

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

PRE-MEETING ACTIVITY

The Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools hosted a breakfast and panel discussion for State Board of Education members as part of the KAIRS annual meeting in Topeka.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022, in the Board Room of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. In celebration of Black History Month, he cited the significant contributions of African-American composer Florence Price, who wrote four symphonies and numerous classical pieces. However, her work went unrecognized for decades.

(00:04:00)

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 AMENDED AGENDA

Chairman Porter announced the Executive Session for non-elected personnel was not needed and would be removed from the agenda. Mr. McNiece moved to approve the agenda as amended. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0,

MOTION
(00:08:50)

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 11 and 12 regular Board meeting. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:09:08)

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Dr. Watson began by thanking the State Board for their dedication to students and by emphasizing the significance of their work. Achievements include the Kansans Can vision, definition of a successful Kansas high school graduate, implementing redesign principles and personalization of learning, along with the ability to adapt in a changing environment. He spoke of the agency's Strategic Performance Management process, now focusing on two distinct areas: Star Recognition Program, which measures district success with Board outcomes, and utilizing age-band research to inform schools. Dr. Watson also commented on the need to ramp up training of school leaders in these changing times. He concluded by highlighting many of the Board's accomplishments to aid schools, such as assisting schools during the pandemic and commitment to science of reading.

(00:09:24)

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Porter declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:34 a.m. Only written comments were accepted this month. Plans are to resume in-person open forum very soon depending upon COVID climate in Shawnee County. Written public comments were received from Donna Szymkowski, Overland Park, suggesting to modify student teacher requirements, and from Sharon Knewtson, Olathe, regarding concerns with Senate Bill 327. Chairman Porter declared the Citizens' Forum closed at 10:35 a.m.

(00:39:02)

PRESENTATION OF KANSANS CAN REDESIGN PLANS FOR ACCEPTANCE AND LAUNCH

Nine schools representing different redesign cohorts recently met the standards to be considered launch ready. KSDE School Redesign Specialists Jay Scott and Dr. Tamara Mitchell presented the schools for action this month, briefly highlighting the launch readiness plans that were reviewed by a third-party committee. In addition, Board members received an update on the redesign process, as well as training and mentoring occurring in the other redesign schools. Sarah Perryman assisted with the presentation.

(00:40:42)

Mr. Jones moved to accept the Redesign schools presented as a "Go" for launch for this 2022 school year. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Schools and districts accepted at this time were: Columbus Unified High School (USD 493), Deerfield Elementary, Deerfield Middle and High School (USD 216), Ell-Saline Middle and High School (USD 307), Frontenac Junior High (USD 249), Overbrook Attendance Center (USD 434), St. Mary's Grade School, St. Mary's Junior/Senior High School (USD 321), Walnut Elementary (USD 253).

MOTION
(00:53:35)

ACTION ON ESSER EXPENDITURE PLANS FOR USE OF FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS

School districts are currently applying for the third phase of federal COVID-19 relief funds, known as ESSER III. Assistant Director Doug Boline commented on the most recent ESSER Task Force meeting, explaining that change requests and new applications would be handled as two separate action items this month. He reviewed key points of the change requests presented by 17 systems. Mr. McNiece moved to accept the ESSER II change requests as recommended by the Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

(01:04:44)

MOTION
(01:10:09)

Task Force members have reviewed the first slate of ESSER III applications, noting areas to be strengthened. Additional requirements within ESSER III include community engagement such as reaching selected stakeholder groups, among other criteria. Districts are receiving extra guidance on completing applications and meeting federal requirements. Mr. McNiece moved to conditionally approve the 29 ESSER III applications presented. Mrs. Haas seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

MOTION
(01:27:39)

Members took a 10-minute break.

BREAK

RECEIVE UPDATE ON KANSAS CITY TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM

In March 2021, the State Board approved the Kansas City Teacher Residency (KCTR) program as a pilot allowing an alternate route to licensure for K-6 teaching in Kansas. The KCTR provides a three-year program of intense partnership that specifically begins with a full-year residency learning opportunity. Dr. Charles King and Andrew Stuart with KCTR provided an update on activity since the initial approval. Since KCTR is no longer partnered with a Kansas higher education institution, speakers described a new proposed plan to become a fully accredited educator preparation program. Board members asked several questions about program capacity, costs, application requirements, accreditation, and curriculum. Board members anticipate taking action on the proposal in March.

(01:37:51)

Chair Porter recessed the meeting for lunch. The Board's Policy Committee met over the break.

LUNCH

RECOGNITION OF 2022 KANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM

The 2022 Kansas Teacher of the Year team attended, speaking individually about what or who has influenced and inspired them in their education journey. Board members recognized each of the eight educators. In January, the KTOY gave similar presentations to members of the Legislature.

P.M. SESSION
(03:33:49)

Those honored were: 2022 Kansas Teacher of the Year Susanne Stevenson, a fourth-grade teacher at Beeson Elementary School, Dodge City USD 443. Regional Teachers of the Year are: Amber Carithers, English language arts teacher at Hutchinson High School, Hutchinson USD 308; Lisa Martinez, Spanish teacher at Seaman High School, Seaman USD 345; Megan O'Neill, fourth-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, Ottawa USD 290; Natalie Johnson-Berry, English teacher at Shawnee Mission North High School, Shawnee Mission USD 512; Amanda Ketterling, Library Media specialist, Bonner Springs Elementary School, Bonner Springs USD 204; Kristin Salazar, Business and CTE teacher at Eisenhower High School, Goddard USD 265; Laurie Thisius, fourth-grade teacher at Cheney Elementary School, Cheney USD 268. State Treasurer Lynn Rogers attended the meeting to surprise each member of the KTOY team with 529 Learning Quest award.

RECOGNITION OF 2022 KANSAS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

The Kansas School Superintendents' Association named Dr. Charles Correll of Coffeyville USD 445 as the 2022 Kansas Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Correll described for Board members some of the strategies, as well as challenges, shaping his leadership. Through community support and multiple partnerships, the district has provided adequate resources for early childhood, met health needs (physical and mental), improved academic achievement and attendance rates, plus more. Dr. Correll was quick to credit many partners, including Parents as Teachers, Four County Mental Health and others. USD 445 began the Kansans Can School Redesign program as one of the first Mercury schools. Most recently, his team worked to recreate the district's strategic plan for the future, continuing to incorporate the State Board's goals and outcomes.

(04:25:27)

PRESENTATION ON PERSONALIZED LEARNING MODEL FROM BASEHOR-LINWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Freshmen from Basehor-Linwood High School, USD 458, participated in the school's Innovation Academy Emerge Program with a project that directly engaged them in many facets of designing Basehor's newest city park. Students worked with city officials, staff and others in the planning, design, collection of community input and more. In all, 40-plus students were involved. Representatives from the freshman class spoke about the project. Innovation Academy Specialist Jayme Breault explained how students earned competency credit by demonstrating mastery of skills in English, STEAM, business and public speaking courses. City officials connected virtually to the meeting to talk about the positive experience collaborating with students on projects important to the community. The school's Innovation Academy Emerge offers multiple opportunities for obtaining real-world skills. The park was just one project.

(04:45:08)

Members took a 10-minute break at 3:10 p.m.

BREAK

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

Professional Practices Commission Chair Jennifer Holt attended the meeting virtually to review current cases presented for action. She summarized the situations and answered questions. Mr. McNiece moved to issue an Emergency Substitute License to Applicant 21-PPC-13. (Motion read by Chair Porter). Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mrs. Clifford in objection.

MOTION
(05:25:40)

Next, Mrs. Haas moved to deny the application for a Substitute License in 21-PPC-12. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(05:28:01)

KANSANS CAN HIGHLIGHT: INDIVIDUAL PLAN OF STUDY

Over the past few months, Board members have heard from districts attaining high performance levels in the Kansans Can Star Recognition Program. The support of students' Individual Plan of Study is another key element in helping Kansas students be successful, both now and in their postsecondary plans. Nemaha Central USD 115 is the single Silver Star recipient in the IPS category as acknowledged through the Kansans Can Star Recognition program for 2021. USD 115 counselors covered the multiple resources used to be successful, including business, alumni, community college, and local entrepreneurs. Building IPS has been an ongoing process, they explained, beginning in middle school then transitioning to different activities for each year of high school. Foundational activities include goal setting and career exploration. Students prepare a portfolio and complete scholarships in the senior workshop.

(05:28:31)

INFORMATION ON ACHIEVING LITERACY BY THIRD GRADE

Conducting a comprehensive literacy plan will provide a foundation for literacy instruction in Kansas. Dr. Laurie Curtis and Joann McReil from KSDE outlined the components necessary for achieving literacy by third grade with the goal of increasing overall reading achievement in Kansas schools. They talked about professional development, training and support, and bridging the gap between K-2 screenings and third-grade assessments. Assessments must be utilized to form policy, practice and curriculum, they noted. Additionally, they talked about collaboration with higher education through teacher training programs, structured literacy concepts, and the importance of early identification of struggling readers.

(05:56:36)

Guests from several school districts described best practices for implementing recommendations from the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia. Topics included detection and intervention as well as use of a universal screener. Recommendations were made to continue work of Task Force in the form of a Literacy Council at the state level.

Board members took a 10-minute break.

BREAK

RECEIVE WAIVER REQUEST FROM HAYSVILLE USD 261 FOR RECESS PILOT

In June 2020, district administrators from Haysville USD 261 described for State Board members a new initiative in the district's elementary schools based on observations that increased physical activity throughout the school day enhanced academic achievement. The pilot is called RECESS for "Recreation, Engagement, Communication, Exploration, Social-Emotional, Success." School representatives said the purpose of the program is to bridge the gap between academic engagement and social-emotional learning by providing students with four, 15-minute recesses throughout the day and pairing the time with social-emotional curriculum. The district seeks permission to count the additional recess time as instructional time. Currently, only two recess periods a day can be counted. Board members will consider extension of the pilot at their March meeting. Board members asked for additional concrete data.

(07:35:23)

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON REPORTS

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Craig Neuenswander began his report with a summary of the Governor's budget recommendations, which matched several of the State Board's budget recommendations presented last summer. Dr. Neuenswander also reported on the status of education-related bills introduced to date in both the House and Senate. This is a carryover year in the Legislature, so previous pending bills are still technically active. KSDE Special Education Attorney

(08:02:19)

Brian Dempsey spoke about Senate Bill 372 and its conflicts with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). There was a time for questions and for Board Legislative Liaisons to give input.

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. McNiece moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In this action, the Board:

MOTION
(Time not recorded)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for January.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Kevin Thomas as Program Consultant on the Child Nutrition and Wellness team, effective Jan. 9, 2022, at an annual salary of \$41,600; Daniel Kalas as Applications Developer on the Information Technology team, effective Jan. 11, 2022, at an annual salary of \$50,099.20; and the following individuals as part-time Program Consultants on the Career, Standards and Assessment Services team, all with the effective start date of Jan. 24, 2022, and each at an annual salary of \$10,010: Megan O'Neill, Lisa Wicoff, Blanche Wulfekoetter, Amy Walker, Kimberly Gilman, Tina Ellsworth, Mary Leibl Johnson, Mary Lonker, LuAnn Fox, Kerrie Wahlmeier, Susan Amber Boyington, Todd Flory, Cherry DeLaCruz, Jolene Goodheart Peters, Sarah Evans, Robert Hamilton, Stephanie Alderman-Oler, Neil Lundgren, Jeri Powers, Melissa Brunner, Hailey Hawkinson.
- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year: *Early Childhood Special Education* — Alisha Fenton, Wendy Davis, USD 475; Mallorie Lafarge, USD 501; Melissa Massingill, D0610; Lacey Maddick, D0614; Amy Birk, D0701. *Gifted* — Michelle Champlin, USD 260; Melissa Jacobs, USD 438; Julie Crowley, USD 458; Bethany Pierce, USD 497; Julie Miller, James Williams, D0729. *High Incidence Special Education* — Hannah Leonard, USD 103; Roxine Westhues, USD 230; Nathaniel Ames, USD 259; Gwen Jowers, USD 345; Joshua Gray, USD 500; Penny Debaere, Anna Motto, Ricky Prato, Sandra Klucas, USD 501; Emilio Aita, D0607; Thomas Lichty, D0613; Jeremy Dalton, Tyler Blackburn, Jennifer Ducey, Sydney Gulley, D0614; Stacy Kahnt, Ashley Davis, Ira Cape, D0707; Kimberly Truzzolino, D0728; Megan Bueker, Sommer Barker, D0729. *Low Incidence Special Education* — Hannah Leonard, USD 103; Jacob Baldwin, USD 259; Kaylyn Stout, D0614; Edward Blincoe, D0728; Ashley Berlin, Alison Charboneau, D0729.
- authorized the following districts to hold elections on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation: USD 258 Humboldt, USD 332 Cunningham, USD 394 Rose Hill, USD 460 Hesston.
- authorized the following districts to receive capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid as authorized by law: USD 258 Humboldt, USD 332 Cunningham, USD 394 Rose Hill, USD 460 Hesston.

authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and

- enter into a contract with the Kansas Department of Agriculture for the purpose of completing on-site health inspections of unlicensed Summer Food Service Program meal preparation and service sites at the rate of \$180 per inspection, not to exceed \$18,000;
- modify a bid process to enter into a contract for the purpose of operating a statewide program for the identification and training of education advocates for students with disabilities with said contract to be from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$1,900,000 out of federal funds. (Vendor to be determined)

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 6:41 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Board members wished Deputy Commissioner Dr. Brad Neuenswander farewell upon his retirement from KSDE, having served the agency for nearly 15 years. Dr. Neuenswander first began at KSDE as School Finance Director, then led the Division of Learning Services for 11 years. He also served as Interim Commissioner of Education from May 2014 to June 2015.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on Feb. 9, 2022.

(00:10:21)

ROLL CALL

Nine Board members were present:

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

Member Jim McNiece was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Horst moved to approve the day's agenda as presented. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

MOTION
(00:10:37)

INFORMATION ON KPERS WORKING AFTER RETIREMENT

Alan Conroy, Executive Director of the Kansas Public Employment Retirement System (KPERS) was present to talk about history of this retirement system in Kansas, changes through the years, and provisions around working after retirement. The largest group of KPERS members are those who work for the public school systems in Kansas. He described the history and current provisions of KPERS as well as legal and actuarial implications regarding working after retirement. The Legislature updated working after retirement rules and other reform measures in 2015, 2016 and 2017. His information is timely as there have been questions regarding the waiting period for retirees who may want to return to work in schools. Following the presentation, Mr. Conroy answered questions.

(00:10:58)

WORK SESSION — ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF KANSANS CAN SUCCESS TOUR DATA

Information collected during the 2021 Kansans Can Success Tour was presented in detail to Board members who discussed how the data shapes the Board's vision and outcomes. Public responses were received from nearly 3,500 Kansans during the course of the 50-city tour. Commissioner Randy Watson reviewed the findings of three research teams that examined the tour data independently. All three teams overwhelmingly agreed that Kansas is prioritizing the right skills and strategies to produce successful high school students and adults. KSDE researcher Hayley Steinlage was available to answer questions and talk about the collaborative process to sort responses. Five themes emerged: community relations and engagement; education-centered supports; systemwide needs; leadership and policy; enhance student learning and success. Each of the first three areas was addressed in large and small group conversations among Board members. The discussion will continue in March as members examine information pertinent to the fourth and fifth themes.

(00:41:09)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Action on Board Travel — Dr. Horst moved to approve the travel requests and updates. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

(02:30:26)

Committee Reports — Updates were given on the following:

- Policy Committee — Board Attorney Mark Ferguson, who participates in the Policy Committee's discussions, talked about a policy based on a previous statute limiting the number of members who could be on a committee. He explained that current statute considers an open meeting as the majority of membership, which means five or fewer Board members would not constitute a formal meeting of the Board as defined by statute. Policy Committee Chair Jean Clifford then gave an update on the review process and next sections to be looked at.
- Interstate Migrant Education Council (Mrs. Clifford) — She reported on the recent IMEC conference and impacts the pandemic has had on migrant working families and their students.
- Student Voice (Mrs. Mah) — She informed members that a summary of student responses from the CTSO roundtables has been provided. She's preparing a list of spring opportunities to visit with more students as the committee looks for a broader representation of responses.
- Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee (Dr. Horst) — She commented on the recent committee meeting and statistics shared.
- Graduation Requirements Task Force (Mrs. Haas) — The last meeting was Feb. 3 at which time subcommittee chairs gave their reports. Additional work on gathering stakeholder input is under way.

Board Attorney's Report — Attorney Mark Ferguson summarized points of the redistricting process, which could affect the 10 State Board districts and residency requirement.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Report from Mercury Redesign schools on sustainability of original plans (Mrs. Mah and Mr. Porter)
- Evaluate long-range plan to reevaluate assessments. (Mr. Porter)
- Examine educator preparation programs regarding microcredentials, National Council on Teacher Quality data, emphasis on competency wheel, shortage of science teachers. (Multiple suggestions)
- Incorporate enough time in the agenda for group discussions to avoid operating in silos. (Mrs. Arnold)

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

The next regular meeting for the State Board of Education is March 8 and 9, 2022.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary