

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, in the Board Room of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

(Audio not recorded)

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present:

Betty Arnold	Ben Jones
Jean Clifford	Ann Mah
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim McNiece
Melanie Haas	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Janet Waugh

STATE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Porter read both the Board's Mission Statement and Kansans Can Vision Statement. He then asked for a moment of silence after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Mrs. Dombrosky requested to pull two consent items for a separate vote: 19 c. (licensure waivers) and 19 e. (contract bid process for Perkins V grant tracking). Dr. Horst moved to approve the Tuesday agenda as amended. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:01:09)

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 9 and 10 regular Board meeting. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:01:37)

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Randy Watson covered multiple topics in his monthly report to Board members. He began by announcing the launch of *Teachers Leading Teachers* regional conferences that will utilize curriculum developed by Kansas Teachers of the Year. There will be two to three conferences each of the next several years that will help educators learn deeper about the Board's outcomes and vision. The conferences are supported by ESSER set-aside funds. Dr. Watson spoke about the ACT WorkKeys assessment, which is free to every Kansas high school junior, and the corresponding National Career Readiness Certificates students earn. The assessment measures work-ready skills and correlates with higher employment opportunities and wage earnings. His other topics were:

(00:01:48)

- Kansans Can Star Recognition program, which recognizes high achievement in eight areas based on quantitative and qualitative information. The application period is Dec. 15 through June 30.
- Comments about his recent school district visits.
- Attendance at the Innovation Student Showcase at Basehor-Linwood High School, sharing examples of real-world learning and civic engagement.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Porter declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:36 a.m. Speakers and their topics were: Steve Roberts, Overland Park — Academic rigor, teaching profession and his platform for Reckon2022; Jacob Osborn, Olathe — vagueness of History Government Social Studies Standards; Kaety Bowers, Overland Park — need to lighten substitute teacher requirements. Chairman Porter declared the Citizens' Forum closed at 10:48 a.m.

(00:36:17)

RECEIVE LITERACY NETWORK OF KANSAS FINAL PROJECT REPORT

The Literacy Network of Kansas (LiNK) is a federally funded project of the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy initiative. This three-year award laid the groundwork for communities and schools to identify and develop impactful strategies for improving literacy. Districts participated either independently or through a consortium. LiNK Project Director Kimberly Muff described examples of models created, resources developed, and family/community partnerships formed. She provided members with the printed final report aligning the LiNK statewide goals with outcomes. She then answered questions.

(00:48:39)

Members took a 10-minute break

BREAK

ACT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

The Accreditation Review Council (ARC) has recommended an accreditation status for the next three systems awaiting a recommendation. Dr. Mischel Miller referenced the informational findings of the ARC regarding these systems and any identified areas of improvement. Systems have the opportunity to appeal the ARC decision. Executive summaries, accountability reports and other narratives were provided to Board members for St. Agnes Elementary and Holy Spirit Catholic, both of the Kansas City Catholic Diocese, and USD 381 Spearville. The ARC considers compliance and foundational structures to support a five-year process of continuous improvement. Dr. Horst moved to accept the recommendations of the Accreditation Review Council and award the status of Accredited to St. Agnes Elementary and the status of Conditionally Accredited to Holy Spirit Catholic and USD 381 Spearville. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0. On a separate topic, Dr. Miller commented on current requirements for obtaining a substitute license and discussions about possible expansion.

(01:31:52)

MOTION
(01:35:02)

INFORMATION ON STATE ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Assistant Director Beth Fultz provided an overview of state assessment performance level decisions and their relationship to academic content standards. Standards are specific to each grade level and are written by Kansas teachers. She explained there are state and federal mandates to follow as well as guidelines to ensure assessment tests are fair and equitable to all students. There are four levels that identify students' ability to understand and use the skills and knowledge needed for postsecondary readiness. Performance level descriptors directly relate to the standards and articulate how much students should know and be able to do at each performance level category. Data from the assessments help identify which schools need more support. Conversations centered on differences between the performance levels, the high marks Kansas has set for benchmarks, and a score's relation to ACT indicators. Dr. Scott Smith and Dr. Brad Neuenswander assisted in the presentation and answered questions.

(01:37:36)

Chairman Porter recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:23 p.m. The Board's Policy Committee met over the break.

LUNCH

RECOGNITION OF PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENTS FROM KANSAS

Chairman Porter reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed representatives from the Kansas Parent Teacher Association. The National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition

P.M. SESSION
(03:28:43)

program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. This year's honorees are both from Shawnee Mission USD 512. They are Broken Arrow Elementary / Broken Arrow Elementary PTA; and Shawnee Mission North High School / Shawnee Mission North HS PTSA. Representatives were on hand to receive their awards from Patty Jurich, Kansas PTA President, and Sarah Dunn, Kansas PTA Family Engagement Chair. Mrs. Jurich described some of the activities that helped merit the distinction.

INFORMATION ON FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND RESOURCES

Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) Executive Director Jane Groff and Project Coordinator Tamara Huff shared updates on how KPIRC supports districts and schools in their efforts to engage families. KPIRC partners with multiple groups to support professional development within schools and districts, provide training to families, and give particular attention to family engagement in early childhood. Their work is a process to involve families in their children's learning. KPIRC reaches into each area of the State Board outcomes. Foundational structures are also reflected in accreditation. Ms. Huff commented that Kansas is the only state with a statewide Family Engagement Survey. She also spoke about family engagement equity work, reaching all subgroups, and welcoming all families into the educational environment.

(03:50:41)

DISCUSSION ON SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES AND OUTREACH

Julie Wilson, Associate Executive Director of KNEA, shared data about the low availability of social workers to assist educators as well as research that correlates a teacher's social-emotional health with student achievement and behavior. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the need for social-emotional professional supports, particularly for educators. Among those surveyed, anxiety ranked as the highest emotional risk. Ms. Wilson was instrumental in securing a grant to enable access to an Employer Assistance Plan if the district doesn't offer such a program for teachers and their families. She talked about the tele-health and Employee Assistance Plan available for all KNEA members. Idalia Shuman, Director of Teaching and Learning, explained about peer professional learning offered during these challenging times such as webinars, book studies and blended learning opportunities, many of which could be used toward recertification.

(04:29:05)

KANSANS CAN HIGHLIGHT: SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL GROWTH MEASURED LOCALLY

The support of students' social-emotional growth is a State Board of Education outcome and viewed as a key element in helping Kansas students be successful. Through the Kansans Can Star Recognition program, school districts locally measure progress toward the goal of each student developing the social, emotional and character competencies that promote learning and a positive school climate. Two districts earning Silver Awards in this year's Star Recognition program were present to describe their initiatives and approaches to social-emotional growth. Representatives from Baldwin City USD 348 and DeSoto USD 232 spoke about on-site services, roles of social workers, partnerships with other organizations, and student-driven programs to boost morale and be mentors. Other pro-active measures are early interventions, identifying students who are struggling, and parent involvement.

(04:51:06)

There was a break until 3:35 p.m.

BREAK

ACTION ON ESSER II EXPENDITURE PLANS FOR PUBLIC SYSTEMS

Assistant Director Doug Bolin provided an ESSER II update and profiled the day's new applications. He relayed the Task Force recommendations for the current expenditure plans and change requests. There were 14 applications and 26 change requests. The allowable uses primarily focus on teaching and learning. Mr. Jones moved to accept the recommendations of the Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER and EANS Distribution of Money and approve the submission of public

(05:35:35)

MOTION
(05:40:59)

school district expenditure plans for ESSER II federal COVID-19 relief funds as presented. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining. Mr. Boline briefly commented on ESSER III, which is the next cycle of federal aid.

UPDATE ON HISTORY GOVERNMENT SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENTS AND STANDARDS

In the presentation, Director Scott Smith reiterated that Kansas statute addresses curriculum standards and student assessments. History Government Social Studies standards are developed by a committee of Kansas educators and stakeholders. Next, Humanities Program Manager Nathan McAlister explained the four benchmarks within the HGSS standards. The classroom-based assessment focuses on discipline-specific application of content. He cited examples of how learning can be personalized and explained the scoring rubrics. Presenters then answered questions.

(05:42:38)

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS—INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORTS

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Craig Neuenswander distributed a document on selected House and Senate education bills passed into law during the 2021 legislative session. Dr. Neuenswander then gave updates on several legislative matters. He noted that the State Board's budget recommendations have been presented to the Division of the Budget. Legislative Post Audit is conducting an audit on Performance-Based Budgeting, which is the process in statute used by state agencies. KSDE staff members are working on numerous annual reports and data collection projects required by the Legislature. Lastly, he reported on the Special Committee on Education, which met Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The intended focus was student achievement. Topics included accreditation regulations, completion of needs-based assessments for budget development, accountability and academic achievement, particularly ensuring students in third grade are reading at grade level.

(06:05:25)

RECEIVE INFORMATION ON FUNDING COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

ESSER set-aside funding previously approved by the State Board did not include programming for Communities in Schools (CIS), based in part on CIS testimony to the Legislature that the funds would be used to build sustainability for current programs. Dr. Neuenswander stated that CIS has provided new information to address reengagement of students and to correct learning loss caused by the pandemic. Board members are asked to reconsider the proposal to appropriate \$100,000 in each of the next three years from the federal set-aside funds for Communities in Schools. This will be on the January agenda for action.

(06:21:28)

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding 19 c. (licensure waivers) and 19 e. (contract bid process for Perkins V grant tracking). Mrs. Waugh seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

MOTION
(06:31:45)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for November.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Jessica Gomez as Auditor on the Fiscal Auditing team, effective Nov. 1, 2021, at an annual salary of \$43,992; Jessica Hess as Education Program Consultant on the Special Education and Title Services team, effective Nov. 14, 2021, at an annual salary of \$56,118.40; Trey Austin as Application Developer on the Information Technology team, effective Nov. 16, 2021, at an annual salary of \$54,121.60.
- approved issuance of licenses to the following recommended commercial driver training schools for the period Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022: Behind The Wheel Defensive Driving School, Wichita; Behind The Wheel, Inc., Overland Park; Bi-State Driving School, Inc., Overland Park;

BuckleUp School LLC, Lawrence; Double Team Driving School, Overland Park; Drive Right School of Johnson County, Overland Park; Drive Right School of Wichita, Wichita; EcoDriver School, Lenexa; Freedom Driving School, Lenexa; Go Driving School Manhattan, Manhattan; Go Driving School, LLC., Lawrence; Historic Harley Davidson Riding Academy, Topeka; Horizon's Driving Academy, Salina; HyPlains Driving School of Garden City, Garden City; HyPlains Driving School, Inc., Dodge City; Inspire KC Foundation Driving School, Kansas City; Johnny Rowlands Driving School Metcalf, Overland Park; Johnny Rowlands Driving School West, Shawnee; Johnson County Community College, Overland Park; Kansas City Kansas Community College, Kansas City; KS International Drivers Ed (KIDE), Wichita; KS International Drivers Education of Dodge City, Dodge City; Legacy Driving School of Andover, Andover; Little Apple Driving School, Manhattan; McPherson Driving School, LLC, McPherson; Midwest Driving School, Lawrence; Motorcycle Rider Education, Wichita; Motorcycle Rider University, LLC, Bonner Springs; PAL Police Athletic League of KCK, Kansas City; Premier Driving School LLC, Newton; Premier Driving School of Derby, Derby; Premier Driving School of Dodge City, Dodge City; Premier Driving School of Hutchinson, Hutchinson; Premier Driving School of Wichita, Wichita; Rawhide Harley Davidson, Olathe; Royal Driving School, Salina; Schuetz Driving School, Olathe; Suburban Driving Academy, Kansas City; Topeka Driving School, Inc., Topeka; Twin City Driver Education, Overland Park; Twister City Motorcycles, Park City; Varsolona Driving School, Frontenac; Wichita Collegiate Comm Driving School, Wichita; Wichita Driving School East, LLC, Wichita; Wichita Driving School, Inc., Wichita; Yost Driving School, Wichita.

- authorized USD 233 Olathe, Johnson County, to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation.
- authorized USD 233 Olathe, Johnson County, to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law.

authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and

- authorize an out-of-state tuition contract for the 2021-2022 school year for a student attending Kansas School for the Deaf.

SEPARATE ACTION ON CONSENT ITEMS

At the opening, Mrs. Dombrosky requested separate votes on consent items 19 c. and 19 e. Mr. McNiece moved to approve consent item 19 c. (licensure waivers). Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

This action confirmed acceptance of the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year: *Early Childhood Special Education* -- Aimee Oesterreich, USD 232; Janae Palet, Mecate Thomas, D0603; Karen Stevens, D0608; Gavin Beach, D0725. *Early Childhood/Preschool* -- Kelsey Mackeprang, USD 202. *Gifted* -- Diana Albright, Tara Durr, D0605; Brandi Gibbs, Cristine Noland, D0725. *High Incidence Special Education* -- Jennifer House, USD 230; Andrea Jackson, USD 253; Kirkland Babin, Krysten Beeton, Tamara Wildes, USD 383; Melynda Hanson, USD 409; Jacob Hardesty-Vickery, USD 501; Amanda Crabtree, Chelsea Harper, Regena Lance, Kiley Allen, Cody Easley, Jacque Ensminger, D0603; Erin Walter, Elizabeth Krehbiel, Kelli Ast, Michille Gwennap, Phillip Sill, Jill Nech, Susan Neifert, D0605; Alexis Douglas, Rebecca Fiedler, Alyssa Rogers, Jessica Wobus, D0608; Laura Umbarger, D0636; Danelle Curtis, Maronda Blankenship, Nira Condon, Julie Crowe, D0725; Ashley Garten, D0728; Kimberly Giesen, D0729. *Low Incidence Special Education* -- Monica Wallace, D0607; Brooklyn Sipp, D0729. *Visual Impaired* -- Lana Hittle, D0613; Rachel Ghram, D0725; Nicole Drake, S0604.

Mr. McNiece then moved to approve item 19 e. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with

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MOTION
(06:32:51)

Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

The action authorized the Commissioner of Education to initiate a contract with Survey Monkey Apply for Perkins V grant tracking application in an amount not to exceed \$23,700 for the period January 2022-December 2024 with the option to purchase additional program applications at \$900 per year.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 4:34 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary

RECESS

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education
Wednesday, December 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on Dec. 15, 2021.

(00:13:41)

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present:

Betty Arnold	Ben Jones
Jean Clifford	Ann Mah
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim McNiece
Melanie Haas	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Janet Waugh

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Chairman Porter announced two additions to the day's agenda (1) a Resolution of Appreciation for consideration and acceptance during his Chairman's Report and (2) an Executive Session for Personnel Matters as the last item of the day. Dr. Horst moved to approve the day's agenda as amended. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:14:15)

INFORMATION ON STRENGTHENING LEGISLATIVE COLLABORATION

In October, the State Board met in open session with leadership of the legislative education committees. Sen. Molly Baumgardner, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, spoke on Wednesday as a follow-up. She offered to reserve designated dates, times and space two days a month (January through March) for State Board members to meet with any legislator informally at the Statehouse. She commented on the following: a cooperative statewide focus to ensure every third grader can read at grade level, on a letter community college presidents provided to the Board of Regents regarding service areas, development of a white paper on accreditation requirements, and a position statement from the State Board regarding communication protocols in schools.

(00:14:44)

INFORMATION ON KANSAS PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Kansas Promise Scholarship Act was passed during the 2021 Kansas Legislative Session to assist students attending Kansas community colleges, technical colleges and certain private post-secondary institutions, enrolled in specific programs of study. Sen. Molly Baumgardner, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, noted that the Kansas Promise Scholarship pays for tuition, fees, books and supplies for two years. She covered such specifics as eligible areas of study, requirements and student obligations. This is a state funded scholarship.

(00:28:12)

Members took a break until 9:50 a.m.

BREAK

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Action on Board Travel — Mr. Jones moved to approve the travel requests and updates. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(01:05:02)

Committee Reports — Updates were given on the following:

- Policy Committee (Mrs. Clifford) — The committee met the prior day and will continue advancing through the review process. The committee will meet again in February.
- Legislative Liaisons (Dr. Horst, Mr. Jones) — Dr. Horst provided a written report summarizing topics from the Special Committee on Education and identified who provided testimony or research.
- Governor's Education Council (Mr. Porter) — It is anticipated that recommendations will be ready for the Governor in January. The recommendations will then come to the State Board.
- Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council (Mrs. Mah, Mrs. Clifford) — Subgroups will begin merging their information together.
- Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (Mrs. Waugh) — Subcommittees have been established to gather specific data on programs.

Board Attorney's Report — Mark Ferguson provided information on ongoing litigation, a case that has been dismissed, and an example of a lawsuit in Colorado of interest to school districts.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Basehor-Linwood High School students' Innovation Showcase. (Mrs. Waugh)
- Evaluation of substitute licensing and ways to assist districts with a substitute shortage; look at obstacles and fee structure. (Mrs. Clifford and Mrs. Haas)
- Discussion on how KESA process examines robust nature of IPS in school systems. (Mrs. Clifford)
- Retreat to review Board vision. (Mrs. Arnold)
- Report on KESA so Board can evaluate and reaffirm process, and address the large number of systems forthcoming. (Mr. McNiece)
- Consider ways to utilize licensed teachers in other areas. (Mrs. Dombrosky)
- Define Critical Race Theory from a state level. (Mrs. Dombrosky)
- Consider expanding Wednesday Board meeting hours to a full day. (Mrs. Waugh)

Chair's Report — Mr. Porter shared information from the Dec. 9 meeting with leadership of the Kansas Board of Regents. The community college service area/territory issue is on hold because a waiver process already exists. Other discussion topics were increasing FAFSA completion, a requested report from the Graduation Requirements Task Force at the Jan. 20 KBOR meeting, and scheduling a joint meeting between the State Board and Board of Regents on Feb. 17 at KBOR offices. Chairman Porter also reminded members of several invitations in their meeting folders for upcoming events.

Action on Resolution — Vice Chair Waugh had requested a Board Resolution to express appreciation to KSDE staff for outstanding dedication and contributions during the pandemic. Mrs. Waugh read the proposed Resolution. (Attached to Minutes). Mrs. Waugh moved to accept the Resolution. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

There was a break until 10:40 a.m.

REPORT FROM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS TASK FORCE

Board member Jim McNiece and Basehor-Linwood High School Principal Jarred Fuhrman co-chair the Graduation Requirements Task Force that was established in June 2021. The purpose of the Task Force is to examine current graduation requirements in Kansas and determine what changes, if any, need to occur in order to better meet the needs of students in the 21st century.

MOTION
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BREAK

(01:54:26)

Mr. McNiece rationalized that now is the time to link Kansas graduation requirements to the Board's vision and outcomes. He then introduced Task Force leadership reported on the early work of the group. Next, subcommittee chairs gave updates on each of the committee categories, all still within the formative stages. Those speaking and their topics are listed:

- Christie Meyer, Principal at Eisenhower High School, Goddard USD 265 — Courses added or deleted (looking at the number of credits, flexibility options instead of a one-track system, grouping courses directly related to a student's Individual Plan of Study)
- Ed Raines, Principal at Washburn Rural HS, USD 437 — Mastery of skills / competency (looking at regulations, specific strategies, defining competency-based systems, deciding what constitutes mastery, examples)
- Kelly Nusser, Principal, Lyons HS, USD 405 — Value-added diplomas (looking at ways to meet needs of all students and special populations, incorporating real-world experiences)

Co-Chair Jarred Fuhrman identified the three main focus areas being considered: Individual Plan of Study, equity, and ensuring students leave high school ready for postsecondary. He also spoke about initial plans to share the proposed recommendations with the public and to receive feedback. Subcommittee chairs will present their recommendations to the full Task Force in person Jan. 20. The group then received questions or comments from the Board. Topics included ensuring rigor in the requirements and IPS process, and receiving stakeholder input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL MATTERS

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 individual(s) to be discussed. The session would begin at 11:35 a.m. for 10 minutes and open session would resume in the Board Room at 11:45 a.m. No action would be taken during the session. Dr. Watson was invited to join. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

Open session resumed at 11:45 a.m. at which time Chair Porter adjourned the meeting.

The next regular meeting for the State Board of Education is Jan. 11 and 12, 2022.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MOTION

ADJOURN