Summary

Kansas State Board of Education Meeting – August 11, 2026

Presentations

Tuesday, August 11:

- Commissioner's Report
- Student Presentation: Tanya Ramesh, winner, 2025 Kansas Civics Bee
- Overview of through year Innovative Assessment process (Zach Conrad)
- Quality Instruction: Wichita State University/Wichita USD 259/KSDE collaborative summer intervention project
- Federal Funds (Frank Harwood)
- Presentation on Student Safe at School Act (Harwood and Calvert)

Board Actions

TUES 1. (JULY MINUTES) Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the minutes for the July 14 and 15, 2026, Kansas State Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

Mrs. Potter brought up the issue of changing the previously approved dates and locations for the August Board meeting. She noted that the agenda cannot supersede the January 2025 resolution of approved dates and locations. Mrs. Potter asked there be a motion that in future the Board will honor the dates and locations and not change the agenda without undoing the previous resolution. When the Chair did not allow for the motion, Mrs. Potter appealed to the Board. This did not require a second. Board Attorney Ferguson clarified that a yes vote would support the position that an agenda is sufficient to change a previous resolution. A no vote would support the understanding that an agenda cannot supersede a previous resolution. The vote was taken. There were 7 yes votes supporting the agenda as sufficient, and 3 no votes, so the motion carried 7-3 with Mrs. Potter, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Dombrosky voting no.

TUES 2. (AGENDA) Mrs. Haas moved to approve the agenda for August 11, 2026. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no.

TUES 3. (CONSENT AGENDA)
Mrs. Dombrosky asked to pull consent items: d, f, g, and h for a separate vote.
Mrs. O'Brien asked to pull consent item c for a separate vote.
Mrs. Potter asked to pull consent item l for a discussion and a separate vote.

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the remaining consent agenda items be approved. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Consent items that were approved:

a. Receive monthly personnel report and appointments to unclassified positions
b. Act on Visiting Scholar License recommendations
e. Act on request from USD 436 Caney Valley, Montgomery County to hold a bond election
i. Act to approve contracts to be paid by Kansas State School for the Blind
j. Act to authorize out-of-state school district contracts for student placement at Kansas State School for the Blind
k. Act to authorize out-of-state school district contracts for student placement at Kansas School for the Deaf
m. Notification of three new members on the SEAC board: Beth Zillinger, Kylie Steward and Jerry Brooks

Mrs. Arnold moved that consent items d, f, g, and h, be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Potter voting no.

Approved:

d. Act on request from USD 251 North Lyon County to receive Capital Improvement State Aid
f. Act on request from 436 Caney Valley Montgomery County to receive Capital improvement State Aid
g. Act to approve the McKinney-Bento grants for homeless students
h. Act to approve General Math 6-12 content questions

Mrs. Arnold moved that consent item c be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky voting no.

Approved:

c. Act on request from USD 251 North Lyon County to hold a bond election

Mrs. Potter made a motion to table item l (change of vendor for state advisor to DECA) until September. Chair Hopkins moved this item to later in the meeting.

TUES 13. (STUDENT WALKOUT PROCEDURE)

Mrs. Potter shared work she has done on this procedure and shared her ideas with the Board. She made a motion:

Mrs. Potter moved that the State Board of Education adopt the following procedure for responding to complaints involving student walkouts pursuant to House Bill 2513 and related reporting requirements of House Bill 2618. The Commissioner of Education shall designate a Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) staff member to receive complaints, conduct factual investigations while protecting the identity of the complainant, prepare written findings of fact, and present those findings to the State Board of Education for adjudication at a regular board meeting within 45 days.

Mrs. Potter than moved that the State Board table this item until next month. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-7 with Chair Hopkins, Vice Chair Zeck, Mrs. Haas, Mr. Hershberger, Dr. New, Mrs. Arnold and Mr. Porter voting no.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint the KSDE Office of General Council as the hearing officer. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no and Mrs. O'Brien present not voting.

CONSENT ITEM L (CHANGE OF VENDOR FOR DECA STATE ADVISOR)

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the request to change the vendor to serve as the state advisor for DECA through June 30, 2029, from Kansas State University to University of Kansas. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

TUES 14. (SPECIAL PURPOSE SCHOOLS ALTERNATIVE METRIC)

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Life and Employability Skills Assessment as an alternative metric to high school graduation rate for accreditation determination in Special Purpose schools. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

TUES 15. (SCIENCE ASSESSMENT CUT SCORES)

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the science state assessment cut scores as presented. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

TUES 16. (ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS)

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Accreditation Review Council's recommendations of accreditation status for school systems. The recommendations were as follows:

a. All systems except USD 412 Hoxie and Lutheran Schools – accredited,
b. USD 412 Hoxie and Lutheran Schools- accredited with conditions.

Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

TRAVEL REQUESTS

Motion carried (Mrs. Haas moved, Mrs. Arnold seconded) 10-0.

Future Agenda Requests

Mrs. O'Brien: in November, a presentation of the Student Count.
Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck: more information on the Innovative School coalition
Dr. New: presentation on bonds, the process, and the Board's role