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

Kansas State Board of Education
Wednesday November 12th, 2025
(Note: Veteran's Day was Tuesday, November 11th so the regular schedule of Tues/Wed was changed)

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 12th, 2025, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas. 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. She also spoke honoring the work and sacrifice of American veterans.

Roll Call

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

Approval of the minutes for October 14 & 15, 2025

Minutes 6:50

Mrs. Dombrosky clarified that the Board accepted the Screentime Task Force report but did not "approve the recommendations."
Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the minutes for the October 14 & 15, 2025, Kansas State Board of Education meeting. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.**

AGENDA

Agenda 7:40

Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the agenda for October 14 & 15, 2025. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Potter pulled item f for questions/discussion and vote. Mrs. O'Brien pulled items b and d for questions/discussion and vote. Chair Hopkins placed those items at the end of the day, Wednesday, between agenda items 14 & 15.

Consent 11:30

Consent Agenda items a/c/and e:

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

a. Receive monthly personnel report and appointments to unclassified positions
c. Act on Local Professional Development Plan
e. Notification of the intention of Good Shepherd Lutheran School to participate in the Tax Credit for Low Income Students Scholarship Program

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Watson 12:00

Dr. Randy Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education, presented the November report to the State Board of Education. The report reviewed progress toward the Board's goals for August 2025 through December 2026, which focused on school improvement, leadership development, and policy alignment.

Key highlights included:

- Continued implementation of the Kansas School Improvement Model, emphasizing structured literacy, standards alignment, balanced assessment, and quality instruction.
- Rising high school graduation rates toward the 95% goal and a 30.7% increase in students enrolled in college-credit courses since 2016, indicating improved academic readiness.
- A 42.5% increase in college credits earned by high school students since 2017 and improved postsecondary effectiveness rates.
- Introduction of a three-year pilot program for targeted summer literacy interventions in early grades, designed to inform statewide practices.
- Focus on professional development, teacher recruitment and retention, classroom autonomy, collaboration time, and enhanced teacher preparation programs.
- Emphasis on rigor and high expectations, including daily instruction at advanced levels and increased student engagement in extracurricular activities.

Overall, the report demonstrated that Kansas students were better prepared for postsecondary success and highlighted the importance of continued collaboration among educators, families, and communities to sustain progress.

Forum
44:00

Citizen's Open Forum

Chair Hopkins opened the Citizen's Forum at 10:40 a.m. and invited the following people to speak to the Board:

1. Kevin Steinmetz, professor of criminality and father of an autistic child. Shared South Carolina school board guidance on Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) as a medical intervention. USD 383 banned these services. His family put their child into a Catholic school and have been able to resume ABA services.

2. Mike Burgess, Director Policy and Outreach, Disability Center of Kansas. Also serves on SEAC, KSDE Special Education Advisory Council. Has worked with KSDE on seclusion and restraint issues. He spoke about the ABA services and other medically required services being banned in local public schools.

3. Emily Brownlee, private citizen and advocate for less tech in schools, spoke about tech devices in the classroom. She reported on a conference she experienced in Washington DC. Screens are tearing children away from their families and school communities. Mental health issues are a crisis level.

Act on Reviewing, Amending and Deleting Regulations

Nugent
54:00

Dr. Renee Nugent, Deputy Commissioner of Learning Services

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the proposed process to identify regulations for review within the following primary areas:

- Impose significant administrative burdens,
- Lack connection to student learning, or
- Strain district resources.

Regulation changes will be presented article by article. The Board will first vote on the general direction of proposed changes, after which program staff will refine the specific language. The Board will then review and vote on the final edits. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried 10-0.

Empowering Kansas Educators: Math Resources and Support from KSDE

Math
1:15:16

KSDE Mathematics Team

Jennifer Hamlet, KSDE, Assistant Director (Topeka), Cherryl Delacruz (Topeka), Jennifer Walker (Topeka), Shelly DeWeese (Syracuse), Samantha Wright (Minneola), Luke Henke (Columbus), Lara Staker (Fredonia), Todd Flory (Wichita), Amber Boyington (Olathe), Jolene Goodheart-Peterson (Clay Center), and Diane Kimsey (Topeka).

Purpose & Objectives

The KSDE mathematics team shared how they strengthened school improvement by aligning standards, instruction, and assessment through coordinated supports and professional learning.

They outlined objectives to demonstrate how KSDE math resources supported school improvement, provide an overview of resources, connect resources to instruction, emphasize relevance, and review statewide professional learning and impact.

Professional Development & Reach

The team presented statewide PD data that identified areas of growth and need.

Over two years, KSDE served nearly 2,000 educators through PD aligned to the Four Fundamentals: Standards Alignment (43%), Quality Instruction (40%), Balanced Assessment (12%), and Structured Literacy (5%).

Sessions were offered in-person and virtually, serving districts, building teams, and PLCs, ranging from 45 minutes to multi-day.

Instructional Vision

KSDE shared its Vision for Quality Mathematics Instruction emphasizing Focus & Coherence, Mathematical Rigor, and Productive Struggle.

The vision drew on NCTM guidance and aimed to ensure high-quality, standards-aligned math teaching across Kansas classrooms.

Key Resources

Standards Alignment Toolkit: supported alignment of curriculum, instruction, and assessment to Kansas Math Standards.

KSDE Teacher Guidance Document: provided vocabulary guidance, horizontal/vertical alignment, and classroom examples; a link to the document was shared.

Achieve the Core resources were referenced as additional support.

Relevance & Real-World Connections

The team emphasized relevance as central to engagement, modeling real-world mathematics across resources and PD.

They highlighted Math Course Pathways and noted gateway courses (Elementary Statistics, Contemporary Math, College Algebra) used by Kansas institutions to align with student goals and programs.

Depth of Knowledge (DOK) & Rigor

The presentation reinforced the three components of rigor: Conceptual Understanding (the “Why”), Procedural Fluency (the “How”), and Application (the “Where”).

Classroom expectations emphasized students doing the thinking, engaging in discourse, and learning deeply.

Classroom Activity Example

The team modeled a fencing/perimeter task to illustrate multiple approaches (procedural, conceptual, applied) and how relevance changes meaning while numbers remain the same.

Implementation Tools
KSDE Math Observation Tool: provided non-evaluative guidance and indicators for walkthroughs focused on quality instruction.
Curriculum Adoption & Implementation Rubric: guided districts through a Plan–Study–Act process and criteria (Standards, Assessment, Teacher Support, Instructional Design, Technology, District/State Initiatives) to select high-quality instructional materials.
Impact & Testimonials
District feedback noted improved clarity on prior knowledge, grade-level expectations, and future progressions, with the guidance document supporting curriculum mapping and PLC work.
Next Steps
KSDE plans to update vocabulary resources, expand relevancy training, strengthen cross-content connections, align resources with top HQIMs, and continue district support.

(*Please note, this presentation was not able to be completed, due to time constraints. We have included the entire summary as this was the original plan.*)

Student Highlight: Sumner Academy Orchestra — Music
Michelle Sweeten, Orchestra Conductor — 3:32:30

Teacher Highlight: Kansas Music Educator Association — KMEA
Damien Johnson, Teacher and President of KMEA — 3:58:30
Jamie Minneman - Vice President
Nancy Monical - President Elect
Craig Manteuffel - Executive Director
Organization Overview
Preamble: Music is a vital part of life, enriching culture and heritage.
Mission: Support music educators through leadership, professional development, and advocacy for music learning in schools and communities
KMEA serves ~2,000 music educators and their students; affiliated with NAfME (8th largest state association).
Collegiate association ranks 6th nationally.
Five affiliate organizations: KASTA, KBA, KCDA, KMEK, KOC.
Advisory board includes ~70 members.

Strategic Plan 2025–2027
Music Advocacy: Promote awareness and support for music education.
Student Involvement: Expand diverse performance opportunities.
Rebranding & Communication: Modernize identity and digital presence.
Health & Wellness: Support mental, emotional, and physical well-being of educators and

students.
Added Health and Wellness Advisor to board.

Advocacy Efforts
NAfME National Assembly in Washington, D.C. (June 9–12, 2025).
KMEA Day on the Hill (March 26, 2025): Breakfast for legislators and student performances.

Professional Development
KMEA In-Service Workshop:
Feb 27–Mar 1, 2025, in Wichita.
1,600+ registered, 8,000+ attendees.
100+ clinic sessions, 100+ exhibitors, 40+ performing groups, 11 all-state groups, 1 honor

Awards
Outstanding Music Teacher: Randy Sauer (Trego Community Schools USD 208).
Outstanding Administrator: Joan Simoneau (Former Superintendent, Rock Creek USD 323)

New Initiatives
Non-Traditional Music Classes: Modern Band, Instrument Repair, Sound & Light Engineering, Songwriting, History of Rock & Roll, History of Hip-Hop.
Mentoring Program: 7 District Mentors, 3 State Mentors, Mentoring Minute Newsletter, Small Schools

Kansas 250 Project
"We Declare Independence" – Multidisciplinary musical composition integrating Band, Orchestra, Choir, Drama, and Technology.
Music connects history and arts education to celebrate resilience and diversity.

Reading Corner 4:20:24

Reading Corner: *Leveraging Writing to Improve Reading Outcomes*
Dr. Laurie Curtis, Dyslexia and Early Reading Consultant
Teacher Casey Peine, Clearwater
Teacher Kamdyn Johnson, Kindergarten
The presentation outlined the district's initiative to strengthen literacy by integrating writing as a key driver for reading success. Research indicates that students who write frequently, across subjects, and with attention to quality become better readers and thinkers. Writing proficiency also correlates with improved performance on reading assessments.

Key Points Discussed:
Instructional Focus: Emphasis on strong Tier 1 instruction, summarized as "The best Tier 2 is a better Tier 1."
Reading-Writing Connection: Writing is positioned as a tool for comprehension and critical thinking, not just communication.

Theory of Action:
Use rubrics and exemplary texts to model high-quality writing
Teach explicit writing lessons
Leverage knowledge-rich curriculum for deep content
Provide professional learning and collaborative planning
Monitor growth through performance-based assessments
Expected outcome: Improved foundational reading skills, comprehension, and writing abilities, along with actionable insights for teachers.

Evidence & Implementation:
Kindergarten exemplar work and growth snapshots from 2023–2025 demonstrate measurable progress.
Classroom videos and resources show effective use of exemplars and rubrics.
Teacher feedback reinforces clarity of goals: "Teachers know the end goal, and students know how to get there."

Closing Message:
The session concluded with a motivational quote:
"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." — Zig Ziglar

(Note: Board member Melanie Haas had to leave due to illness)

Teacher Highlight: Megan Berry — Teacher Highlight 4:55:40

Nathan McAlister, Humanities Program Manager

Megan Berry, Civics Teacher at Abilene High School (USD 435), showcased her lesson design for a contest focused on using U.S. citizenship test questions creatively to teach civic concepts.
Contest Overview:

- Teachers submitted single-period lesson plans incorporating citizenship test questions as activities or assessments.
- Lessons were judged by expert teachers on clarity, rationale, methodology, standards alignment, creativity, engagement, and differentiation.
- Organized by the Gilder Lehrman Institute, entries were evaluated at grade-level bands (K–8 and 9–12).

About Megan Berry

- 14 years at Abilene High School.
- Teaches Government, Blended Government, and History Today.
- Holds two master's degrees: Library Science & Archives and Adolescent Education for Social Studies.
- Kansas Horizon Award winner.
- Enthusiastic about making history exciting and helping seniors discover their interests.

Lesson Concept

Essential Question:

How do U.S. citizenship test questions reflect the story of building "a more perfect union" over 250 years?

Objectives:

Students analyze test questions and historical images, synthesize connections, and respond to a culminating question.

Activity Highlights:

- Students select 10 significant citizenship questions and 5 historical images.
- Attach them to building blocks and construct a symbolic structure.
- Discuss how their chosen elements represent the nation's effort to build a more perfect union.

Sample Questions

Examples include:

- What is an amendment?
- What is the rule of law?
- How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?
- Who was the first U.S. president?
- Eisenhower's role and war involvement.

Closing

The presentation ended with reflections, takeaways, and Q&A, emphasizing creativity, engagement, and historical understanding through hands-on learning.

Presentation: Special Education Services for Parentally Placed Private School Students

Spec Ed
5:13:25

Brian Dempsey, Attorney, Assistant Director, Special Ed & Title Services

This presentation explains federal and Kansas requirements for providing special education services to children with disabilities enrolled by their parents in private schools.

Key Points

1. Definition & Scope

- Parentally placed private school children with disabilities include those enrolled in private (including religious) schools that meet elementary or secondary school definitions under IDEA regulations.

2. Private School Criteria
    - Kansas law defines private, nonprofit schools as those offering elementary or secondary education, exempt from federal income tax, compliant with civil rights laws, and meeting compulsory attendance requirements. Parochial schools are included.
3. Consultation Requirements
    - Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must engage private school leaders and parents in "timely and meaningful" consultation about child find, proportionate share, service provision, and dispute resolution.
4. Child Find
    - Districts where private schools are located must identify children with disabilities in those schools. Activities must be equitable, accurate, and timely compared to public school processes.
5. Proportionate Share
    - LEAs allocate a portion of IDEA Part B funds to provide equitable services for eligible private school students, based on counts of children with disabilities and after consultation.
6. Child Count
    - Districts must annually count children with disabilities in private schools within their boundaries, regardless of residence or service status, on either the last Friday of October or December 1.

Act on Recommendations from the Evaluation Review Committee Higher Education Recommendations

ERC
5:33:10

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Teacher Licensure

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for educator preparation provider accreditation for Pittsburg State University and program approvals for Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, University of Kansas, Washburn University and Wichita State University. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Haas was not present.

Receive Healthier Kansas Menus contracts

CNW
5:38:10

Kelly Chanay, Director, Child Nutrition and Wellness

Mrs. Chanay shared the information about the eight week menu cycles, which meet school nutrition standards. They have been revised to be a five week menu cycles. They

were developed to meet daily/weekly meal patterns, and dietary recommendations. School nutrition programs need assistance, and this provides an "easy button" to provide simple, comprehensive menus to transition to scratch cooking or speed scratch cooking.

The last time these menus were revised were in 2014. There are different food trends, and students have new appetites. They need to test the new menus, with a focus on local foods, and how to add harvest of the month recipes featuring Kansas products.

Menu testing is necessary for accuracy, feasibility and student acceptance.

Stipend of $15,000 for each school (lower for smaller school Manhattan Catholic), to cover ingredients, supplies, staff training, additional hours and food service director consultation. Three schools, USD 336 Fulton, USD 260 Cheney and Manhattan Catholic, will do the testing, through the USDA as part of the USDA 2022 Formula Grant. There is a backup school.

This item will be before the Board for a vote, with specific details, in December.

Consent items 6:00:29

Items pulled from Consent Agenda for questions/discussions and votes:

b. Act on recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee

Shane Carter, Licensure Review Committee, was present. Mrs. O'Brien asked questions about the practice tests all teachers are required to take. Mr. Carter noted there is an appeal process with observation of the teacher in the classroom and district participation in the process. The teacher must meet a minimum score to qualify for an appeal.

d. Act on recommendations for Licensure Waivers

Mrs. O'Brien asked about the waivers. Mr. Carter explained the waiver data, which are primarily special education waivers.

Mrs. Arnold moved to approve item b & d, to act on the recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee and to Act on Recommendations for Licensure Waivers. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Haas was not present.

f. Act to approve contract request for Encore Global to provide Audio Visual Services for the KSDE Annual Conference in an amount not to exceed $47,000.

Mrs. Potter asked questions about the contract. She would like to have a month to have

more information.

Mrs. Potter moved that the contract request for the Audio/Visual section of the KSDE Annual Conference be delayed until December 2025. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-3. Mrs. Haas was not present.

Dr. Nugent will investigate and bring back more information and the timeline. Annual conference is in July 2026.

Legislative Priorities 6:24:54

Receive Legislative Priorities for the Kansas State Board 2026
Gabrielle Hull, Legislative Coordinator

Each year, the State Board approves legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session. At the November meeting, the presentation will include 2025 priorities, as well possible additional priorities for 2026. The Board will take action on the 2026 legislative priorities at the December meeting.

Academic Support Efforts:
Prioritizes the importance of academic support efforts across the state, including
Student opportunities to gain workforce experience before graduation, including
Encouraging incentives to support school district expansion of public-private partnerships with business and industry to allow for internships, mentorships, and other opportunities. Continued coordination and investment in career and technical education programs that are aligned with workforce needs. Reduced waiting time after retirement to return to teaching and reduce or eliminate the financial penalty. The goal to move Kansas school employees currently on KPERS 3 to KPERS 2. Additional funding to expand and enhance the current state assessment program and ensure adequate test security aligned with best practices.

Health and Safety:
Supports a healthy and safe learning environment for students including:
The legislative recommendations of the school Bus Stop Arm Violation Committee.
The efforts to reduce human trafficking in Kansas.
The ongoing work and recommendations of the School Mental Health Advisory Council, including, but not limited to, bullying prevention; efforts for suicide prevention and awareness; and child abuse and neglect program.
Conducting a study of the funding necessary to fully implement the Safe and Secure Schools grant program, including necessary staff.
Expansion of the Farm to Plate initiative to support student and family access to healthy foods in local communities.

Funding:
Recognizes the essential function of adequate state funding for schools, including:
Only using public education funds for public schools.
Following state statute and moving towards funding 92% of the excess cost of special education.
Opportunities to expand and fund early childhood and kindergarten readiness.
Funding transportation for all students in unsafe situations, regardless of mileage.
Continued funding for the teacher apprenticeship program.
Increased state support on bond and interest.
Financial support for school districts to enhance and improve their cybersecurity efforts.

Education Policy Governance:
The distinct roles of education policy governance in Kansas, including:
The constitutional authority given to the State Board of Education, the Kansas Legislature, and the Governor.
The governance responsibilities assigned to the Kansas State High School Activities Association.
The authority of local boards of education.
Changing statute to provide equitable compensation for State Board Members in line with recent changes in Legislative compensation.
Amending the student data privacy act to allow for data sharing to participate in research and evaluation of student outcomes.

Chair Hopkins brought up the Board legislative liaison positions.
Vice Chair Zeck would like to stop being one of the liaisons.
Chair Hopkins will be glad to stay on as one of the liaisons, but it would be good to have someone close to the legislature who could quickly respond to issues, and she has spoken with Dr. New, who is willing to serve in that capacity. She will ask the Board to make a decision in December.

Chair Hopkins also noted that a cell phone ban is going to be part the legislatures agenda this year and she would like to have the Board to discuss this.

If there are legislative priorities that board members want to add, they are asked to share those prior to the December meeting so everyone can be prepared for that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION END OF WEDNESDAY
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. Dr. Watson and Attorney Mark Ferguson were invited to join the meeting. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Haas was not present.

Kansas State Board of Education
Thursday, November 13, 2025

Chair Hopkins called the meeting to order at 9:00. All Board members were present. Dr. Watson and Mr. Ferguson were at the Board table. 3:47

ACT ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS PPC
R. Scott Gordon, General Counsel, KSDE 4:40

A. Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education deny the application in 25-PPC-24. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

B. Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education revoke the licenses as requested in the following cases: 25-PPC-18, 25-PPC-23, 25-PPC-20, 25-PPC-34, 25-PPC-33, 25-PPC-32, 25-PPC-31, 25-PPC-30, and 25-PPC-25. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

C. Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the voluntary surrender issued in 25-PPC-17 and revoke the Licensee's teaching license. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Update on Federal Waiver ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Dr. Nugent
Dr. Renee Nugent, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services 10:26

KSDE submitted an ESEA waiver to the U.S. Department of Education to align federal Title I school improvement requirements with the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) framework, creating a single, coherent accountability and improvement system.

Key Points:

- School Improvement in Kansas:
  Focuses on aligning systems, resources, and instructional practices to improve student outcomes through collaboration and evidence-based practices.
- Current vs. Ideal State:
  Move from multiple systems to one integrated model with unified identification, planning, support, and evaluation processes.

- Waiver Goals:
    - Reduce duplication and confusion for districts.
    - Improve coherence between state and federal accountability systems.
    - Keep improvement efforts focused on Kansas' model.
- Specific Requests:
    - Delay new identifications (CSI, TSI, ATSI) until 2028–2029.
    - Delay school exits until 2027–2028.
    - Extend Title I Section 1003(a) funds for currently identified schools
- Federal Guidance:
  Encourages waivers that remove barriers and align federal programs with state priorities.
- Impact on Identified Schools:
  Schools remain eligible for federal funds, professional learning, technical assistance, and Kansas Learning Network support. Schools meeting exit criteria may exit during the waiver period; others may join a pilot project.
- Why It Matters:
  Creates a cohesive accountability system, reduces administrative burden, ensures consistent supports, and strengthens connections between federal, state, and local efforts

JAG
1:00:46

JAG-K Jobs for America's Graduates
Bev Mortimer, Chief Innovation Officer
Cynthia Garner, Program director in Kansas City, Kansas
Randy Randolph, Director of Programs
Chuck Knapp, President/CEO
Students:
Aaron Foster, Region 2 Vice President, Topeka West High School
Analicia Aquino, Region 3 President, Shawnee Mission North High School
Macy Patterson, Region 1 President, Russell High School
The JAG students each spoke about their journey through the JAG-K program, and each reflected on the significant growth they found by being involved. The Board members asked many questions and encouraged the students.

Reports
1:45:50

Board members report on the past month and Chair Report
Mrs. O'Brien attended the Kansas State School for the Blind rededication ceremony for the gym. She described Goalball.

Mrs. Dombrosky was highly active in the KNEA/KSD negotiations, and the KSD Task Force. She attended the KSHSAA Regional Board of Directors later in October. She was

also part of the deaf school accreditation organization CESEAD interviews. The KSD finished last Thursday. There were 28 recommendations, and these will be presented in some form to the Board.

Mrs. Haas participated in several KSD Task Force meetings. Board Policy met November 12. NASBE was a great learning experience. The zoom calls are very wide-ranging and being with other states is very enlightening. ESEA advisory council will be in December.

Dr. New was active in attending the KSD Task Force in Olathe. She learned that the deaf community is very protective. She gained a clear understanding of how that system works in many unique ways. She also attended a School Improvement Day in Hutchinson (ESSDACK).

Mrs. Potter described the Teacher Vacancy Committee meeting. They covered some definitions, special needs for student teachers, and professional standards board changes.

Mr. Hershberger shared his meeting, quarterly Ag in the Classroom. Financially they are quite healthy. NASBE was a good experience, especially the panel session. He took away that all state boards are struggling with similar issues. He shared two sessions with Georgia and Indiana. Georgia has an effective task force on rural districts.

Mrs. Hopkins spoke about the NASBE meeting, and she came away feeling rather good about what is happening in Kansas. Literacy Day is January 20th at the Kansas Capitol. She described a reading event in Garden City put on by several parents who held a dyslexia symposium, 105 educators and 50 parents attended.

Board Travel

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the travel requests as presented. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Board Future Requests

Mr. Porter spoke about his experience with the emergency safety intervention taskforce and the dyslexia taskforce. He wants to look at the request from yesterday's citizen's forum and feels they need to address this at a board meeting. He would like to hear from the teacher's point of view on classroom screen use.

Mrs. Arnold would like to have Dr. Curtis present on dyslexia basics, and present initiatives. She is interested in the difference between dyslexia evaluation and dyslexia screening.

Mrs. Potter: She reviewed the board agenda requests, and she feels many of them never appear on the agenda, and she wonders if the Board vote on the agenda requests items.

Mr. Hershberger: In preparing for the 250 years celebration he is interested in an initiative that provides braille flags. He asked that the Board write a resolution next month to place a tactile braille flag in each school building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Four Subjects)
(Vice Chair makes the motion)

Vice Chair Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss the subject of reviewing the RFP (Request For Proposal) responses for a Commissioner Search Firm, which is justified pursuant to the exception for matters which would be deemed privileged under KOMA, in order to:

a. Discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel
b. To consult with an attorney re: Attorney-Client Privileged Communications
c. To discuss employer-employee negotiations
d. To discuss data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of bidders.

Only those persons who have executed a non-disclosure document may participate in the executive session. All Board members have executed this document, along with Board Attorney Mark Ferguson and KSDE Fiscal Department Director Dr. John Hess.
The session will begin at 11:20 for 120 minutes. No action will take place during this session, and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room. All Board members, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Hess are invited to participate in the Executive Session. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Motion 4:22:50

After the Executive Session, Vice Chair Zeck moved that the technical evaluation for the Commissioner Search for the Request For Proposal (RFP) be submitted to the Office of Procurement and Contracts with the following evaluation of each bid:
Bid A: Highly likely to meet the scope of work in the RFP and bidder has expensive experience leading successful national searches for chief executive officers of public agencies, private non-profit organizations or private business organizations.
Bid B: Highly likely to meet the scope of work in the RFP and bidder has moderate experience.
Bid C: Highly likely to meet the scope of work in the RFP and the bidder has extensive experience.
Bid D: Highly likely to meet the scope of work in the RFP and the bidder extensive experience.
Bid E: Moderately likely to meet the scope of work in the RFP and the bidder has

extensive experience.
Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Arnold was not present.

Chair Hopkins noted that the financials should be returned to the Board within several weeks. The Board set up a Special Meeting on Tuesday November 18th, at 12:00 p.m. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

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Chair Cathy Hopkins Board Secretary Deborah Bremer

This meeting was recorded and is archived on YouTube KSDE LiveMedia.

Kansas State Board of Education
Thursday, November 18, 2025

Chair Hopkins called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Nine members were present; Connie O'Brien was not able to attend. Dr. Watson was present, and the Board Attorney was on his way to the meeting. The Board mission was read, a time for prayer or contemplation was shared, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Hopkins explained that the special meeting was called in order to start the process of hiring an executive search firm to assist the Board in hiring a new Commissioner of Education. Most of the meeting would be, she explained, in executive session, but they would return at the end of the day and there would possibly be a vote taken on which search firm the Board felt was most suited to the job.

Vice Chair Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss the subject of reviewing the RFP (Request For Proposal) responses for a Commissioner Search Firm, which is justified pursuant to the exception for matters which would be deemed privileged under KOMA, in order to:

a. Discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel
b. To consult with an attorney re: Attorney-Client Privileged Communications
c. To discuss employer-employee negotiations
d. To discuss data relating to financial affairs or trade secrets of bidders.

Only those persons who have executed a non-disclosure document may participate in the executive session. All Board members have executed this document, along with Board Attorney Mark Ferguson and KSDE Fiscal Department Director Dr. John Hess.
The session will begin at 12:45 p.m. for 60 minutes. No action will take place during this session, and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room at 1:45 p.m. All Board members, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Hess are invited to participate in the Executive Session. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. **Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. O'Brien was not present.**

The Board returned. Mrs. Arnold thanked Dr. Hess for helping the Board navigate through the decision.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education contract with "Bid C" as the firm to conduct the search for Kansas State Commissioner. Mr. Hershberger seconded the vote. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. O'Brien was not present.

Chair Hopkins thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be December 9 & 10, 2025 at 10 a.m.

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Chair Cathy Hopkins Board Secretary Deborah Bremer