MINUTES *Approved on June 10, 2025*

The time stamps refer to the KSDE Livemedia Channel YouTube video for this meeting

Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas. She thanked the student artists who created the inventive bus safety drawings that were posted around the room. Chair Hopkins read the mission statement for the Board and then asked for a moment of silent reflection or prayer, followed by everyone standing and joining in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present:
Mrs. Betty Arnold
Mrs. Michelle Dombrosky
Mrs. Melanie Haas
Mr. Dennis Hershberger (on Zoom)
Mrs. Cathy Hopkins, Chair
Dr. Beryl New
Mrs. Connie O'Brien
Mrs. Debby Potter
Mr. Jim Porter (on Zoom)
Mr. Danny Zeck, Vice Chair
Mr. Mark Ferguson, Board Attorney and Commissioner Watson were in attendance at the Board table.

Approval of the April 8 & 9, 2025 minutes

Minutes motions 6:05

Mrs. Potter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the additions to the minutes that she is requesting. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. **Motion failed 2-7-1 with Mrs. Haas, Dr. New, Chair Hopkins, Vice Chair Zeck, Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Hershberger and Mr. Porter voting no, and Mrs. Dombrosky present not voting.**

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the April 8 & 9, 2025 minutes as drafted. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. **Motion carried 7-1-2 with Mrs. Potter voting no and Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Dombrosky present not voting.**

Approval of the Agenda

Agenda motion 16:45

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Agenda as presented with slight changes on Wednesday (switching item 1 and 8). Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. **Motion carried 10-0.**

Approval of the Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was:

- Personnel Reports
- Local Professional Development Plans
- Licensure Review Committee Recommendations
- Visiting Scholar Application
- Approve Kansas School for Deaf's assurance form (pulled by Mrs. Dombrosky)
- Nomination for Licensure Review Committee

Consent Agenda Motion 17:57

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the consent agenda (without item e. approve KSD assurance form). Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Item E 18:14

Consent Agenda item e: Approve Kansas School for the Deaf's assurance form

After commenting on the consent item e, Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve consent agenda item e, the Kansas School for the Deaf LEA assurance form. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Dr. Watson 20:10

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Watson gave his report to the Board which included teacher appreciation week, Kansas Teacher of the Year regional finalists, and how students learn differently.

Forum 41:25

Citizen's Open Forum

Chair Hopkins opened the Citizen's Forum and invited the following people to speak to the Board:

Dr. Amber Wheeler, Humboldt, representing USD 258, spoke in favor of continuing the Expanded Emergency Substitute Teacher License.

Mrs. Erica Sheets, Leawood, representing Moms for Liberty Johnson County, spoke about Board outcomes.

Dr. David Prentice, rural Shawnee County, private citizen, spoke about prenatal education and offered resources for study in this area.

Mrs. Nancy Moneymaker, DeSoto, private citizen, spoke on general issues of interest to the Board.

Mrs. Sharon Knewtson, Olathe, representing the Kansas School for the Deaf Parent Organization, gave an update on the parent's group since March 2025.

Role in Funding 59:15

Presentation on State Board Role in the Distribution of Federal and State Funds
R. Scott Gordon, KSDE General Counsel
Mark Ferguson, Board Attorney
Mr. Gordon and Mr. Ferguson explained the unique role of the Board in distributing funding from the federal government and the state government to the districts and schools.

Mr. Gordon explained most of the federal funding is for food programs, Title IV of the Higher Education Act and Title 1, supplemental funding for targeted populations. These programs all have promises and obligations attached. All these programs are created by federal law and regulated by federal regulations. Failure to fulfill obligations result in a loss of funding to schools. Mr. Ferguson explained the state funding is set by the legislature and distributed by the State Board and the State Department of Education to the schools. In terms of federal funding, there needs to be a plan B if the Board decides not to accept funding from any source. Advance notice and planning for the local schools is necessary for schools to function.

PreK At-Risk 1:54:58

Act on recommendations for approving Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs for 2025-2026
Mrs. Amanda Petersen, Director, KSDE Early Childhood
Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve districts to operate Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs for 2025-2026. In districts operating approved programs, 3- and 4-year-old students who meet an at-risk criterion for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and who are enrolled and attending a program that meets Preschool-Aged At-Risk program requirements on Count Day will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. Potter voting no.

Updated levels 2:05:00

Act on updated performance level descriptors for the 2025 Assessments
Mrs. Beth Fultz, Director, KSDE Career, Standards and Assessment Services
Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the proposed Kansas Assessment Performance Level Descriptors for 2025 revised state assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0-3 with Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. O'Brien present not voting.

Senate Youth 3:29:18

Senate Youth Delegates
Introduction by Commissioner Watson
Kansas chose two students to attend the 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program, Sophia Hsu from Mill Valley High School and Erin Tims, from Larned High School. The Hearst Foundation provides each delegate with a $10,000 undergraduate college scholarship and a weeklong trip to Washington D.C. This year the event was held on March 1-8. Both students spoke about how important the experience was to them.

Ameri Corps 3:50:11

Act on funding request for 2025-2026 AmeriCorps Kansas Grant Applications
Dr. Jessica Dorsey, Director, Kansas Volunteer Commission
(although the AMERICORPS funding has been stopped by the Trump administration, there is litigation happening and the outcome is uncertain. Therefore the Board decided to vote on the funding in the event the administration changed their decision.)

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the 2025-2026 AmeriCorps subgrantees as recommended by the Kansas Volunteer Commission. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky voting no and Mrs. Potter present not voting.

Act on Educator preparation provider standards for History, Government and Social Studies

Ed Prep 3:57:03

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the new educator preparation program standards for History, Government, Social Studies 5-8 and 6-12. Motion carried 8-1-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky voting no and Mrs. Potter present not voting.

Act to contract with the Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings
R. Scott Gordon, KSDE, General Counsel

Ad Hearings 3:59:12

Mrs. Potter moved to amend the suggested motion from being a 5 year contract (from 2025-2030) to a 2 year contract from 2025-2027. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion failed 2-8 with Mrs. Haas, Dr. New, Chair Hopkins, Vice Chair Zeck, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Hershberger and Mr. Porter voting no.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to contract with the Kansas Office of Administrative Hearings from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030, in an amount not to exceed $200,000.00. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Barbershop Quartet from Lawrence High School

Quartet 4:09:00

The quartet's name was Ha-Tune-Ah Fermata (think like Hakuna Matata!), and the members are Cooper Grant, Parker Lopez, Asher Sikes, and Thomas Sikes. All four are seniors at LHS graduating this month, May 2025.

Act on Professional Practices Commission findings
R. Scott Gordon, KSDE, General Counsel

PPC 4:28:30

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission in case 24-PPC-31 and deny the pending application. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Presentation on State Assessments: Setting Cut Scores
Mrs. Beth Fultz, Director, Career, Standards, and Assessment Services
Dr. Karla Egan, founder and principal lead for EdMetric LLC
Director Susan Martin, Assessment and Technology Solutions at the Assessment and Achievement Institute at the University of Kansas

Cut Scores 4:30:49

Mrs. Fultz outlined the timeline and process of setting the cut scores for the updated Kansas student assessment tests.

Dr. Egan described the process and underlying research in setting cut scores in general. Director Martin spoke to the specifics of Kansas' method of setting cut scores.

Presentation on 2025 KSDE Great Ideas in Education Conference July 28-20, 2025
Mrs. Pat Bone, Administrator of the Conference and KSDE Assistant for Learning Services
Mrs. Bone shared the theme of the conference and how it is moving to the summer. She detailed how to register and invited all the Board members to attend.

Great Ideas 6:00:23

Presentation on KESA 2.0 Update
Dr. Jay Scott, Director, Accreditation and Design
Dr. Scott shared the structure of KESA 2.0 and a summary of school improvement days, action planning and the process of determining accreditation status for each system this summer through a review by the Accreditation Review Council (ARC), and subsequently a State Board of Education vote.

KESA 6:10:00

Act on Seal of Literacy List addition
Dr. Ben Proctor, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services
Dr. Proctor explained this action would add the Phillips Fundamental Learning Center and R.E.A.D. Redefined educator training programs to the approved list.
Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the rules and vote immediately on the Seal of Literacy List addition. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Seal of Literacy 6:53:28

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Seal of Literacy list addition as recommended. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Board Committee Reports

Reports 7:17:26

Mr. Porter reported on KSHSSA executive and regular Board meetings and the Legislative Task Force on the School Finance Formula.

Mrs. Dombrosky reported on Kansas National Education Association (KNEA)/Kansas School for the Deaf (KSD) negotiations and the KSD parent's group.

Mrs. O'Brien shared her experience attending the Kansas State School for the Blind graduation.

Mrs. Potter reported that she attended the negotiation meeting with KNEA/KSD.

Mr. Zeck attended the CTE committee and also went to Piper High School to observe the Capstone projects.

Mr. Hershberger shared new updates about Ag in the Classroom and CTE initiatives.

Mrs. Haas reported on the Policy Committee which had been asked to evaluate whether violations of policy had been made, as noted by Mrs. Potter, in the April Board meeting. Mrs. Haas explained

the Policy Committee did not see any policy violations. She noted the Board uses modified Roberts Rules of Order as a guide. Mr. Hershberger, a member of the Policy Committee, agreed that the committee discussion was good, but he felt there needs to be a definition from the Committee on the action of "appeal."

Chair Hopkins needed to leave the meeting due to a family emergency and Vice Chair Zeck chaired the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Policy Committee evaluate the issue of what the word appeal means in the KSBE policy manual and report back to the Board in June with a recommendation that clarifies this policy. Mrs. Potter seconded the motion. **Motion failed 5-0-1 with Mr. Porter present not voting. Mrs. Arnold did not indicate a vote.**

Motion 8:10:30

**However, when reviewing the YouTube KSDE LiveMedia video, we realized that Mr. Hershberger's vote (on zoom) had not been counted. So despite the Vice Chair announcing that the vote failed, and the board secretary verbally recording the vote as 5-0-1, it was in fact 6-0-1 with Mr. Porter indicating he was present not voting and Mrs. Arnold not indicating anything*.

Vice Chair Zeck asked the Policy Committee to look at the question of what the word appeal means in terms of the policy of the Board and to report back, in writing, at the next meeting.

Vice Chair Zeck recessed the meeting until Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Chair Hopkins called the meeting to order at 9:00. All members were present, with Mr. Porter and Mr. Hershberger on Zoom.

Start 3:00

Presentation on Data Collection and Security
Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Services
Ryan Kurtenbach, Director, KSDE Information Technology
Kyle Lord, KSDE Information Technology

Data 4:00

The presenters explained the purpose of data collection, how student data is collected and the current data collection process challenges. Specifically, they described the Kansas Individual Data on Students (KIDS) and the Kansas Education Data System (KEDS).

Receive Finance Issues
Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Services
Dr. John Hess, Director, Fiscal Services and Operations

Finance 1:14:00

Dr. Harwood and Dr. Hess went over recommendations for the Board's approval in June:
a) School Board Compensation;
b) Putting Request For Proposal (RFP) Process for the State Board Attorney in Board Policy;
c) Raising the threshold for items that have to be approved by the Board from $10,000 to $25,000

Receive Bullying Prevention Procedure to be prominent on all district and school websites and or handbooks
Mrs. Betty Arnold, State Board of Education Representative for District 8

Bullying Prevention 1:52:00

Mrs. Arnold presented an initiative to assist families in knowing what steps to take if a student is being bullied. On each school website or handbook there would need to be a prominent posting of a clear and concise procedure for recognizing and reporting bullying. She shared an example of a document that could be used to advise parents and students. Each district would produce their own posting, but the State Board of Education would require that such a procedure be placed on their websites and/or in handbooks.

Receive nominations for new appointments to the Professional Standards Board
Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure

PSB 2:22:55

Mr. Carter requested that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint members of the Professional Standards Board (PSB) as stipulated under the statute, K.S.A. 72-2315, which states: "members of the professional standards board and the professional practices commission shall

be appointed for three-year terms and no person shall be appointed to serve longer than two full terms in addition to any term of a period less than three years."
Recommended nominees to fill the two Public Teacher At-Large vacancies are:
Libby Devin, Elementary School Teacher, Auburn Washburn USD 437, (SBOE District 1,4,6).
Leona Engelcke, Middle School Science Teacher, Kiowa County USD 422, (SBOE District 7)
Kelly Hogelin, Middle School English Language Arts Teacher, Pittsburg USD 250, (SBOE District 9).
The Board will vote on these appointments in June.

Sub License
2:30:00

Receive recommendations for modified emergency substitute license
Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure
The current breakdown of substitute license holders is as follows:
Emergency Substitute License: 14,154 (of which 703 or 4.9% are modified emergency substitute license holders).
Standard Substitute License: 3,266 Total Substitute Licenses: 17, 420 (4% are modified emergency substitute license holders).

A total of 213 school districts and five private accredited Local Education Agencies employed a modified emergency substitute license holder since January 2022. Once district employed 96 modified emergency substitute license holders while (132) districts only employed one modified emergency substitute license holder.

Timeline summary of the emergency substitute license modifications in Kansas:
January 12, 2022 – The Kansas State Board of Education authorized a Temporary Emergency Authorized License (TEAL) due to the COVID-19 substitute teacher shortage. Requirements included being at least 18 years old, passing a background check, and providing verification of hire. This authorization was valid from January 13 through June 1, 2022.

June 15, 2022 – The Board modified the emergency substitute qualifications to require a high school diploma, completion of online training, and verification of hire. Applicants could serve no more than 15 consecutive days in the same assignment. This provision expired on December 31, 2022.

November 10, 2022 – The Board extended the temporary modification through June 30, 2023. License holders could serve up to 15 consecutive days without requiring new forms if they already held the license.

May 10, 2023 – The Board extended the temporary modification for two years, now expiring June 30, 2025. Changes included increasing the consecutive days limit to 25 and allowing up to 75 school days per semester. The license remained non-transferable, but applicants could apply for multiple districts.

After a thorough discussion at its April 18, 2025, meeting, the Professional Standards Board recommending to temporarily approve the Modified Emergency Substitute License for another two years. The Board is asked to vote in June to make this license permanent with regulations, or terminate it, or temporarily approve it through June 30, 2027.

Receive Recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for higher education program approvals

ERC
2:50:43

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Teacher Licensure

The Evaluation Review Committee is submitted recommendations to the State Board regarding program approvals for Emporia State University, Kansas State University, and Washburn University.

Emporia State University, recommend removing the new-program stipulation and extending "Approved" status for the following programs through December 31, 2031:
Elementary Unified, I, K-6, new program progress report
Areas for Improvement:
Standards 1-11, Sci Reading
None
Innovative Elementary I, PreK-6 LERP, new program progress report
Areas for Improvement:
Standards 1-7, Science of Reading
None

Kansas State University: recommend removing the new-program stipulation and extending "Approved" status for the following program through December 31, 2028:
Innovative Elementary I, PreK-6 Residency LERP new program progress report
Areas for Improvement:
Standards 1-7, Science of Reading
None

Washburn University: recommend "Approved" status for the following Washburn University program through December 31, 2030.
World Languages, I, PreK-12, continuing
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-8
None

Receive Career and Technical Education Pathway credential recommendations

CTE
2:54:30

Natalie Clark, Career Standards and Assessment Services, CTE

The Board will be asked to approve:

(1) List of industry-sought credentials, that career and technical education students may request school districts pay any fees charged for any assessment or other examination that is required for such student to obtain an approved industry-sought career technical education credential.

(2) List of high-value industry-recognized career and technical education credentials and a list of standard career and technical education industry-recognized credentials.

Mrs. Clark provided the Board with four lists:
1. Excel in CTE (SB 155) Qualifying Industry Recognized Credentials List 2025-2026.
Two recommendations for addition: NCCER Heavy Equipment Operations Level 1 KDHE - Water and Wastewater Operator Certification - Small Systems 1
2. High Value List (Based on the Excel in CTE (SB155) Qualifying Industry Recognized Credentials List.
3. Standard Value List.
4. Career Technical Education (CTE) Credential and Transition Incentive for Employment Success (SB 123) Industry-Sought List 2025-2026. Two recommendations for addition: NCCER Heavy Equipment Operations Level 1 KDHE - Water and Wastewater Operator Certification - Small Systems 1

Presentation on Legislative Update

Dr. Frank Harwood, Deputy Commissioner, Fiscal and Administrative Services

Update 3:19:52

Dr. Harwood gave a comprehensive overview of the legislative action taken by the Kansas State Legislature during the 2025 session. When he started speaking about actions being taken on the Federal level, Mr. Zeck recommended they move into Executive Session.

Executive Session

Motion 4:05:25

Vice Chair Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss the subject of potential litigation/pending litigation/legal matters with legal counsel, which is justified pursuant to the exception for matters which would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client relationship under KOMA, in order to protect the privilege and the Board's communications with an attorney on legal matters. This session will begin at 1:10 p.m. for 30 minutes; no action will be taken during this session; and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room at 1:40 p.m. Mr. Gordon, Mr. Ferguson and Dr. Watson are invited to join this Executive Session. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.**

Extension of Executive Session

Motion 4:44:00

Vice Chair Zeck moved to extend the same Executive Session for an additional 10 minutes, and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room at 1:50 p.m. The same guests are invited to join this Executive Session. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no.**

Board Travel

Motion 4:55:40

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the travel requests as presented. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. **Motion carried 10-0**.

Board Future Requests

Mrs. Arnold: Screentime – how are districts using devices in school?
Mrs. Haas: Screentime: appropriate ages and stages uses with screens. Reading (actual books) vs. digital. State Board Goals.
Mr. Hershberger : emergency substitute licenses perspective from districts/individual schools and First Amendment free speech discussion, with a legal perspective from Mark Ferguson

Mrs. Dombrosky: Shane Carter to present on online teachers in the classroom.
Mrs. O'Brien: National Human Sexuality Standards compared with Kansas State Department of Education

Mr. Porter had to leave just prior to adjournment.

Chair Hopkins adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be June 10 & 11, 2025.

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Chair Cathy Hopkins Board Secretary Deborah Bremer