

# MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, September 8, 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, Sept. 8, 2020 in the Board Room at the Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. She commended schools for their diligent work to make adjustments for this year.

(00:08:14)

## ROLL CALL

All Board members participated, either in person or remotely:

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 these adjustments to the day's agenda: addition in the morning of possible action on optional suspension of KESA activity for fall 2020, and postponement until the afternoon of action on recommendations of the Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee. Mr. Roberts requested that consent item 18 f. (licensure waivers) be pulled for discussion. Dr. Horst moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Waugh seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(00:13:11)

## APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Roberts moved to approve the minutes of the August Board meeting. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(00:13:48)

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Randy Watson commented on concerns about social emotional impact of COVID on students and families, academic regression, and services reaching early learners and students with disabilities. He addressed minor changes to the *Navigating Change* document over the past month and explained the differences between last spring's continuous learning plans and this fall's structure of multiple learning environments. He noted specific requirements for remote learning to ensure student/teacher engagement. Lastly, Dr. Watson commented on lessons learned during recent in-person school visits in western Kansas. The majority of school districts were in session before Labor Day, but most students (reflective of high populations in urban and suburban districts) returned after Labor Day. Among the challenges are keeping school open with minimal disruptions, handling high stress levels, shuffle of staff and students in quarantine, and managing remote or hybrid learning.

(00:14:06)

**CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Busch declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:34 a.m. Speakers and their topics were: Joey and Vinny Matteoni, Overland Park — support for literacy and opposition to delaying dyslexia recommendations; Alisa Matteoni, Overland Park — support for early intervention and opposition to delaying dyslexia recommendations; Cathy Denesia, Overland Park — support for structured literacy and opposition to delaying dyslexia recommendations; Angie Schreiber, Emporia — funding dyslexia coordinator position, lack of communication; Ben Schreiber, Manhattan — importance of reading to employment; Kim Poirier, Overland Park — opposition to delaying dyslexia recommendations. Chairman Busch declared the Citizens' Forum closed at 10:56 a.m.

(00:41:30)

**ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION**

At the August State Board meeting, members reviewed Executive Summaries for three education systems scheduled for accreditation. Board action follows an examination of information provided in the summaries and recommendations from the Accreditation Review Council. Members asked about timelines for systems to remedy improvement concerns and procedure for advancing from conditionally accredited to accredited. Mr. Roberts moved to accept recommendations of the Accreditation Review Council and award the status of accredited to USD 490 El Dorado, and the status of Conditionally Accredited to USD 368 Paola and Z006-9021 Hope Lutheran. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mr. Porter abstaining.

**MOTION**  
(01:10:58)

**RECEIVE ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION**

St. Patrick Elementary, Wyandotte County, was presented for accreditation consideration. Accreditation status recommendations are brought to the State Board upon completion of final visitations and meetings of the Accreditation Review Council (ARC). An Executive Summary was prepared outlining evidence of goals and identifying both strengths and challenges. Accountability report data was also provided. Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Mischel Miller and Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo answered questions, particularly about the school's appeal of the decision to receive conditionally accredited status.

(01:12:16)

Board members took a break until 11:20 a.m.

**BREAK**

**ACTION ON HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR READING SPECIALIST**

In August, proposed revisions to the educator preparation program standards for Reading Specialist were presented. Institutions of higher education utilize these standards to develop their educator preparation programs and professional learning requirements for licensure renewal. Dr. Kathleen Sanders from Fort Hays State University gave an overview of the changes and answered questions. Mr. Jones moved to approve the new educator preparation program standards for Reading Specialist PreK-12. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(01:35:17)

**ACTION ON OPTIONAL SUSPENSION OF KESA ACTIVITY**

Commissioner Watson introduced to the Board a recommendation that would allow school districts, in light of the pandemic, to pause their accreditation visits and to take an extra year in the KESA process if they so choose. He explained that the timeliness of Outside Visitation Team visits this fall may conflict with current school year interruptions, adding that some districts need relief. Board members requested a report in October outlining requirements and expectations for those systems choosing to postpone KESA activities. They also asked for narratives from all districts on how the pandemic has impacted normal practices and continuous improvement goals.

(01:36:23)

Mr. Porter moved to temporarily suspend Board rules and allow for a vote on this item today. Mr.

**MOTION**  
(10:47:20)

McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Mrs. Clifford then made the following motion: Because of the pandemic caused by COVID-19, it is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education allow public and private systems, as a voluntary option, to suspend Kansas Education System Accreditation activities through the fall semester of 2020 or to continue in the KESA process as normal. The Board directs KSDE to have systems report social-emotional and academic data this fall into their narrative reports for this year and further directs KSDE to report back to the State Board in January 2021. Dr. Horst seconded. Additional discussion followed. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(01:47:48)

### **RECOGNITION OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS SERVING AS RESOURCES FOR NAVIGATING CHANGE**

State Board members wanted to publicly express their appreciation to the medical professionals who volunteered their time and expertise with the preparation of *Navigating Change* guidance documents for PreK-12 schools and gating criteria to address the safety of staff and students in reopening schools. Among the groups assisting with input were the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, University of Kansas medical system (Wichita pediatrics), Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics, Wesley Children's Hospital, Kansas School Nurse Organization and county health offices. Individuals from these organizations connected remotely to be recognized for their contributions. Members acknowledged the importance of incorporating Kansans' expertise from both rural and urban centers.

(01:52:21)

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

**LUNCH**

### **RECOGNITION OF KANSANS CAN AWARDS TO CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**

Chairman Busch reconvened the Board meeting at 1:15 p.m. KSDE's Child Nutrition and Wellness division created Kansans Can Best Practice Awards four years ago to recognize outstanding practices in child nutrition and wellness programs that support the Kansans Can vision. These awards were especially relevant implementing emergency feeding during the height of the pandemic. CNW Director Cheryl Johnson and Assistant Director Jill Ladd described each category of merit. They then introduced the 2019-20 recipients who were recognized virtually. Those honored for their outstanding and/or innovative practices were: USD 320 Wamego, USD 312 Haven, USD 283 Elk Valley, USD 501 Topeka Public, USD 418 McPherson, USD 266 Maize, First Choice Support Services Inc., USD 252 Southern Lyon County, USD 480 Liberal, Quality Care Services Inc. and St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. In addition, the Navigating Change 2020 Food Service Operations Committee was recognized: Jessica Younker (chair), USD 489 Hays; Nancy Coughenour, USD 512 Shawnee Mission; Connie Kimzey, USD 247 Cherokee; Lori Campbell, USD 372 Silver Lake; Tracy Moerer, USD 244 Burlington; Megan Barnard, USD 266 Maize. Praise was given for increased breakfast participation, curbside pickup and delivery, additional support services and adapting to new circumstances.

**P.M. SESSION**  
(03:22:51)

### **ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UPDATING DYSLEXIA TRAINING AND TIMELINE**

Dr. Brad Neuenswander restated the recommendations provided by the Kansas Legislative Taskforce on Dyslexia, noting which ones are on track and those that could be potentially delayed. The recommended modified timeline would impact hiring of a dyslexia coordinator, professional learning requirements, universal screening and implementation of structured literacy. Certain supports will continue to be available through other sources. Members discussed training within college of education programs, funding considerations, moving forward to meet student needs, alternative opportunities for training, importance of screenings for youngest learners, and that a delay in process does not mean an end to the process. Mrs. Waugh made the following motion: Because of the pandemic created by COVID-19, it is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve recommendations of KSDE on changing the existing timelines on Dyslexia, but

(03:48:08)

**MOTION**  
(04:35:25)

school districts would still have the option to adhere to all existing timelines without mandate. This issue will be revisited in January. Mr. McNiece seconded. During discussion Mrs. Mah commented that it was premature to approve delays now and suggested a substitute motion that no action be taken this month, but revisit in October and see if a compromise can be found. There was no second. Chairman Busch called for a vote on Mrs. Waugh's original motion, which had already received a second. The motion failed on a 5-5 vote, which lacked the six votes necessary for passage. Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Dombrosky, Mrs. Mah, Mr. Porter and Mrs. Clifford were in opposition.

**SUBSTITUTE**  
(04:36:55)

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

Professional Practices Commission co-chair Jennifer Holt brought forth the recommendations of the PPC on four cases this month. Mr. Jones moved to adopt the findings of the PPC and deny or revoke the licenses in the cases of 19-PPC-47, 20-PPC-12, 20-PPC-15 and 20-PPC-17. Mr. Roberts seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(04:46:55)

Ms. Holt then presented a case recommended for public censure. Mr. Roberts moved to issue a Professional Teaching License, with public censure, to Applicant 19-PPC-45. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(04:48:11)

**ACTION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION REGULATIONS (91-22-1A THROUGH 91-22-25)**

KSDE General Counsel Scott Gordon explained proposed amendments to Professional Practices Commission regulations 91-22-1a through 91-22-25, including clarifications and consistent language edits since initial review last month. These regulations guide the process by which the State Board of Education determines that a license to teach should be denied, suspended, revoked or publicly censured. Mr. Gordon answered questions. Dr. Horst moved to authorize submission of the proposed regulatory amendments to the Budget Division, the Department of Administration, and the Office of the Attorney General for the formal adoption process. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(04:51:34)

**REVIEW RESULTS OF SURVEY ON BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS FOR KANSAS STUDENTS**

KSDE conducted a survey of all public unified school districts to determine how many of their students did not have broadband internet access. Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis reported on the survey responses, noting that school districts estimate 48,587 students do not have access to broadband internet in their home. This is 9.73 percent of student population statewide.

(05:00:19)

**ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TEACHER VACANCY AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE ON LIMITED APPRENTICE LICENSE**

Mischel Miller, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, and Susan Helbert, Assistant Director, reported on the Limited Apprentice License program that provides alternative licensure pathways for elementary education or high-incidence special education. They explained that the program has resulted in 272 limited apprentice licenses, with the majority issued for high incidence special education. Interest in the program continues to grow.

(05:06:06)

Mr. Porter moved to accept the recommendation of the Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee to continue to provide a Limited Apprentice License special education paraprofessional-to-teaching pathway, modeled after the Limited Apprentice High Incidence Pilot, but with adjustment to the program of study, and to accept the recommendation of the TVSC to continue to explore and then pilot an alternative pathway to earn an elementary education license for bachelor degreed individuals to transition to teaching, while prioritizing the design and development of an option of already licensed teachers to add an elementary education endorsement to

**MOTION**  
(05:07:50)

their existing license. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 8-2, with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

Members took a break from 3:03 to 3:15 p.m.

**BREAK**

**ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding item 18 f. (licensure waivers), which would be voted on separately. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

**MOTION**  
(05:26:18)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for August.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Michael Welchans as Communications Specialist on the Communications and Recognition Programs/Graphic Arts team, effective Aug. 10, 2020, at an annual salary of \$52,000; Marissa Seele as Administrative Specialist also on the CRP/Graphics Arts team, effective Aug. 19, 2020, at an annual salary of \$36,504.
- approved, with modifications, the in-service education plans for USD 300 Comanche County, USD 311 Pretty Prairie, USD 329 Mill Creek Valley, USD 333 Concordia, USD 336 Holton, USD 348 Baldwin City, USD 418 McPherson, USD 419 Canton-Galva, USD 457 Garden City, USD 460 Hesston, USD 468 Healy, USD 470 Arkansas City, USD 489 Hays, USD 497 Lawrence.
- approved issuance of a Visiting Scholar license for the 2020-21 school year for Tracy Bedgood, Manhattan Catholic Schools.
- accepted recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee. *Approved cases:* 3287, 3318, 3319, 3320, 3334, 3335, 3336, 3337, 3338, 3339.
- approved 2020 supplemental funds for Kansas Volunteer Generation Fund subgrantees as follows: United Way of Franklin County Association, Flint Hills Volunteer Center, Barton County College/RSVP, Kansas Humane Society, Sunflower CASA Project Inc., Wichita Habitat for Humanity, with \$6,000 awarded to each organization.
- authorized the following districts to hold elections on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation: USD 416 Louisburg and USD 511 Attica.
- authorized the following districts to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law: USD 416 Louisburg and USD 511 Attica.

*authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and*

- initiate the contract process for State Advisor to the Business Professionals of America in an amount not to exceed \$57,500 for the period Oct. 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024;
- approve amendments to the Striving Readers subcontract with the University of Kansas in an amount not to exceed \$74,059, and to extend the effective date until Aug. 31, 2021;
- enter into a contract with the Kansas Association of Education Service Agencies to provide relevant and timely professional development support to build capacity for effectively implementing key components of the Navigating Change guidance, in an amount not to exceed \$110,000 for the period Sept 14, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

**INDIVIDUAL ACTION ON CONSENT ITEM**

Mr. Roberts requested to pull consent item 18 f. (licensure waivers) for a separate vote. Mr. Roberts commented about qualifications to receive a license. Mr. McNiece moved to accept the

recommendations for licensure waivers. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 8-2, with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Roberts in opposition.

**MOTION**  
(05:32:41)

The following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year are: *Deaf or Hard of Hearing* - Jerri Haymaker, D0609. *Early Childhood Special Education* - Stephanie Withrow, D0637; Amanda Crouch, D0720. *Early Childhood Special Education – extension on the number of days under an emergency substitute license* – Rosa Rosales Castorena, USD 457. *Elementary – extension on the number of days under an emergency substitute license* -- Jamie Weishaar, USD 429; Tabitha Pestock, USD 464. *Gifted* - Kristina McClellan, USD 385; Allison Johnston, D0609; Jill Selland, D0615; Amber Coulter, Melissa George, Robert Bovaird, D0720. *High Incidence Special Education* - Garrett Tatro, Rachel Hillestad, USD 229; Dawn Graham, Katie Gude, Kristine Carr, Kristie Strecker, USD 457; Angela Ewing, D0619; Tyler Buche, Christopher Duke, Jess Lewis, Richard Smith, D0620; Kevin Nelson, D0637; Kaitlyn Isch, Alyssa Smith, Sharon Huband, D0702; Erin Davis, Megan Russell, Jessea Chapman, D0720. *High Incidence Special Education – extension on the number of days under an emergency substitute license* - Kimberly Blackwolf, USD 453. *Journalism* - Jordan Roquemore, USD 416. *Library Media Specialist* - Ashley Nottingham, USD 373. *Low Incidence Special Education* - Riley Long, Kendra Madden, USD 229; Shawn Moore, USD 232; Richard Wright, D0619; Jacob Teats, D0637. *Music - extension on the number of days under an emergency substitute license* - Ashley Boe, USD 225; Holly McDermott, USD 361. *Physical Science - extension on the number of days under an emergency substitute license* - Andrew Bradshaw, USD 450. *Visual Impaired* - Codie Berntsen, D0619.

#### **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. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(05:37:23)

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Action to accept Navigating Change document updates** — Dr Watson reviewed updates to the *Navigating Change Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations* earlier during his Commissioner's Report. Ms. Busch moved to accept updates to the Navigating Change document reflecting changes and new information since State Board approval Aug. 11. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(05:38:37)

**Committee Reports** — Dr. Horst commented on recent KSHSAA Board meetings and the approval of an optional spring season for fall sports. Mrs. Mah reported on the School Redesign Advisory Committee meeting and schedule of professional development.

**Board Attorney's Report** — None.

#### **Requests for Future Agenda Items** —

- Narrative reports from all districts describing how the pandemic has impacted their KESA goals, explaining how they are addressing social-emotional needs of students and staff, and to share academic data (Mrs. Waugh)
- Revisit conversation on dyslexia timelines and training (Mrs. Mah)
- Update from E-Cigarette and Vaping Task Force (Mrs. Dombrosky)
- A retreat or workshop focusing on high school graduation, postsecondary transition and competency-based learning (Ms. Busch)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL**

Mrs. Waugh moved to recess into Executive Session to discuss the subject of an individual employee's performance, which is justified pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, in order to protect the privacy interest of the individuals(s) to be discussed. The session would begin at 3:40 p.m. for 15 minutes and the open meeting would resume at 3:55 p.m. in the Board Room. Commissioner Watson was invited to join this Executive Session. Mr. Roberts seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(05:45:53)

Members returned to open session at 3:55 p.m.

**ACTION ON PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Mrs. Waugh moved to accept the retirement of Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis with regret effective Sept. 30, 2020, expressing the Board's sincere gratitude for 53 years of service to public education as an employee of KSDE, for his commitment to school leaders and students, State Board members, legislators, agency staff and many others through his remarkable career. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(06:04:24)

Mr. Porter moved to confirm the personnel appointment and promotion of School Finance Director Craig Neuenswander to Deputy Commissioner of Fiscal and Administrative Services effective Oct. 1, 2020, and to authorize the Commissioner of Education to fill the School Finance Director vacancy with a qualified candidate. The recommended salary \$161,800. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(06:05:47)

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Busch adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday at which time Board members will conduct their annual joint meeting with the Kansas Board of Regents. The meeting will occur through video conference.

**POST-MEETING ACTIVITY**

Retirement well wishes were shared through video conference to Mr. Dale Dennis, who dedicated 60 years to public education, including 53 years at the State Department of Education. He began as state school finance administrator in 1967 and was named Deputy Commissioner in 1976. Mr. Dennis also served as interim commissioner of education multiple times. Guests providing a tribute included Governor Laura Kelly, Lt. Governor Lynn Rogers, former State Board of Education members, former Commissioners of Education, and other state dignitaries. Remarks centered on Mr. Dennis' knowledge of school finance, his dedication as a public servant, special memories, his integrity, service to the students of Kansas, and midwestern work ethic.

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Kathy Busch, Chairman

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Peggy Hill, Secretary

# MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

## CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Directors for the Kansas Board of Regents and the Kansas State Board of Education convened a joint meeting to discuss topics of mutual interest and to strengthen the K-12 / Higher Education continuum. The meeting occurred in a blended format with some members participating virtually and others present in the Regents Board Room, 1000 Jackson, Topeka, Kansas. State Board Chair Kathy Busch conducted the meeting, with assistance from Regents Chair Bill Feuerborn.

(Times not recorded)

## ROLL CALL

The following State Board of Education members participated, either in person or through video conference:

Kathy Busch	Ann Mah
Jean Clifford	Jim McNiece
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Steve Roberts
Ben Jones	Janet Waugh

## REPORTS ON REOPENING PLANS

Following introductions of both Boards, Commissioner of Education Randy Watson reported on reopening plans for K-12 schools. He talked about creation of Continuous Learning Plans when school buildings were closed last spring. He then described the development of a Navigating Change framework to guide school systems with a return to school this fall, focusing on academic rigor through multiple learning environments. Next, Wichita State University President Jay Golden commented on reintegration at various higher ed institutions, sharing best management practices and estimated declines in enrollment. Next, Cowley College President Dennis Rittle described the reopen adjustments at community colleges, measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and an increased opportunity to work together with other institutions. Lastly, Manhattan Tech President Jim Genandt commented on increased collaboration, challenges of not being able to teach all courses virtually, and students' transition to new protocols. A time for Q & A followed. There were questions about handling quarantines, contact tracing, athletics and testing for the virus.

## DISCUSSION AGENDA

**Aligning spring breaks for entire Kansas public education system** — By consensus, the Boards agreed to form a workgroup to advance conversations on aligning spring breaks for the entire Kansas public education system. Representation would include State Board of Education, Board of Regents, KSHSAA and independent/private colleges. The goal is for alignment to occur by the 2022-2023 school year, with transition starting before then.

There was a break from 10:24 to 10:35 a.m.

**BREAK**

**Demonstration on Kansas DegreeStats and potential for integration into Individual Plans of Study** — Elaine Frisbie, Regents vice president of finance and administration, demonstrated how to locate information available through Kansas DegreeStats on the Kansas Regents website. The interactive online tool is useful for reviewing costs and wage earning data for undergraduate degrees from Kansas institutions. The plan is to integrate DegreeStats within Individual Plans of Study process for middle and high school students.

**Goals for concurrent enrollment in high schools** — High schools already provide concurrent enrollment, but there is a need to research other ways to finance the costs. Research has shown that the return on postsecondary completion is higher if students earn at least some college credit hours while in high school. There was discussion about potential for an early college high school model. It was agreed that Commissioner Randy Watson and President Blake Flanders would identify next steps in achieving the goal of high school students earning at least five core college credit hours at no cost through concurrent enrollment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

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Kathy Busch, Chairman

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Peggy Hill, Secretary