

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education  
Tuesday, March 9, 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, March 9, 2021, in the Board Room of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Porter welcomed guests attending in person and those viewing online.

(00:10:00)

**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**

Chairman Porter announced that the purpose has changed for Agenda Item 16 (West Elk USD 282 petition for charter school status) because the district has rescinded its request. The item will remain on the agenda for the explanation. Secondly, he asked the State Board’s legislative liaisons to provide their report with Legislative Matters rather than during Committee Reports. Mr. Jones moved to approve the Tuesday agenda. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(00:13:01)

**APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES**

Mrs. Mah moved to approve the minutes of the Feb. 9 and 10 regular Board meeting. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Next, Mrs. Haas moved to approve the minutes of the Feb. 22 Special Board meeting. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTIONS**  
(00:13:32)  
(00:13:55)

**RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL ESEA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS FROM USD 475 AND USD 505**

Two Kansas schools have been named National ESEA Distinguished Schools as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act’s program to recognize qualifying schools for their positive educational advances. Sheridan Elementary School in Geary County USD 475 and Chetopa Elementary in Chetopa-St. Paul USD 505 are the honorees for 2020. The program showcases the success of schools in particular categories. Sheridan Elementary was notable for exceptional student performance and academic growth for two or more consecutive years; Chetopa Elementary was notable for closing the achievement gap between student groups for two or more consecutive years. KSDE Assistant Director Tate Toedman introduced guest Superintendents, Principals and Title I Coordinator from the selected schools to share their experiences while earning this distinction. They are eligible to attend the National ESEA Conference in person next year.

(00:14:23)

### **CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

Chairman Porter declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:25 a.m. then recessed for a five-minute break to allow any potential speakers time to sign up for the 10:30 a.m. open forum. There were no speakers this month. Chairman Porter declared the Citizens Forum closed at 10:32 a.m.

(00:35:42)

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Dr. Randy Watson presented aggregate data from different sources as a preliminary look at pandemic-related losses in student achievement. He showed both state and national results for reading, math and social-emotional. Dr. Watson cautioned, however, that no data set tells the complete picture especially because of varying demographics in Kansas. Districts should track specific data on their students and identify those who need intensive help. Dr. Watson reported to Board members on the different phases of federal COVID-19 relief provided through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund and Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) allowing an opportunity for schools to make a great impact. There was discussion about risk categories, use of interim predictive assessments, impact to students' post-secondary plans and supplementing after-school programs with community partnerships. Dr. Watson then answered questions.

(00:42:52)

### **UPDATE ON COMPUTER SCIENCE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Last year, the State Board of Education approved five recommendations brought forth from the Computer Science Education Implementation Task Force. Board members receive progress updates on the status of implementation. Dr. Stephen King, KSDE Education Program Consultant for Computer Science, informed the Board that while schools are all encouraged to offer computer science, not all buildings do. A guidance document is being created to help the field with how to offer computer science. There has been some difficulty in determining what qualifies as a computer science course and securing enough staff trained to teach computer science. Two other recommendations — counting computer science as a core graduation requirement and a computer science licensure endorsement — are in process. Katie Hendrickson, Director of State Government Affairs with Code.org, reported on the number of districts in Kansas that are teaching computer science. She talked about her organization's support as well as the need to fill computing jobs. Mr. Porter wanted to know the barriers for not meeting all of these recommendations and asked for additional reports this spring.

(01:50:24)

Chairman Porter recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

**LUNCH**

### **RECOGNITION OF STUDENT WINNERS IN KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ART DESIGN CONTEST**

At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Porter reconvened the meeting and welcomed Mark Thompson, KSDE Annual Conference project director. Each year, the Kansas State Department of Education invites all Kansas K-12 students to participate in a contest to design art for the KSDE Annual Conference. This contest encourages students to use their creativity by entering artwork using the current conference theme. Students selected as winners for the *Kansans Can: Soar!* theme were recognized at the Board meeting since the annual conference did not occur last fall because of the pandemic. Appearing virtually were winners: Nadia Kaewsai (first place), Andover Middle School, Andover USD 385; Annabelle Stohr (second place), Stohr Christian Academy, Inman; Jade Willard (third place), Sunflower Elementary School, Paola USD 368.

**P.M. SESSION**  
(03:40:21)

### **ACTION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON MICROCREDENTIALS FOR LICENSED EDUCATORS**

Board members have been discussing opportunities for licensed Kansas educators to achieve competency-based microcredentials to advance their instructional practice through individualized

(03:48:41)

professional learning. Last month, work of the Professional Standards Board (PSB) was presented, including the definition and required components of a microcredential. Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Director Mischel Miller presented the information on behalf of the PSB. She explained that achieving a microcredential can count toward licensure renewal, but is not the same as an endorsement. Mr. Jones moved to endorse educator microcredentials at the local level, as a viable option for individualized, personalized professional learning to improve instruction in Kansas. After discussion, Mr. Jones amended the motion to approve the definition of a microcredential, as a personalized professional unit of study that is competency based and results in a credential, and to encourage local professional development councils to create opportunities for personalized learning paths for educators, using formal and informal professional learning experiences. Mr. McNiece seconded. There was additional questions for clarification. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(03:53:09)  
**AMENDED MOTION**  
(03:53:54)

**ACTION ON ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATION TO UPGRADE ACCREDITATION STATUS FOR ST. PATRICK 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. St. Patrick Elementary, Kansas City, has made such a request. KSDE Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo explained that St. Patrick Elementary has provided sufficient documentation to the Accreditation Review Council to merit reconsideration. Director Mischel Miller reviewed the accreditation process, definitions of status categories, and goal for demonstrating evidence of growth process. Mrs. Waugh moved to accept the recommendation to change the accreditation status of St. Patrick Elementary from Conditionally Accredited to Accredited and commend them on making changes that were necessary. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(03:58:21)

**MOTION**  
(04:06:53)

**RECEIVE PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON SYSTEMS' ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL PROGRESS WHILE PAUSED FROM ACCREDITATION ACTIVITY**

In October 2020, the State Board of Education approved allowing public and private systems, as a voluntary option, to suspend Kansas Education System Accreditation activities through June 30, 2021, or to continue in the KESA process as normal. This action was intended to help alleviate stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on school systems. The Board directed KSDE to have systems account for social-emotional and academic data. KSDE staff Mischel Miller and Jeannette Nobo presented the questions asked of districts through a survey in January. They reported on preliminary findings collected on these two areas. The summary included examples of social-emotional supports to staff. A detailed survey will be sent to all systems later this spring to capture more in-depth information. A final report on the data is anticipated in July.

(04:10:20)

**ACTION ON TEACHER VACANCY AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR KANSAS CITY TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

The Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee continues to research alternative pathways toward an elementary teaching license at the request of the State Board. One recommendation is pursuing the Kansas City Teacher Residency (KCTR) model as a viable pilot opportunity for Kansas educators and school systems. KSDE Director Mischel Miller along with Dr. Charles King and Andrew Stuart with the Kansas City Teacher Residency program last month explained how the model works. This month, there was an opportunity for Board members to ask more questions about the timetable, process for districts and participants, mentoring, cost and KCTR support. Mrs. Haas moved to approve the Kansas City Teacher Residency Program as an alternative elementary licensure pilot for elementary teaching. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(04:22:40)

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

There was a break until 2:45 p.m.

**BREAK**

**UPDATE: WEST ELK USD 282 RESCINDS PETITION FOR ESTABLISHING A CHARTER SCHOOL**

West Elk USD 282 initially planned to petition the State Board to seek charter school status with the goal of enhancing a traditional virtual education platform. The district reconsidered its request and decided to pursue virtual status with the intent to become a Kansans Can School Redesign Project in the future. Deputy Commissioner Brad Neuenswander presented the new information on behalf of West Elk. He also explained the history of charter schools in Kansas. There was no need for action.

(04:55:31)

**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**  
(05:02:43)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for February.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Parker Erikson as Applications Developer on the Information Technology team, effective Feb. 21, 2021, at an annual salary of \$69,992; Aishwary Kumar as Database Administrator on the Information Technology team, effective Feb. 2, 2021, at an annual salary of \$56,430.40.
- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year: *Early Childhood Special Education* — Amy Dickinson, USD 290; Stephanie Long, USD 500; Megan Stevens, D0617. *Gifted* — Abby Brandt, D0610. *High Incidence Special Education* — Barbara Kephart, USD 383; Amie Kreis, USD 405; Keenan Martin, Melynda Hanson, USD 409; Abby Vest, USD 475; Amanda Johnson, Linda Becker, Kasey Lane, USD 495; Sommer Brecheisen, Cicily Rights, USD 497; Beatriz Sanchez, USD 500; Ricky Prato, USD 501; Kimberly Davis, D0602; Chelsea Harper, Regena Lance, D0603; William Dohogne, D0610; Amber Rizzo, Tayvia Kemp, D0718; Austin Filtingberger, D0725. *Low Incidence Special Education* — Susan Morgan, USD 260; Demetra Johnson, USD 500.
- accepted recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee. *Approved cases:* 3353, 3354, 3359, 3362, 3365, 3366, 3370, 3371, 3372.
- accepted the following recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee: accreditation for Bethany College through Dec. 31, 2027; and higher education program approvals as follows: **McPherson College** - Biology 6-12, continuing program through June 30, 2027; **University of Kansas** - High Incidence K-6, 6-12, continuing program through Dec. 31, 2026.

*authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and*

- enter into a contract with Gizmo Pictures for production of a Body Venture Virtual Learning Module in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the period April 15, 2021 through Sept. 15, 2021;
- continue a contract with KU Medical Center's Area Health Education Center to provide state advisor services for Kansas HOSA in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025;
- continue a contract with Kansas State University to provide Carl D. Perkins leadership grant activities for the position of Executive Director of FFA, in an amount not to exceed \$301,708 from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025;
- continue a contract with the Kansas Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), under the direction of Connie Lindell to provide state advisor services in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025;

- continue a contract with Fort Hays State University to provide state advisor services for Kansas DECA in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025;
- initiate the contract bid process for the purpose of investigating special education complaints in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026.

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

Dr. Craig Neuenswander gave a status report on selected House and Senate bills followed during “turnaround,” the first major legislative deadline of the session. He reviewed specifics of a number of bills with potential impact to education and answered questions throughout the report. Deena Horst and Ben Jones serve as the State Board’s Legislative Liaisons. They added information about specific bills and their preparation of written testimony on behalf of the Board. Chairman Porter commented on three introduced bills that impede the State Board’s Constitutional authority and asked Board Attorney Mark Ferguson to conduct research on the issue.

(05:03:07)

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

Jennifer Holt, Chair of the Professional Practices Commission, presented licensure recommendations for State Board consideration this month. She gave an overview of the situations and answered questions. Mrs. Mah moved to issue a Professional Teaching License, with public censure, to Licensee 19-PPC-34 and Applicant 20-PPC-11. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

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

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

**Action on Board Travel** — Board members had the opportunity to make changes to the travel requests for approval. Mr. McNiece moved to approve the travel requests and updates. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

(05:42:00)

**Committee Reports** — Updates were given on the Communication Committee’s informational postcard series; the Policy Committee’s discussion of consent agenda language/practice; considerations of the School Mental Health Advisory Committee; and the latest Vaping Task Force meeting.

**Board Attorney’s Report** — Board Attorney Mark Ferguson commented on the process of review when a case involves the Civil Service Board.

**Requests for Future Agenda Items —**

- Information on ways school districts are implementing financial literacy into content standards. (Mr. Porter)
- Follow-up report, requested by the May meeting, on status of computer science being counted as a core graduation requirement. (Mr. Porter)
- Follow-up report on the status of computer science licensure endorsement. (Mr. Porter)
- Student transportation services, i.e. how do schools assist elderly caregivers who cannot transport children to school. (Mrs. Arnold)
- Information on development of Navigating Next and how concerns were highlighted. (Mrs. Arnold)
- Information on what districts are doing to promote equity. (Dr. Horst)
- Student entrepreneurship success stories. For example, Blue Valley student who started own landscaping business as a 5<sup>th</sup> grader and continues to operate it as a sophomore. (Mrs. Dombrosky)

**Chair's Report** — Mr. Porter reminded members about the Kansas Teacher of the Year Regional Banquets, which will be conducted virtually this year March 27 and 28. He also announced that the annual visits to the Kansas School for the Deaf and Kansas State School for the Blind are planned for May this year instead of April.

**RECESS**

Chair Porter recessed the meeting at 3:53 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

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Jim Porter, Chair

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Peggy Hill, Secretary

# MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on March 10, 2021.

(00:10:55)

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

**MOTION**  
(00:11:08)

## UPDATE ON COMMISSIONER'S TASK FORCE ON ESSER II AND EANS FUNDING OVERSIGHT

The purpose of the Commissioner's Task Force is to ensure schools maximize use of federal funds to meet acute needs of Kansas students in line with the federal regulations and Kansas' K-12 priorities. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) provide federal assistance to schools to support COVID-19 response efforts. Commissioner of Education Randy Watson noted that the Task Force is not meant to be restrictive, but to ensure compliance with the federal law which names authorized uses of the funds for pandemic-related expenses. He explained key differences between what the law outlines for ESSER (assistance to public schools) and EANS (assistance to private schools). Potential additional rounds of federal funding are currently being voted on in Congress. Dr. Watson also defined the Task Force's responsibilities and scope of work. The Task Force's first meeting was Feb. 26. Because the private school applications have a stricter timeline, he suggested a Special Board meeting on April 19 to receive and act upon the applications and expenditure plans following review by the Task Force. Dr. Watson and Assistant Director Tate Toedman answered a number of questions about the funding, application process, monitoring, spending priorities, allowable expenses, communication and reporting.

(00:11:28)

## ACTION TO SCHEDULE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING APRIL 19

Mrs. Clifford moved to conduct a Special Board meeting via video conference at 10 a.m. Monday, April 19 for the purpose of receiving and acting on private school applications for use of federal Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS). The meeting would be within the strict timeline for acting upon the private school requests. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(00:54:33)

Board members took a break from 9:45 to 9:55 a.m.

**BREAK**

**WORK SESSION: REVIEW OF KANSANS CAN VISION; NAVIGATING NEXT FRAMEWORK**

Commissioner Randy Watson and Deputy Commissioner Brad Neuenswander summarized the origin of the Kansans Can vision adopted by the State Board in 2015, and which states *Kansas leads the world in the success of each student*. Dr. Neuenswander reflected on the statewide tours to gather data from community groups and business leaders about the characteristics desired in a successful 24-year-old. Focus group responses provided the basis for development of a bold, different vision reflecting what Kansans said were critical, including non-academic qualities such as perseverance, integrity and civic engagement. The State Board then established the following priority outcomes: social-emotional growth measured locally, kindergarten readiness, Individual Plan of Study focused on career interest, high school graduation and postsecondary completion/attendance. The plan is to schedule other listening tours statewide to learn from parents and communities what's changed since the vision was developed.

(01:07:17)

Board members assembled into small groups to discuss more specifically the outcomes, further emphasis on the Kansans Can competencies, real-world learning, skill training, school redesign principles and accreditation. Dr. Watson then discussed the STAR Recognition Program to honor school achievement at high levels. There were comments and questions throughout the work session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m. The next meeting is April 13 and 14, 2021.

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Jim Porter, Chair

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Peggy Hill, Secretary