Summary Kansas State Board of Education April 14 & 15, 2026 Meeting

TUESDAY ITEMS

- Introduction of Superintendents (in KELI program) by Senator Argabright
- Citizens' Open Forum
- Commissioner's Report
- Kansas Teacher of the Year Team
- Introduction of the new Commissioner and his marvelous family
- KESA in special schools (Jon Harding and Mike Bonner)
- Reading Corner with Hailey Hawkinson, Dighton
- CTE Scholars, Cluster Reviews and Pathway Credentials
- Legislative Update

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY ACTIONS

Note: Mrs. Arnold was not in attendance, except for the vote on the new Commissioner position (virtually)

Minutes

Mr. Hershberger moved to approve the minutes for the March 10 & 11, 2026 Kansas State Board of Education meeting. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1, with Mrs. Potter present but not voting.

Agenda

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the agenda for April 14 & 15, 2026. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Porter moved to approve the consent agenda without items D and E, Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

*Item D approve extension of Board Attorney contract for 1 year

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the Board Attorney contract for 1 year, Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-2-1 with Mrs. Potter and Mrs. O'Brien voting no and Mrs. Dombrosky present not voting.

*Item E (Clearinghouse contract) moved to May

New Commissioner:

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Jake Steel as the Kansas Commissioner of Education. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-1-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky voting no and Mrs. Potter and Mrs. O'Brien present not voting. (Mrs. Arnold was able to vote virtually during this motion.)

PPC Cases:

A. Act on Complaint (breach of contract)

Mr. Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the educator's license in case 26-PPC-10 for the remainder of the term of the current contract for breach of contract. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

(B) Act on Complaint (breach of contract)

Mr. Zeck move that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the educator's license in case 26-PPC-12 for the remainder of the term of the current contract for breach of contract. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

Evaluation Review Committee:

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for educator preparation provider accreditation for Bethel College, MidAmerica Nazarene University, and Washburn University and program approvals for MidAmerica Nazarene University, Pittsburg State University, and Wichita State University. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Kansas State School for the Blind motion on additional contract days for KSSB Certified Staff FY 26

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the rules and vote immediately on the item about additional contract days for KSSB certified staff. Vice Chair Zeck seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the six additional contract days for certified staff at the Kansas State School for the Blind for the 2025-2026 school year to support the extended school year program. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Kansas school for the Deaf motion to agree to the land transfer for municipal improvements

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of education suspend the rules and vote on the land transfer item immediately. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting. Mrs. Arnold was not present.

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education agree and codify the land transfer as recommended by the City of Olathe and the Kansas School for the Deaf. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Motion to continue the interview process for the Kansas School for the Deaf Superintendent

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education continue interviewing for the KSD Superintendent position and find a permanent replacement in late winter, while having interim replacements until the superintendent is hired. Vice Chair Zeck seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.