding earmarked for schools. Districts would have until Sept. 30, 2021 to spend the money within 12 broad categories.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Busch adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.