

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, June 8, 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, June 8, 2021, in the Board Room of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. Following the welcome, Mr. Porter thanked school staff for supporting students this summer through meal service, academic programs and enrichment activities.

(00:14:11)

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 AGENDA

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Tuesday agenda as presented. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

MOTION
(00:16:23)

APPROVAL OF THE MAY MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McNiece moved to approve the minutes of the May 11 and 12 regular Board meeting. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:16:52)

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Dr. Randy Watson began his monthly report by commenting on the diversity of the state and geographic concentration of students. Each Board district, though varied in size, roughly represents 50,000 Kansas students. His presentation focused on the role of the State Board of Education as outlined in the Kansas Constitution. Among the Board’s responsibilities are to set graduation requirements, currently at a minimum of 21 credits. Dr. Watson announced the establishment of a task force to examine graduation requirements, considering three broad areas: the need to add or delete courses required for graduation; competencies and multiple ways to show mastery of skills; additional requirements to earn a diploma such as CTE courses or college credit. Board member Jim McNiece will chair the task force. Participation will be about 30 individuals, including business representatives, superintendents, teachers, local board of education members, etc. Their work will begin this summer with an anticipated report to the State Board next May. The earliest implementation would be for the class of 2026. Dr. Watson also announced the organization of a Kansans Can Success Tour starting in late July, reaching 40 or more communities to validate the Kansans Can vision (review responses from 2015-16), determine if there should be adjustments to the priorities; and lastly to highlight the successes that have occurred while building momentum

(00:17:06)

for the work ahead. Data will be collected and reported to the State Board in the fall.

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Porter declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:26 a.m. Speakers and their topics were: Katie Hendrickson, Code.org — support for computer science education and district flexibility; Sierra Bonn, Let's Go Full STEAM Ahead! — personal story as a former student wanting to learn computer science; Emily Meyer, Science City at Union Station — importance of training in fundamental computer science concepts and need for educator professional development; Ashley Scheideman, FlagshipKansas.Tech — support for computer science education as a foundation for many careers by teaching problem solving; Nick Poels, Ignister/Network Kansas — importance of computer science for workforce development and to build security for the industry in Kansas; Martha McCabe, KC Stem Alliance — support for computer science education as a recruitment tool. Chairman Porter declared the Citizens Forum closed at 10:49 a.m.

(00:40:56)

Board members took a break until 11 a.m.

BREAK

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE TO BE COUNTED AS A CORE MATH OR SCIENCE CREDIT

Recommendations from the Computer Science Education Implementation Task Force were previously presented to the State Board. One of the recommendations centered on allowing computer science to satisfy a core math or science credit toward high school graduation. The recommendation does not change the minimum 21 credits Kansas currently requires for graduation, but it provides school districts the flexibility to allow computer science to be counted as a core math or science credit as long as the student meets the math and science concepts required in regulations. Dr. King explained that computer science standards address technical and computational thinking skills, not just coding or programming, and are designed to enhance teaching of STEM. Board members had multiple questions or comments. Kansas currently requires a minimum of three math and three science credits to graduate, therefore there was concern expressed about computer science taking up one of those core credits. The practices in other states were mentioned. Other discussion focused on the flexibility given to local districts and local boards of education without creating a mandate, the number of computer science courses currently being taught, computer science license endorsement, and the current opportunity for computer science to count as an elective.

(01:13:10)

Mrs. Waugh moved to approve the presented guidance related to the Kansas minimum graduation requirements to allow computer science to count as a core math or science credit. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Additional questions, comments and discussion followed. These centered on computer education fundamentals, academic rigor, increasing computer education in elementary schools, and a comprehensive evaluation of graduation requirements for the 21st century. Chairman Porter called for a vote. The motion, as presented, passed 8-2 with Mrs. Mah and Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

MOTION
(02:03:33)

Chairman Porter recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:07 p.m.

LUNCH

UPDATE ON DYSLEXIA INITIATIVES IN KANSAS

At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Porter reconvened the meeting and welcomed Cynthia Hadicke, Education Program Consultant, to give the next report. The State Board of Education has closely followed work on dyslexia and struggling reader initiatives adapted from the Kansas Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia and approved by the Board in November 2019. One of the first tasks was to appropriately define dyslexia by clarifying what it is and is not. Another key initiative is training at multiple levels — pre-service teachers, current educators, paraprofessionals. Mrs. Hadicke reported on

P.M. SESSION
(03:45:01)

free training modules offered through the Kansas Teaching and Leading Project. Other initiatives target screening and evaluation processes for students with reading difficulties; utilizing structured literacy framework; and reading intervention. The Dyslexia Task Force recommended funding a statewide dyslexia coordinator. The Kansas Legislature did not fund a position to coordinate this work within KSDE. Mrs. Hadicke then answered questions.

ACTION ON ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO UPGRADE ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR USD 368 PAOLA AND OUR LADY OF UNITY ELEMENTARY

Systems that have been Conditionally Accredited by the State Board of Education have the opportunity to address the areas for improvement and seek redetermination. USD 368 Paola and Our Lady of Unity Elementary, Kansas City, have made such requests through the appeals process. KSDE Director Mischel Miller and Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo explained that sufficient documentation has been provided to the Accreditation Review Council (ARC) to merit reconsideration. Dr. Horst moved to accept recommendations to change the accreditation status of USD 368 Paola and Our Lady of Unity from Conditionally Accredited to Accredited. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(04:23:09)

MOTION
(04:32:36)

RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo summarized findings of the Accreditation Review Council (ARC) regarding USD 206 Remington-Whitewater. The ARC considers compliance and foundational structures to support a five-year process of continuous improvement. Board members received an Executive Summary, but asked to also see the USD 206 Accountability Report. Board members will act on the ARC recommendations in July.

(04:33:21)

There was a break until 2:35 p.m.

BREAK

RECEIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURE PLANS FOR ESSER II FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS

Federal assistance to public schools has been made available through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund. Federal law outlines allowable expenditures directly related to COVID-19, and to support student learning and student needs associated with the pandemic. Assistant Director Doug Boline reported on the current group of 76 screened applications from public schools for using ESSER II funds, including a profile of items submitted and a summary of expenditure categories. He noted that these requests represent an estimated value of \$74 million. Mr. Boline also relayed recommendations from the Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER Distribution of Money. The Task Force has discussed ways to manage change requests submitted by school districts. The guiding principles were shared for a reasonable change request approach. Four specific change requests were brought to the Board this month. Board action on the current submission of school district expenditure plans is anticipated at Wednesday's Board meeting.

(04:49:06)

ACTION ON APPOINTMENTS

The State Board of Education is responsible for approving appointments for several committees. Among these are the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) and Professional Standards Board (PSB).

Bert Moore, Director of Special Education and Title Services, presented recommendations from the Special Education Advisory Council's membership committee for new appointments to the Council as well as recommended reappointments. He addressed the membership criteria, fulfillment of specific categories based on federal requirements, and plans for a closer look at representation by region. He noted that there will be more nominations in the immediate future due

to additional positions re-opening. Mr. Jones moved to reappoint Heath Peine and Jennifer King each to a second three-year term on the SEAC for the period July 2021 through June 2024. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Mr. Jones then moved to appoint Matthew Ramsey, Paul Buck, Rebecca Shultz and Whitney George as new members to fill openings on the SEAC with terms effective July 2021 through June 2024. Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTIONS
(05:12:59)
(05:13:36)

Mischel Miller presented the nominees for new appointments as well as recommended reappointments for the Professional Standards Board. Mr. Jones moved to reappoint Cameron Carlson, Jamie Finkeldei and Shana Steinlage to a second term on the Professional Standards Board with their terms effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Mr. Jones then moved to appoint Trevor Goertzen, Barbra Gonzales, Jori Nelson, Jill Berferhofer, Rena Duewel and Michael Reed to the PSB with their terms effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(05:16:06)
(05:16:40)

ACTION ON EXTENSION OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ELIGIBILITY

In October 2020, the State Board declared a time of emergency which allowed districts flexibility in utilizing substitute teachers through June 2021. This action was a result of the COVID-19 pandemic which impacted schools' ability to fill specific teaching needs. Teacher Licensure and Accreditation has requested an extension of that declaration thus continuing to allow flexibility beyond what the standard law allows regarding the use of substitute teachers. The extension is good for one additional year. Dr. Horst moved that the Kansas State Board of Education, pursuant to K.A.R. 91-31-34(b)(5)(B), continues its previously declared time of emergency whereby any person holding a five-year substitute teaching license or an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate with a baccalaureate degree may teach through June 30, 2022. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(05:19:02)

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

Jennifer Holt, Chair of the Professional Practices Commission, brought forth two cases for consideration and explained the particulars. Mrs. Haas moved to adopt the findings of the Professional Practices Commission and deny the applications of individuals in cases 21-PPC-03 and 21-PPC-06. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(05:23:31)

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Waugh moved to approve items on the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

MOTION
(05:26:43)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for May.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Jason Howe as Application Developer on the Information Technology team, effective May 5, 2021, at an annual salary of \$69,992; Lori Creason as Public Service Executive on the Special Education and Title Services team, effective May 16, 2021, at an annual salary of \$47,840.
- approved maintaining the current licensure fees for 2021-22 effective July 1, 2021.
- approved recommendations for funding **new** Kansas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants for 2021-22 as presented for a total amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.
- approved recommendations for funding **continuation** Kansas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants for 2021-22 as presented for a total amount not to exceed \$5,000,000.

- approved the proposed IDEA Title VI-B Special Education Targeted Improvement Plan grants for 2021-22 as presented in a total amount of \$3,627,573.
- authorized the following districts to hold elections on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation: USD 371 Montezuma, USD 439 Sedgwick, USD 493 Columbus.
- authorized the following districts to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law: USD 371 Montezuma, USD 439 Sedgwick, USD 493 Columbus.

authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and

- contract with ISG Technology, LLC for the purpose of providing an off-site location to house KSDE's data center equipment in an amount not to exceed \$49,500 annually for the period Nov. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2026 with an option to renew for two additional 12-month periods.
- approve the continued funding and extension of the Education Advocate contract to Oct. 31, 2021.
- enter into a contract with the University of Kansas to work with KSDE to administer the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey in selected Kansas high schools, effective from date of the award through Jan. 31, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.
- enter into an assessment contract with ACT for the purpose of providing ACT assessments to students in accredited schools. The contract will provide one PreACT to all students enrolled in grade 9, one ACT to all students in grade 11, and one WorkKeys suite to all students enrolled in either 11th or 12th grade. The annual cost shall not exceed \$3,500,000 per year. The total contract from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026 shall not exceed \$17,500,000.
- enter into a contract for the purpose of continuing a web-based system for tracking school improvement activities with said contract to be for the period Oct. 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026, and for an amount not to exceed \$1150,000.
- enter into an interagency agreement for the purpose of funding the Language Assessment Program for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing at the Kansas State School for the Deaf, with said funding agreement to be for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.
- enter into a contract amendment with the Achievement and Assessment Institute at the University of Kansas for the purpose of enhancing interim state assessments. The contract amendment will be effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.
- enter into a multi-year contract with Illuminate Education for the FastBridge subscription service. The initial contract from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 shall not exceed \$6,300,000. The contract shall include an option to add school year 2024-2025 at \$2,105,385. The total contract for four school years shall not exceed \$8,500,000.
- enter into a contract with the Kansas State University 4-H Youth Development in an amount not to exceed \$4.3 million for the period June 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2024 to support the Kansas 4-H Summer Enrichment Program.
- amend the contract for the Kansas State College Advising Corps to contract with Kansas State University in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

- contract with Kansas YMCAs in an amount not to exceed \$610,077 for the purpose of providing summer scholarships / financial assistance for the youth they serve in their summer camp programs.
- provide grants to Kansas venues in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 for the purpose of providing free admission to various events as part of the Kansas Sunflower Summer Program.
- contract with Hanover Research, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

KANSANS CAN HIGHLIGHT—YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE FINALISTS

Education Program Consultant Natalie Clark introduced this agenda item featuring the Youth Entrepreneurship Program. Youth entrepreneurship opportunities help students develop multiple skills for the business world. Middle school and high school finalists recently participated in the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC), a mock statewide challenge for student created, managed and owned ventures. It is sponsored by the Kansas Masonic Foundation in partnership with Kansas State University and the Network Kansas Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge series. Amara Kniep from Network Kansas provided an overview of the program, explaining that YEC builds confidence and critical thinking skills while growing entrepreneurship opportunities locally.

(05:27:11)

Several student finalists attended the meeting to showcase their presentations and products. Presenters were Carolina Barraza, Pike Valley USD 426 (polymer-clay jewelry); Mason Bettles, Salina South USD 305 (mobile detailing); Cooper Frack, Norton USD 211 (wax melts); Jaelyn Rumback, Norton USD 211 (sugar scrubs and body butter). Each student shared his/her experiences. They then answered questions about they've learned to expand their business knowledge. Chair Porter also recognized the entrepreneurship contributions of Adam Stone, a student at Blue Valley Southwest USD 229, who was unable to attend. Adam has a landscape and lawn service.

Members took a break from 3:55 to 4 p.m.

BREAK

ACTION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO KSHSAA HANDBOOK BYLAWS

Bill Faflick, Executive Director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, reported on initial steps by the KSHSAA Board of Directors to amend the system of postseason classification for member high schools. The proposed handbook rule revision seeks to establish a three-year waiting period before the system of classification can be amended after a change in that system is approved. KSHSAA's Board of Directors in April voted 64-5 in favor of adding such language to the KSHSAA Handbook Bylaws. By statute, amendments to the Bylaws are to be approved by the KSHSAA Board and State Board of Education. Mrs. Haas moved to approve the inclusion of a new section indicating "*Amendments to general classification shall not be subject to revision for the first three school years following initial application*" to Bylaw Article XII of the Kansas State High School Activities Association Handbook. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(06:24:18)

RECESS

Chair Porter recessed the meeting at 4:12 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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

(00:12:26)

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 AGENDA

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

MOTION
(00:12:50)

ACTION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURE PLANS FOR ESSER II FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS

Assistant Director Doug Boline offered to answer questions about Task Force recommendations for 76 applications and expenditure plans, which were submitted and reviewed before districts may draw down federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds from the second phase of the ESSER allocations. Dr. Horst read correspondence from USD 430 Superintendent Jason Cline regarding acceptance of expenditure requests for livestreaming school activities. It was explained that the Task Force has been consistent in staying within the federal priorities of academics and safety precautions related to the pandemic.

(00:13:33)

Mrs. Waugh moved to accept the recommendations of the Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER and EANS Distribution of Money and approve the submission of school district expenditure plans for ESSER II federal COVID-19 relief funds as presented. Mr. McNiece seconded. Mrs. Dombrosky commented on why she cannot support ESSER II receipt of federal money. Motion carried 9-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

MOTION
(00:20:37)

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORT

Review of Education Legislation — Dr. Craig Neuenswander reported on a portion of House Bill 2134, the K-12 education funding bill. The Legislature provided that three specific items would be funded through ESSER. A proposed draft letter to the Director of the Budget and Director of Legislative Research was discussed in response. It explains the federal requirements for COVID-19 related expenses and allowable expenditures under federal law. The State Board at its April meeting already approved the appropriations plan based on its authority to designate ESSER administrative funds. Chairman Porter commented that the State Board is willing to be a partner with the Legislature, but needs to be involved in discussions early in the process.

(00:23:32)

Education Budget Recommendations Discussion — Dr. Neuenswander reviewed the process for the Board to consider possible options for education state aid programs. He provided historical timelines of money budgeted in various categories, including past changes in the BASE (Base Aid for Student Excellence). The current discussions would affect Fiscal Year 2023. Some categories are addressed in Kansas Statute, such as capital outlay state aid and special education state aid. He answered questions throughout the presentation. One request was to give additional budget options for Special Education State Aid, with longer phase-in periods. Dr. Neuenswander continued to give specifics on each category and various budget options.

Board action on final budget recommendations is anticipated at the July meeting. This will allow KSDE staff adequate time to prepare the FY 2023 agency budget for submission to the Division of the Budget in September.

There was a break until 10:50 a.m.

BREAK

DISCUSS CALENDAR YEAR 2022-2023 STATE BOARD MEETING DATES

Chair Porter led a discussion of State Board meeting dates for 2022 and 2023. Board members considered draft schedules and potential conflicts for the regular monthly meeting, which is presented as the usual second Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. Board members plan to vote on establishing meeting dates for the next two years at the July meeting. Mr. Porter added that he intends for State Board spring visits to the School for the Deaf and School for the Blind to occur on separate days instead of on the same day.

(02:03:00)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Action on updates to Navigating Change document — Dr. Watson reviewed proposed updates to guidance in *Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations*. These updates center on recommendations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on the effectiveness of alternative surface disinfection, such as foggers and misters. Dr. Horst moved to accept the updates to the Navigating Change document reflecting changes and new information since State Board approval on April 14. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(02:07:39)

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

MOTION
(02:09:40)

Committee Reports — Updates were given on the Board Policy Committee and Student Voice Committee, requesting that student voice be included in upcoming tours.

Board Attorney's Report — None this month.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Discussion on guidance for screen time by grade and age. (Mr. Porter and Mrs. Haas)
- Discussion next month on tentative legislative priorities for 2022; potential determination in September. This would include more aggressive support for the School for the Deaf and School for the Blind (Mr. Porter)
- Work session to review case law pertaining to State Board of Education authority and responsibilities; discuss Chair's prepared statement on this subject; explore opportunities for building relationships with education stakeholders.

There was a break until 11:20 a.m.

BREAK

DISCUSSION ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

During a working lunch, Chairman Porter led a discussion on State Board's target responsibilities and Constitutional authority. Dialogue included comments or questions regarding cooperative partnerships, identifying stakeholders, protecting autonomy of local boards of education, clarifying duties of general supervision, ways to work more effectively with the Legislature and other educational partners, looking now at the Board's legislative priorities for 2022, and other potential next steps. The discussion will continue at the July meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

The next regular monthly meeting is July 13 and 14 in Topeka.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary