

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

Prior to the start of the business meeting, the swearing-in ceremony occurred virtually for new State Board members Melanie Haas (District 2) and Betty Arnold (District 8), along with re-elected members Ann Mah (District 4), Deena Horst (District 6) and Jim McNiece (District 10). Vice Chair Janet Waugh provided the welcome, then Commissioner Randy Watson introduced the Honorable Chief Justice Marla Luckert who administered the Oath of Office for the five members.

(00:05:32)

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Janet Waugh called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021. The meeting was conducted via video conference during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and was livestreamed for the public to observe and listen. She welcomed new members Melanie Haas and Betty Arnold for their first participatory meeting.

(00:35:28)

ROLL CALL

All Board members attended by video conference:

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

Vice Chair Waugh 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 AGENDA

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Tuesday agenda as presented. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:38:20)

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

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

MOTION
(00:39:13)

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Reorganization of the Kansas State Board of Education occurs every two years, which coincides with the election and/or re-election of Board members and their staggered terms. The following action was taken during reorganization for 2021-23:

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRMAN

Mr. McNiece moved to nominate Jim Porter as Chair of the Kansas State Board of Education. Dr. Horst seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried 10-0. Mr. Porter accepted, then assumed leadership of the meeting.

MOTION
(00:40:13)

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Clifford moved to nominate Janet Waugh as Vice Chair of the Kansas State Board of Education. Mr. Jones seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:42:09)

ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISONS

Mr. Jones moved to nominate Deena Horst for one of two Legislative Liaison positions. Mrs. Waugh seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Next, Dr. Horst moved to nominate Ben Jones for the second Legislative Liaison position. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTIONS
(00:43:54)
(00:45:00)

ELECTION OF BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Reorganization continued with the election of three Board members to serve on the Policy Committee. Chairman Porter stated nominations could be made individually or in a slate. Mrs. Waugh moved to nominate the slate of Jean Clifford, Betty Arnold and Deena Horst for the Policy Committee. Mrs. Mah seconded. A single vote was taken on the three-member slate, passing 10-0. Mrs. Clifford was named Chair of the Policy Committee.

MOTION
(00:46:34)

STATUS OF OTHER ELECTED POSITIONS

Board-elected positions on the Kansas State High School Activities Association's Board of Directors and Executive Board are held by Deena Horst and Jim McNiece. These terms are not yet expired.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Porter announced the opening of Citizens Forum. Only written comments were accepted this month. However, there were no written public comments submitted for the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD ATTORNEY AND BOARD SECRETARY

Mr. McNiece moved to approve the designation of Mark Ferguson of Gates Shields Ferguson Swall Hammond, P.A., Overland Park, as the State Board Attorney, and approve the designation of Peggy Hill as State Board Secretary. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:49:12)

REVIEW OF COMMITTEES NEEDING STATE BOARD REPRESENTATION

During reorganization, members have the opportunity to consider participation in committees that have State Board representation. Brief committee descriptions were provided for those appointments made by either the Chairman or Commissioner. Each member was asked to complete an interest survey in advance to indicate where he or she would like to serve for the next two years. Assignments would be announced on Wednesday.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The meeting was ahead of schedule, so Commissioner Randy Watson proceeded with his monthly report. Dr. Watson first commented about honoring the 2021 Horizon Award winners, a group of 32 educators who are in their second year of teaching. He next previewed a discussion that will occur in February when members will receive guidance and recommendations for assisting school districts and local boards of education as they transition out of the pandemic to a new normal. Dr. Watson then reviewed important factors within a five-year snapshot of a districts' postsecondary progress, considered vital information in the vision to lead the world in the success of each student. He explained how the state's predicted effectiveness rate can be impacted by three main risk factors: poverty, mobility and chronic absenteeism — all critical from an equity perspective. Using illustrations of growth, he touched upon areas the Accreditation Review Council evaluates. He then addressed questions about risk factors and research regarding other subsets such as English learners, dyslexia and students with disabilities.

(00:51:50)

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE LEVELS AND CUT SCORES

At last month's meeting, Board members received performance level and cut score recommendations for Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessments (KELPA). The KELPA aligns with the 2018 Kansas Standards for English Learners. Presenters were Beth Fultz, Assistant Director at KSDE, plus Dr. Neal Kingston and Dr. Brooke Nash from the University of Kansas. The assessment is comprised of four domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing. They briefly reviewed the standard-setting process and answered questions. Mr. Porter read the motion, which was made by Mrs. Waugh, to approve the recommended performance levels and cut scores for grades K-12 Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessments. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(01:38:41)

MOTION
(01:44:41)

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

MOTION
(01:45:51)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for December.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Edward Kalas as Education Program Consultant on the Teacher Licensure and Accreditation team, effective Dec. 7, 2020, at an annual salary of \$56,118.40; Jaycee Worrell as Accountant on the Fiscal Services and Operations team, effective Dec. 14, 2020, at an annual salary of \$46,363.20; Taylor Carlson as Administrative Specialist on the Fiscal Auditing team, effective Dec. 21, 2020, at an annual salary of \$36,504; Aaron Emery as Quality Analyst Technician on the Information Technology team, effective Dec. 21, 2020, at an annual salary of \$51,126.40; Jennifer Shaffer as Information Systems Manager on the Information Technology team, effective Dec. 27, 2020, at an annual salary of \$69,992; Dale Brungardt as Director on the School Finance team, effective July 1, 2021, at an annual salary of \$109,670.86.
- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year:
Gifted -- Tracy Russman, USD 233; Jacqueline Franklin, USD 501. *High Incidence Special Education* -- Jamie Spruk, USD 203; Kelly Toll, USD 383; John Zeller, Zachary Mickens, USD 450; Amanda Rush, Corinne Spain, Sara Burgess, Andrea Brown, Anna Motto, Jennifer Grell, Lisa Adame, Meredith Royston, Michelle Gustafson, Tawni Schraad, Whitney Baker, Neil Trottier, Alberto Vinent, USD 501; Angela Shepard, Cindie Franz, D0602; Michelle Clouch, D0603; Tammara Capps, D0608; Anna Knepper, D0702; Corbin Berner, D0718; Brock Huber, Z0032. *Library Media Specialist* -- Casey Penner, USD 402. *Low Incidence Special Education* -- Andrew Malcolm, USD 207; Monica Brown, Kelly Hoeven, USD 231; Arikka Gresham, USD 259. *Visual Impaired* -- Josephine Riley, Neriza Del Castillo, USD 501; Rachel Ghram, D0725.
- accepted the following recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee: *Approved cases* — 3332, 3340, 3348, 3349, 3555, 3356, 3357, 3358, 3360. *Denied case* — 3331.
- adopted a Resolution establishing the 2021 calendar of Board meeting dates, time and location. (See attached Resolution)
- accepted the Kansas State School for the Blind Strategic Plan for 2021.
- accepted the Kansas State School for the Blind Parent/Student Handbook.
- accepted the Kansas School for the Deaf Parent/Student Handbook.
- accepted the KSSB/KSD Employee Handbook/Policies.

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. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(01:48:56)

Members recessed for lunch at 11:20 a.m. The Chair, Vice Chair and Commissioner met virtually during the lunch break to consider committee assignments.

LUNCH

RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

Chairman Porter called the meeting back to order at 1:15 p.m. Mischel Miller, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, began with an overview of the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) framework, which centers on a continuous improvement process within districts/ systems supporting the State Board’s vision and education outcomes. This includes evaluation of evidence-based practices, foundational structures and compliance. Jeannette Nobo, Assistant Director, summarized findings of the Accreditation Review Council (ARC) and the appeal process. Systems currently presented for consideration regarding their recommended status were USD 445 Coffeyville, St. Paul Elementary, Our Lady of Unity, Cure’ of Ars, St. Thomas Aquinas and John Paul II Elementary. Executive summaries and accountability report data were provided. Board members will act on the ARC recommendations in February.

P.M. SESSION
(03:49:15)

KANSANS CAN HIGHLIGHT: UTILIZING NAVIGATING CHANGE GUIDANCE SUCCESSFULLY

“Navigating Change: Kansas Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations” was created in the spring with input from nearly 1,000 Kansans to help schools as they support students and communities, and provide a quality education during the COVID-19 pandemic. Superintendent Cindy Couchman, Buhler USD 313, described how the guidance was useful to her as a first-year superintendent by outlining a structure to address various constraints. She commented how much time the research saved her teams. In Hutchinson USD 308, Navigating Change proved useful to help students demonstrate skills in new contexts moving from remote learning to hybrid to in-person instruction. Rhonda Trimble, Executive Director of Elementary Education and School Improvement at USD 308, also described how gradeband classes were effective.

(04:21:11)

ACTION ON REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BULLYING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The report presented to Board members summarized considerations by subcommittees of the School Mental Health Advisory Council (SMHAC) tasked with formulating strategies to implement seven recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying. The implementation guide is designed for school districts and buildings based on work of the task force, which was created in 2019 to examine issues of bullying in the state’s schools. The Task Force’s Final Report was transferred to the SMHAC, chaired by Kathy Busch. She supplied background information to Board members before KSDE Education Program Consultant Myron Melton reviewed executive summary highlights of the report. Other presenters were Kent Reed and Kerry Haag. Discussion included ways to build adults’ knowledge of the topic, increase family engagement, improve accountability and data collection, and expedite the timeline. One strategy is that schools will give an annual update on bullying prevention and awareness to their local boards of education. Mrs. Dombrosky expressed concern about the accuracy of data collection. Mr. Jones moved to accept the report from the School Mental Health Advisory Council on the implementation of the Bullying Task Force recommendations. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 9-1, with Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

(04:55:23)

MOTION
(05:39:34)

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

The Professional Practices Commission was represented by acting chairperson Jennifer Holt, who presented the PPC’s recommendations on two licensure cases. She briefed members on the details and answered questions. Dr. Horst moved to issue a Professional Teaching License, with public censure, to Applicant 19-PPC-23. Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In the second case, Mrs. Mah moved to adopt the findings of the Professional Practices Commission and deny the application of 20-PPC-19. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTIONS
(05:45:27)
(05:46:59)

Members took a break from 3:14 to 3:30 p.m.

BREAK

ACCEPTANCE OF REDESIGN SCHOOLS’ PLANS FOR LAUNCH IN 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

The Kansans Can School Redesign Project currently has five cohorts, two of which are Gemini II and Apollo. Schools in these cohorts awaiting State Board acceptance of their redesign plans participated in regional redesign workshops and have been “cleared for launch” by a third-party Launch Readiness Committee. These schools have also been approved by their local boards of education to launch in 2020-21. School Redesign Specialists Tamara Mitchell and Jay Scott, along with Coordinator Sarah Perryman, gave an overview of the school redesign project, which began in the summer of 2017. There are currently 180 schools and 72 districts participating in school redesign either in the plan year, launch year or ascent years. Training, coaching, mentoring and other professional learning opportunities exist for participants, some coordinated with educational service centers. A new Redesign Success Rubric self-assessment tool has been introduced. Mr. Jones moved to accept the Gemini II and Apollo schools identified as a “go” for launch for the 2020-21 school year. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0. These schools are Ell-Saline Elementary (Ell-Saline USD 307), Wiley Elementary and Hutchinson STEM Magnet School (Hutchinson USD 308), and Stafford Middle / High School (Stafford USD 349).

(06:04:04)

MOTION
(06:31:03)

DISCUSSION ON WORK-BASED LEARNING AND INDIVIDUAL PLAN OF STUDY CONNECTION

A student’s Individual Plan of Study is an important tool for identifying his/her strengths and career interests while assisting with a plan for postsecondary success. The IPS pairs with several other projects such as work-based learning (WBL) to build short-term and long-term goals. KSDE staff Stacy Smith and Natalie Clark provided information about the developing connection between IPS and WBL. Students can benefit from collaboration between KSDE, the Kansas Board of Regents and other intergovernmental agencies through work overseen by the Governor’s Education Council. Members learned about five regional work-based learning pilots currently in place in which school districts partner with a college or technical school to provide training and work experiences. Members had questions and comments throughout the presentation.

(06:37:06)

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee Reports — Mr. Porter gave a status report on the School Bus Stop Arm group’s recommendation to reinstitute proposed legislation. He also noted there would be a meeting of the transition work group discussing concerns about sub-minimum wage jobs. Mrs. Waugh submitted her report in writing.

(07:20:18)

Board Attorney’s Report — Board Attorney Mark Ferguson informed members of the impact COVID-19 has had on the legal system, too, such as use of online notarization, extended statute of limitations and reduction in in-person meetings.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Further examination of risk factors impacting student success (mentioned during Commissioner’s Report)

- February report on guidance to assist school districts in transitioning out of pandemic.
- Additional background information on IPS and the connection to accreditation (Mrs. Arnold)
- Review of goals and elements of Kansans Can vision (Mr. Porter)
- Update on dyslexia plan across the state (Mr. McNiece)
- National certifications available for teachers, such as those offered through the Jones Institute (Mr. Jones)
- Workshop to discuss potential topics in each Board district (Mr. Porter)
- Enhancing students' understanding of civics; helping students to accept and value others (Mr. Porter)
- Working closer with local boards of education; collaboration with KASB through annual convention (Mrs. Clifford and Mr. Porter)

RECESS

Chairman Porter recessed the meeting at 5:15 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on Jan. 13, 2021. The meeting was conducted by video conference in order to observe restrictions due to COVID health concerns and group gatherings. The meeting was broadcast livestream for the public.

(00:00:48)

ROLL CALL

All Board members attended by video conference:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Wednesday agenda as presented. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:01:52)

CITIZENSHIP DAY WITH CAREER TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Citizenship Day with officers of the state's Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) occurs each January. Student leaders with eight Kansas CTSOs shared information about how their specific organizations have helped them develop leader qualities. They reflected on growth in various skills to aid them through the pandemic. Among those mentioned were: advocacy, utilizing voice to help others, overcoming limitations, being role models, strengthening work ethic, time management, adaptability and networking for community safety. While many admitted struggling at different times with remote learning and reduced socialization, they chose to focus on positive experiences. The organizations and their student representatives were: Business Professionals of America (Michael Owens), DECA (Maya Wagstaff), Future Business Leaders of America (Kaylie Reese), FCCLA (Emilie Crowley), FFA (Elizabeth Sturgis), HOSA (Joseph Lee), Skills USA (Allie Brodbeck) and Technology Student Association (Abby Otten). Board members followed with comments and questions. In past years, members would join the students for lunch and a roundtable discussion, but the pandemic caused plans to be altered.

(00:02:23)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Porter announced the selection of Board members to serve on the various committees with State Board representation. The chart of assignments is attached to the minutes.

(00:55:04)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) serves as a liaison between the statewide populace and the State Board of Education. The major responsibilities of the Council are to advise, consult and provide recommendations to the State Board and KSDE regarding matters concerning special education services in Kansas. Director Bert Moore gave the introduction. Heath Peine,

(01:00:54)

SEAC current chair, explained the diversity required in SEAC membership, recapped the year in review, works in progress, support for COVID-related issues and considerations for improving transition services. Other topics discussed included funding, teacher licensure and helping parents through remote learning. The need for students to have their Individual Education Plan met was stressed. A copy of the SEAC 2019-20 Annual Report was provided.

Members took a break until 10:45 a.m.

BREAK

(01:44:44)

RETREAT ON BOARDMANSHIP

Dr. Doug Moeckel, leadership services field specialist with the Kansas Association of School Boards, facilitated a retreat for State Board members focusing on board development and the role of policymaking boards. Dr. Moeckel expanded upon the ingredients for a successful vision, including team building and oversight responsibilities. As educational leaders, Board decisions are driven by student learning and success. He gave insight into best practices. Throughout the session, he engaged members in discussions and answered questions. Six new members have joined the Board since the new vision was developed in 2015, so they agreed it was appropriate to revisit the goals, objectives and outcomes in the immediate future. Consideration was given to working closer with local boards of education to understand their issues, improving communication, connecting more with business and industry partners, and working to return students to the classroom.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at noon. The next meeting is Feb. 9 and 10, 2021.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary