Approved by the board on June 11, 2024

MINUTES

Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Call to Order

Chair Melanie Haas called the Tuesday meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas. (00:06:34)

Roll Call

The following board members were present: (00:08:30)

Mrs. Betty Arnold (Zoom)	Mrs. Michelle Dombrosky (Zoom)
Mrs. Melanie Haas, Chair	Mr. Dennis Hershberger
Mrs. Cathy Hopkins	Dr. Deena Horst
Mrs. Ann Mah	Mr. Jim McNiece (Zoom)
Mr. Jim Porter, Vice Chair	Mr. Danny Zeck

The Board Attorney Mark Ferguson could not be present at this meeting. KSDE General Counsel R. Scott Gordon took his place at the board table for the duration of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Kansas State Board mission statement, Kansans Can Vision statement, silence, Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Haas read both the board's mission statement and Kansans Can Vision statement. She asked for a moment of silence after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Haas asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda for both Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs. Dombrosky requested the removal of items d, e, f, i, j and l from the consent agenda. She requested that in reference to item f, she would like to see some examples of questions from the state assessments as prepared by the KU team. Dr. Watson assured her that this would be possible.

Mrs. Hopkins made a motion to approval the agenda for Tuesday and Wednesday with d, e, f, i, j, and l being removed from consent. Dr. Horst seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0. Motion (00:10:57)

Approval of the April 9 & 10, 2024 minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 9 & 10, 2024. In April there was a site visit to the Kansas Schools for the Blind and the Deaf.

Mr. Porter moved to accept the minutes of April 9 & 10, 2024 as written. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0. (00:11:13) Motion

Commissioner Report

(00:11:29) Watson

Dr. Watson began his report by celebrating 2024 graduations. He went over the four state board goals and reflected on the progress being made on each goal.
Goal 1: Provide effective educators in every school district
Goal 2: To enhance each student for post-secondary opportunities and success
Goal 3: Enhance engagement and partnership with families, communities, business and policy stakeholders
Goal 4: Provide a safe and secure environment to attend school

Citizen's Open Forum

(00:25:50) Forum

Chair Haas opened the forum and invited first speaker to come forward.

The first four speakers were representing private religious schools in Kansas, and they all spoke about the accreditation and school improvement model KESA:
Dr. Nick Compagnone, Executive Director, St. Mary's Catholic School
Geoff Andrews, Superintendent of Schools, Salina Catholic Diocese
James Bradshaw, Superintendent, Lutheran Schools of Kansas
Dr. Jamie Finkeldei, President, Kansas Assoc. of Independent and Religious Schools
Each speaker presented written comments which were disbursed to the board members.
Three speakers then spoke on the land transfer situation between USD 113 and USD 115:
Ross Mosteller, Bern, Kansas, private citizen
Amy Sudbeck, Seneca, Kansas, school board president, USD 115 Nemaha
Josh Nye, Topeka, Attorney for USD 115
The speakers all presented written comments which were disbursed to the board members. Mr. Nye presented a motion for oral argument on behalf of his client USD 115 Nemaha Central.

Fort Hays State University (FHSU) Department of Teacher Education

(01:02:40) FHSU

FHSU is a major educator of teachers in the western part of Kansas. They have a long history in education and are presently innovating to continue to provide excellent teachers, 85% of whom stay to teach in Kansas and 50% stay west of Salina.

The speakers were:
Mrs. Rachel Wentling, Director of Field Experiences
Dr. Jerrie Brooks, Assistant Professor in Advanced Education Programs
Kyler Barlow, Academic Program Specialist
Dr. Janet Stramel, Professor, Teacher Education

Board member Cathy Hopkins, of Hays, thanked the team for coming and sharing the details of FHSU's innovative and successful teacher training.

School Mental Health Committee Update

(1:27:32) Mental Health

Trish Backman, Coordinator, Special Ed and Title Services, gave a comprehensive annual update from the Committee which oversees mental health in schools. She discussed the Mental Health Intervention Team (MHIT), Inter-agency partnership such as working with Kansas State Department of Health, the 2023 Updated Toolkit for administrators and teachers to access, TASN school mental health initiative, the agency Families Together, the Kansas Parent Information Center (KPIC), and how mental health fits in with the Kansans Can Competency Framework.

Senate Youth Delegates

(02:01:25) Senate Youth

Denise Kahler, Director, Communications, introduced this year's two delegates from Kansas who served internships in the US Senate. Madisen Finch of Leavenworth High School and Tucker Lech of Neodesha High school, both gave impressive presentations about their time working at the US Senate and how it has influenced their lives and future plans.

Public Hearing on Amendments to K.A.R. 91-31-35

(03:35:38) Public Hearing

As part of the procedure for changing regulations for the minimum graduation requirements, a public hearing is offered during a board meeting. After lunch, such a time was offered. There was one speaker, Tamara Seyler-James, private citizen from Overland Park, Kansas. She spoke about her opposition to a section of the proposed amendments to K.A.R. 91-31-35 which add the completion of FAFSA (free application for federal student aid) to the requirements. She provided written testimony to the board which was disbursed.

(Note: Item 11 on the agenda "receive Narcan Policy for Kansas State School for the Deaf (KSSD)" was moved to the July agenda in response to a request from KSSD.)

Receive Evaluation Review Committee for higher education program approvals

(The livestream was not working for about 10 min)

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Accreditation and Design presented the recommendations for Bethel College, Friends University, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Pittsburg State University, University of Saint Mary, and Wichita State University. This is a receive item and will be voted on in June.

Act on ESSER III Allocation Recommendations

(03:41:17) ESSER III

Dr. Watson went over the ESSER III Allocations which are necessary to use up the remaining Covid-19 special funding before they become unavailable.

Motion (04:16:55)

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the ESSER III allocation recommendations. Mrs. Hopkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1

with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

Discussion on Teacher Licensure Literacy Requirements/Action Item testing (04:17:29) Teacher Licensure

Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure, presented an overview of the changes in teacher licensure as all elementary Kansas schools move into teaching reading with the techniques of structured literacy. In the past there were many ways of teaching children how to read, but with time and study, it has become clear that the best way to teach children of all abilities is to use the research recommended techniques of the science of reading and structured literacy. This will become embedded in all parts of learning as reading is used in many fields, so all elementary teachers, whether they are teaching language arts, history, government, or social studies, all special ed teachers, all active school psychologies and all active elementary administrators will be trained and certified so they can work together to effectively educate students.

Mr. Carter explained the updated licensure regulations and how this training will be maintained by KSDE's literacy team. The initial training list will include 1. LETRS, 2. Pathways to Proficient Reading, 3. Keys to Literacy. The trainings are funded for the teachers and staff.

The action item is for the state board to adopt a new elementary education test and adopt the recommended cut scores for the elementary subtest.

Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the Elementary Education: Teaching Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science test (Test code #7001) to assess pre-service elementary teacher candidates' knowledge of the science of reading and structured literacy. This exam will go into effect on September 1, 2024, with the previous Elementary Content Knowledge for Teaching test to remain in place during a transition period that expires on August 31, 2025. It is further recommended that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the recommended cut scores for the Elementary sub-test as follows: Motion (04:24:23)

- Reading subtest: 143
- Mathematics subtest: 157
- Social Studies subtest: 155 and
- Science subtest 159.

Mrs. Hopkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0-1. Mrs. Dombrosky abstained.

Mr. Carter continued sharing how veteran educators and other teachers would receive this training or take a test showing knowledge. This will continue to be developed and presented to the board at a future meeting to review and approve.

Act on Recommendations of the Professional Practices Commission (PPC) (suspend) (05:04:35) PPC

Scott Gordon, General Counsel, reviewed 24-PPC-05, a case that has been

recommended for suspension.

Dr. Horst moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission and suspend the license in 24-PPC-05. Mrs. Hopkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. (05:05:46) Motion

Scott Gordon explained the second case, 23-PPC-39.

Mrs. Hopkins moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission and issue the emergency substitute teaching license applied for in 23-PPC-39. Motion carried 9-0. (05:07:00) Motion

(Note: Item 16, "Act on new appointments for the Professional Practices Commission" has been delayed until June so that more nominations can be gathered.)

Update on KESA Accreditation determination process and protocol

(05:07:57) KESA

Dr. Proctor, Deputy Commissioner, Direct Learning Services and Jay Scott, Director, Accreditation and Design, updated the board on the past month's activities in the world of KESA, school accreditation and improvement. Dr. Proctor shared this defining statement that guides their work:

> "If we strengthen coherence across Kansas through focusing on a few high-leverage professional actions, then our students will develop more knowledge and skills leading to greater opportunities and fewer limitations."

Dr. Proctor and Mr. Scott continued to lead the board through the following discussion items: State Board action from December 2023 forward, roles and responsibilities, timeline, accreditation determination areas, levels of accreditation and examples. There will be three levels of accreditation: accredited, accredited with conditions and not accredited.

Next month the KESA team will bring a receive item to the board to approve the KESA 2.0 model in July.

Payton Lynn, intern from Kansas State University

(06:30:15) Payton Lynn

Dr. Jake Steel introduced an intern who has been working with KSDE for the past semester. Her name is Payton Lynn and she is a KState student who is studying educational policy. She shared some of her experiences at the department. It was a very positive time for her, and she is fully committed to following her career path and will continue to work at the department over the summer.

Action to approve submission of proposed amendment to K.A.R. 91-38-3 (school bus safety) through the formal adoption process (06:40:00) Bus Safety

Scott Gordon reviewed the change, #4, the transportation supervisor shall, whenever practicable, avoid establishing stops that would require students to cross any roadway.

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the submission of an amendment to K.A.R. 91-38-3 through the formal regulatory adoption process. Dr. Horst seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-0. Motion (06:31:30)

Legislative Matters and Receive Special Ed funding distribution formula (06:43:13) Harwood

Dr. Harwood went through all the legislation that affects the state board. Most of the bills did not complete the process of becoming law. 605 bills were introduced, KSDE followed 100 bills that were related to education. Four bills, and one bundle of 8 bills, navigated the entire process and were sent to the Governor.

Dr. Harwood introduced the receive item, a distribution funding model which was presented to the Senate Education committee. It lays out a possible process for additional appropriation. The steps would be:

1. Start with total SPED expenditures,
2. Subtract revenue received by the district such as SPED state aid, federal SPED aid, and Medicaid reimbursement,
3. The remainder would be considered "Local Contribution" in which districts receive a portion of the new appropriation based on its proportion of local effort.

Consideration of and further discussion on this model will take place at the June board meeting.

Chair Haas reminded the board that tomorrow they will be meeting at the Brown vs. the Board of Education National Park. It is an open public meeting but not live streamed. There will be a KSDE YouTube recording that will be uploaded as soon as possible.

Recess (07:34:00)

The Chair recessed until 9:00 Wednesday, May 15th, 2024.

_____ Melanie Haas, Chair

_____ Deborah Bremer, Secretary

Call to Order

(00:00:05)

Chair Melanie Haas reconvened the Wednesday meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 9:00 a.m. May 14, 2024, in the gymnasium of the historic Monroe school, now being used as the Brown vs. the Board of Education National Park at 1515 SE Monroe Street, Topeka, KS, 66612. The purpose of meeting at the school is to celebrate and consider the historic supreme court decision made 70 years ago on May 17, 1954.

Roll Call

The following board members were present:

Mrs. Betty Arnold	Mrs. Michelle Dombrosky
Mrs. Melanie Haas, Chair	Mr. Dennis Hershberger
Mrs. Cathy Hopkins	Dr. Deena Horst
Mrs. Ann Mah	Mr. Jim McNiece (on the phone)
Mr. Jim Porter, Vice Chair	Mr. Danny Zeck

The Board Attorney Mark Ferguson could not be present at this meeting. KSDE General Counsel R. Scott Gordon took his place at the board table.

Receive staff response and ACT on Minimum High School Graduation Requirements regulation amendments

(00:00:50)
HS Grad

Scott Gordon was present to answer any questions. There was a discussion about FAFSA and what the process was for adding that to the requirements. The Chair and Vice Chair agreed that if the board approves the graduation requirements which have been years in the making, the FAFSA section of the requirements will be reviewed in June, and changes can be made. There was general agreement that this was the best approach to honor all the work that has gone into the new minimum requirements and still continue to make the best decisions as a board for the students and families of Kansas.

Motion
(00:11:31)

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the proposed amendments to its minimum high school graduation requirements regulation K.A.R. 91-31-35. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Roll Call vote:
Arnold: Yes
Dombrosky: No
Haas: Yes
Hershberger: Yes
Hopkins: Yes
Horst: Yes
Mah: Yes
McNiece: Yes
Porter: Yes
Zeck: No

The motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voting no.

(00:13:18) Grad List

Act on post-secondary asset graduation requirements list with additions
Dr. Ben Proctor reviewed the post-secondary list with the board.

Motion (00:15:16)

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the post-secondary asset graduation requirements list as recommended. Dr. Horst seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2, Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voted no.

(16:00) Consent

Consent Agenda (with d,e,f,l,j, and l removed)
Dr. Horst moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the items on the consent agenda. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Consent Item d
Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve consent item d (Act on Kansas Parents as Teachers Grants for 2024-2025). Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voting no.

Consent Item e
Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve consent item e (Act on recommendations for funding Kansas Preschool-aged At-Risk programs for 2024-2025). Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-3 with Mrs. Dombrosky, Mr. Hershberger and Mr. Zeck voting no.

Consent Item f
Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve consent item f (Act on KU assessment contract extension). Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

Consent Item i
Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve consent item l (Act on request to contract with the Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Keystone Learning Services to support Perkins V Annual Civil Rights reviews). Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voting no.

Consent Item j
Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve consent item j (Act on request to contract with the Gruman Group to support the administration of Perkins V). Mr. McNiece seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voting no.

Consent Item l
Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve consent item l (Act on recommendations for funding the 2024-2025 AmeriCorps Kansas Grant Awards) Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky voting no and Mr. Zeck abstaining.

Chair Report
(Note: Mr. McNiece left the meeting via phone at this point.)

Chair Haas appointed Dr. Laurie Curtis, KSDE Early Literacy/Dyslexia Program Manager, to the Literacy Advisory Committee, which was established by the Kansas State Legislature SB 438 in April of 2024.

There was a petition for oral argument from Attorney Josh Nye who represents USD 115 in a land transfer issue. There was a conversation among the board about how to respond to this request. The usual procedure is to have the hearing officer conduct the hearing where the two parties present their arguments. The board is going to have a special meeting to discuss how the June board meeting will handle this request. The special meeting will not be about the actual case but simply about whether they would allow the legal representatives for USD 115 and USD 113 to present oral arguments during the official Kansas State Board of Education June meeting. There will only be this one item on the agenda. The meeting will be Friday, May 24th at 10 a.m. on Zoom and available to be watched publicly through the KSDE YouTube channel.

Board Travel Requests: After adding a few new requests, Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the travel requests of the board members as presented for the coming month. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0.

Future requests: Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. Arnold both requested another presentation/discussion with Trish Backman about mental health in schools.
There was an all-board request to make sure a review of FAFSA is included in the June meeting. Mr. Hershberger requested an item about screen time in schools.

Chair Haas adjourned the meeting, and the board took a break prior to the program.

Program to honor the 70th Anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision

(00:51:52) Program

The following is the order of events that took place in the honoring of the decision.

Celebrating the Past/Shaping the Future

1. Welcome from Mrs. Melanie Haas, Chair of the Kansas State Board of Education
2. Opening Music, *The Star Spangled Banner,* sung by the Lansing High School Legacy Singers directed by Mr. Brian White
3. Reading from Dr. Martin Luther King's 1964 speech, read by State Board member Mrs. Betty Arnold (also former chair of Wichita Public School Board)
4. Opening Reading from an interview with Miss Linda Brown in 1985, read by Miss Simone Holloway, 7th grade student from Jardine Jr. High School with Dr. Beryl New, USD 501
5. Sketching History a brief overview of Topeka's unique place in the process of desegregating American schools from National Park Ranger Lawson Nwakudo
6. Celebrating the Past: Memories shared by Mrs. Carolyn Wims-Campbell, former member of the Kansas State Board
7. The heart of Justice Warren's 1954 Opinion given for the Supreme Court on Brown v. Brown, read by Miss Cora Jackson Wells, student at Topeka West with Dr. New introducing Cora
8. Musical Response: "I Believe" by Mark Miller (Lansing Choir)

9. Shaping the Future: Visioning shared by Mr. Keith Tatum, President, Topeka Board of Education
10. Musical Response "Measure Me, Sky" by Elain Hagenberg (Lansing Choir)
11. Closing Thoughts given by Dr. Randy Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education

(Our thanks to the National Park Service, especially Superintendent Jim Wilson, all the Park Rangers, particularly Lawson Nwakudo, Kansas Department of Education History Advisor Nathan McAlister, and all who volunteered to participate.)

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Melanie Haas, Chair Deborah Bremer, Secretary