Start 00:01:00 (Time stamps corelate to KSDE Livestream YouTube)

Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, October 8 , 2024

Call to Order

Chair Melanie Haas called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 8, 2024, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

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
Mr. Jim Porter, Vice Chair
Mr. Danny Zeck

The Board attorney, Mr. Mark Ferguson and Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson were in attendance at the Board table.

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

Agenda

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

Approval of the Agenda

Motions 3:30

Chair Haas asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda for both Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs. Dombrosky requested items i. and h. be taken off the consent agenda for comments and a separate vote.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the Board policy of only voting on an action item in the month after the item is received, in order to call a present matter for immediate vote on the Quick Start Reference Guide for new board members. Mr. McNiece seconded the motion. **Motion carried 8-2. Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voted no.**

Motion

Mr. McNiece moved to approve the agenda for Tuesday and Wednesday as amended. Mr.

Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

6:45

Approval of the September 10 & 11, 2024 minutes

Farm to School 7:00

Chair Haas asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 10 & 11, 2024.

Mrs. Hopkins moved to accept the minutes of September 10 & 11, 2024 as written. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Farm to School Report with *Crunch Off*

Barb Depew, Registered Dietician KSDE

Eryn Davis, Public Service Executive KSDE Child Nutrition and Wellness

Todd Wollard, Food Service Director, USD 362

Superintendent Chris Johnson for Prairie View, USD 362 (3A about 900 students)

Mr. Wollard shared how he shifted from a food management service company to preparing food in-house and using as many community resources as possible. He did a cost analysis of the past ten years and realized that using the management company was not saving money, so with the support of his local school board and administration, they moved into in-house local resource style. They use a local produce supplier, Rocky Suns Farm, and student lunch participation has increased 20% and staff has increased 60%. This year the average participation rate has increased 82%. They marketed it heavily to the community, which responded with great support. He believes eventually the food service program can be self-supporting, rather than a federally funded program. Superintendent Johnson shared that the students are less hungry in the afternoon, and they learn and play sports better.

Becky Shearer, Food Service Director for USD 417

Superintendent Tyson Eslinger for Morris County, USD 417 (3A about 700 students)

Superintendent Eslinger stated this is his first year in Morris County, and when he was interviewing, they took him to the school cafeteria for lunch because they were so proud of it. Becky Shearer stated the administration and local Board have supported her program. She visited the food program in Lawrence where she gathered many helpful ideas. She started with local beef producers and then moved whole heartedly into using local produce. She held a fall crop drop, a community activity where many brought surplus from their gardens and farms and made homemade spaghetti sauce for the whole district. She uses fresh eggs, fresh beef, and many other products from the community. It was noted the local meat grant is a federal fund that ends this year. Around 71% of Kansas schools applied for this funding.

Annual

Citizen's Forum

Chair Haas opened the Citizen's Forum at 10:34. There were no citizens who wanted to speak to the Board. Chair Haas closed the forum.

Annual Report given by the Commissioner of Education

Dr. Watson went through the 2023-2024 Annual Report "Momentum", reviewing the Teacher of the Year Team, 2025 Teacher of the Year Elizabeth Anstine, and announcing the superintendent of the year is Dr. Renee Nugent of Atchison.

The KSDE teacher apprentice program has started and is doing well. Shane Carter and Joel Gillespie came up to the podium and were presented as the administrating team. Dr. Watson noted the success is based on the Board policy and put into action by KSDE staff. The program is drawing good candidates; the new candidates are being prepared and supported for work in the classroom.

Student demographics: 2012-2024 (census data)

White students have decreased about half a percent per year, as Hispanic students are rising about the same amount. African American students show a slight decrease, about half a percent over this time. The largest demographic increase is in other, which includes mixed-race students, Asian students and Native American.

Subgroups: English Language Learners, Student with Disabilities, Free and Reduced Lunch

The numbers are quite consistent with past years. EL learners show consistent levels. Students with disabilities has risen quite a bit, especially autism, behavior, and emotional challenges. That has grown almost 4%. Free and Reduced lunch are the same.

Dr. Watson emphasized that education still matters in terms of financial success in life. There are three basic pathways, high school, middle skills, or the bachelor's degree. The odds of success are greater the more education students acquire.

Graduation Rates: Goal is 95%

Overall, there has been a graduation increase of 2%. From approx. 86% to 88%. In the subcategories: English Language Learners graduation rate went up 7.7%, Free and reduced lunch increased 5.3, and student with disabilities went up 4.3%. Schools are changing trajectories of student's lives.

73% of jobs in Kansas require a post-secondary certificate or degree. Only 37% need to be a bachelor's degree or higher. 36% need a certificate or associate degree. Every post-secondary path is valuable. The amount of high school students taking post-secondary classes has risen from 29,514 in 2017 to 38,002 in 2024. In 2024, there were 332,615 credit hours in post-secondary. Advanced placement has raised dramatically in the past four years.

General factors related to successful high school graduation

- Attend regularly ready to learn
- Learning and having academic success
- Learning and having success in the *Kansas Can Competencies*

Chronic Absenteeism

In 2018, chronic absenteeism was 13.2%, and in 2024 it was 19.8%. Students that are chronically absent do not excel in school. The cumulative effect is extremely poor for these students.

Kansas State Assessment correlated to graduation and Post Secondary Effectiveness

Academic Success – ELA
2022 Level 1: 33.9 Levels 3-4: 32.1
2023 Level 1: 32.9 Levels 3-4: 33.2
2024 Level 1: 32.8 Levels 3-4: 33.6

Mathematics Success:
2022 Level 1: 34.2 Levels 3-4: 29.4
2023 Level 1: 33.1 Levels 3-4: 31.3
2024 Level 1: 33.2 Levels 3-4: 31.6

Kansans Can Competencies include many life skills such as self-care, creative thinking, empathy, goal setting, time management, critical thinking, and adaptability.

Dr. Watson listed school districts that are excelling. He believes we must set the standards high and expect students and schools to meet them. There are many Kansans Can Star Awards in different areas. They will be celebrated at the Annual Conference later in the month.

Choir
03:30:31

Policy Changes 03:52:00

Blue Ribbon School Awards 04:23:01

Eisenhower Middle School Modern Music Choir
Mrs. Metzger, teacher and choir director
The Modern Music Choir, made up of four musicians (piano, guitar, bass and drums) and nine singers, performed three songs. The Board was very supportive of the student's efforts.

Receive Policy Committee Policy changes and Quick Sheet Reference Sheet
Mrs. Arnold, Chair of the Board Policy Committee
Mrs. Arnold reviewed the policy committee review changes and the quick start reference sheet. The Board began to discuss the changes, but it was clear the issues needed more time, so Chair Haas tabled the matter until later.

2024 Blue Ribbon School Awards
Denise Kahler, Director, KSDE Communications
The National Blue Ribbon awards are given in two categories: Exemplary High Performing Schools and Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools. There were four schools that were chosen for the first category:

- Sunflower Elementary School in Paola
- Garfield Elementary School in Augusta
- Lincoln Elementary School in Geary County (not able to attend)
- Herington Elementary School in Herington

Garfield Elementary School, Augusta USD 402
Principal Trever Lockamy
Superintendent Matt Wartz
Teachers Casey Davis, Jennifer Cody, Deb Croker
This is the second time Garfield Elementary has received this award. They raised their scored by working closely as a staff. Principal Lockamy noted that in his ten years as principal, he has only hired three classroom teachers. He quoted one of his staff: "Relationships, are the key to success at Garfield. Not only staff to student but also staff to staff relationships."

Herington Elementary School, Herington USD 487
Principal Nick Morgan

Mr. Morgan used the image of a ribbon to describe the culture of his school. The ribbon runs through the positive school culture, common vision, talented and committed staff members, supportive families and an active larger community. He noted that it is not an ordinary ribbon but there are special finishing touches that enhance Herington. There is a childcare facility on campus (Little Railers Preschool), MTSS protocol, railway behavior expectations, curriculum adoptions, and student mental health services. There are professional development opportunities for the staff, family engagement events, after school tutoring and summer boost camp, support for special ed students and staff, and through it all, positive relationships.

Sunflower Elementary School Paola USD 403
Principal Staci Wokutch
Superintendent Matt Meek
373 students

PPC Items
05:01:45

Mrs. Wokutch shared that her school has 372 students in grades 3-5. They have the benefits of a small town but are near to the Kansas City metro area. The community is incredibly supportive of the school. Sunflower Elementary believes that education reaches beyond the classroom. They provide an array of experiences for the students.

Act on Professional Practices Commission Items
Scott Gordon, KSDE General Counsel

Prior to the presentation, Chair Haas thanked the previous Professional Practices Commission Chair, Jenn Holt, for her many years of volunteer service. The Board gave her a round of applause.

Mr. Gordon presented the cases for this month, which will be either denied or revoked. There are three different cases to bring before the Board.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:
23-PPC-50 On or about April 2, 2013, while working as a teacher for the Marion County Special Education Cooperative, Applicant was seen physically striking two special education students. Although Applicant was charged with two counts of misdemeanor battery for the incidents which occurred on April 2, 2013, those charged were dismissed as a result of plea negotiations whereby the State dismissed the criminal charges after Applicant voluntarily surrendered his teaching license. On January 27, 2014, Applicant's voluntary surrender was considered by the Professional Practices Commission. The Commission accepted Applicant's

voluntary surrender and recommended his license be immediately revoked as a result of his misconduct. On March 11, 2014, the recommendation of the Commission was accepted by the Kansas State Board of Education and Applicant's teaching license was revoked. On October 6, 2023, Applicant applied for a Transitional License. On November 3, 2023, KSDE filed a formal Complaint. On November 27, 2023, Applicant requested a hearing. Applicant notified KSDE that he was not going to appear for the evidentiary hearing. The PPC recommends denial of 23-PPC-50's application.

23-PPC-37
On or between May 31st, 2022, and June 30th, 2022, licensee used several fake email addresses pretending to be other teachers at Cooper Elementary School in Wichita, KS. Licensee used the fake email addresses to send malicious emails pretending to be those teachers without their consent. The emails were sent to members of the USD 260 school board and to members of the Kansas State Board of Education. The emails included approximately 40 complaints about the principal. The PPC recommends denial of 23-PPC-37's license.

23-PPC-07
On July 4, 2023, Applicant had an evidentiary hearing before the Professional Practices Commission. It was recommended to deny Applicant's application for an emergency substitute license. The matter was presented to the State Board on October 10, 2023, for the State Board to consider the recommendations made by the Commission. Applicant presented evidence to the State Board for consideration that had not previously been made to the Commission. The State Board considered the Commission's recommendation, and the additional evidence provided by the Applicant and concluded the matter should be remanded for the Commission to consider any additional evidence submitted by either party. The hearing was held on June 7, 2024. The hearing was conducted as continuation of the previous hearing on July 14, 2023. Considering all the evidence and testimony presented, the PPC recommends Applicant receive an emergency substitute license.

Motion
05:03:56

Dr. Horst moved that the Kansas State Board of Education deny the application for a transitional teaching license in 23-PPC-50, revoke the license in the case of 23-PPC-37, and grant the issuance of the license 23-PPC-07. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Policy Changes
05:05:00

Teacher Vacancy 05:21:00

Policy Discussion (tabled previously)

Mrs. Arnold noted that much of the quick start reference sheet is directly from policy. After more discussion, it was decided to table this again and continue the presentation on Wednesday, October 9.

Teacher Fall Vacancy Report

Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure

Fall 2024 teacher vacancy data is:

Special Education	480
Elementary	449
Math (MS & HS)	119
ELA (MS & HS)	115
Science (MS & HS)	115
TOTAL	1954

The most vacancies are in Western Kansas (Board District #5). The least are in Wichita, (Board District #8) which had a 51% decrease in vacancies. The top reasons for vacancies were “no applicant” and “not fully qualified based on endorsement area.”
In terms of the entrance and exit data of teachers, there was an 86.67% stability of educators who remained in the same district. 258 educators exited to another state and 527 educators entered from out of state. The retirement statistics stayed relatively the same from 2020 to 2024. However, the number of educators who left the profession has doubled since 2020, from 505 to 1113.

The largest group within Kansas educators are those with one to four years of experience. The average age of teachers is 42.9 and for all educators it is 43.9. Average salary for first year teachers is $42,760 and for all teachers is $65,098.

Alternative pathways have two categories: *restricted licenses* and *limited licenses*. In the past ten years the *restricted licenses* have grown from 162 in 2014 to 363 in 2024. There are 256 limited residency licenses, 133 limited teacher apprenticeship program licenses and 106 limited elementary residency program licenses. The registered teacher apprenticeship program currently has 95 apprentices.

ERC receive 06:00:00

Receive recommendations from the Evaluation Review Committee (ERC) for higher education accreditation and program review

Dr. Catherine Chmidling

The Evaluation Review Committee is submitting the following recommendations to the State Board regarding educator preparation program approvals for Baker University, Bethel College, Fort Hays State University, Friends University, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Pittsburg State University, Tabor College, University of Saint Mary, Washburn University, and Wichita State University.

The educator preparation program review processes are guided by Kansas regulations 91-1-235, and 91-1-236, authorized by and implementing Article 6, Section 2(a) of the Kansas Constitution. The current regulations were first adopted in 1997 and 2004, have been revised and updated regularly as needed.

The program review process relies on peer review by trained education practitioners from P12 and higher ed, who review the preparation provider's specific license/endorsement preparation program for alignment to the license/endorsement preparation standards which have been adopted by the State Board of Education. The alignment review includes examination of programs of study; alignment explanations, assessment instruments; collected data, analyses, and interpretations.

Following the institutional application and receipt of complete program reports, review teams of trained evaluators were appointed to review the educator preparation programs for the above institutions based on adopted State Board policies, procedures and regulations. These are available for review by any member or members of the State Board.

Each review team's report and each institution's response to the report, along with the institutional reports, were submitted to the Evaluation Review Committee (ERC) of the Teaching and School Administration Professional Standards Advisory Board. The ERC consists of P12 educators, P12 administrators, and higher ed administrators, and forms a second peer review oversight committee, which reviews each educator preparation provider's license and endorsement preparation programs' alignment to the appropriate preparation standards.

The ERC, in accordance with procedures adopted by the State Board, prepared written initial recommendations regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to each education preparation program. Each initial recommendation was submitted to the educator preparation institution and the institution was given 30 days to request a hearing to appeal the initial recommendation. For each of the providers, the ERC offered the opportunity for a hearing and prepared a written final recommendation regarding the appropriate status to be assigned to the educator preparation provider or program. These final recommendations have been submitted to appropriate representatives of the educator

SEAC

preparation institutions and are now submitted to the State Board, as attached, for consideration and approval of the ERC recommendations for program status.

Quarterly Report 06:22:00

This item will be an action item in November.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Quarterly Report
Bert Moore, Director, Special Education
Lyndsey Graff, Chair, SEAC

1. SEAC was interviewed by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) as part of the special education monitoring of Kansas.
2. SEAC voted to approve a new program for licensure that will allow individuals to gain special education licensure as they complete a bachelor's degree program. Shane Carter will work with the Professional Standards Board to review requirements for this license.
3. SEAC was provided a report on the Department of Justice Order accepted by Wichita, USD#259.
4. The SETS Team asked SEAC to discuss ways to get more parents to complete the parent survey for the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report for Indicator 8. This will be a regular agenda item this year.
5. SEAC was provided a tour of the Kansas State School for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and the Kansas State School for the Blind/Visually Impaired on September 25 with the SEAC September meeting held at the Kansas State School for the Blind/Visually Impaired. The tours were comprehensive and SEAC thanks both Luanne Barron and Jon Harding for the hospitality provided during the tours.
6. SEAC continues to review data on students with disabilities attending virtual programs.

PSB Literacy test 06:30:14

Act to approve Professional Standards Board (PSB) recommendations on licensure literary test requirements
Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure

Mr. Carter reviewed the recommendations presented the previous month (September 2024) on the present literacy requirements for veteran educators and the test options.

1. Professional Licensure Renewal: Required for licensure renewal as of July 1, 2028, for educators actively serving as:
    - Elementary English Language Arts teachers
    - Elementary History, Government and Social Studies teachers
    - Special Education teachers who provide services to elementary students
    - Reading Specialists who provide services to elementary students

- School Psychologists who provide services to elementary students
- Administrators assigned to elementary schools

2. The current elementary endorsement is PrK-6; when the term Elementary is used above it indicates grades PreK-6.

The State Board approved professional development training (reading) are the following programs:

LETRS:

a) The only training paid for by KSDE
b) LETRS for Elementary Educators (Volumes 1 and 2). Required for Elementary K-6 educators and optional for administrators
c) LETRS for Early Childhood Educators available for PreK teachers
d) LETRS for Administrators. Administrators may complete this training or the LETRS for Elementary Educators
e) Must complete training aligned to the position your employed

AIMS Pathways to Proficient Reading:

a) Pathways to Proficient Reading - Available for all educators
b) Pathways to Proficient Reading Secondary - An option for districts who want a training geared to Secondary teachers
c) Pathways to Literacy Leadership - Available for administrators only

Test Options for Veteran Educators:

a) ETS
    - Elementary Educators- Teaching Reading (sub-test 7002), passing score is 143 and the test costs $85.00
b) Pearson
    - Pearson:190 Foundations of Reading, passing score is 240 and it costs $139
c) Center for Effective Reading and Instruction
    - Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEERI), passing score is 500 and the cost is $165

<u>Suggested Motion to set the passing scores on tests for veteran educators</u>

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the Professional Standards Board recommendation to adopt the following tests and passing scores for veteran

educators to demonstrate knowledge of the science of reading in lieu of completing state-approved training:

- ETS' Elementary Educators Teaching Reading sub-test (7002). Passing score (143).
- Pearson's Foundations of Reading (190). Passing score (240).
- Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction. Passing score (500).

Motion
06:40:24

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the Professional Standards Board recommendation to adopt test(s) and passing scores(s) for veteran educators to demonstrate knowledge of the science of reading in lieu of completing state-approved training. Mr. McNiece seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

KPERS
06:42:00

Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERS) with Teacher Focus

Alan Conroy, Director, KPERS

Mr. Conroy gave a quick overview of the pension program, noting that one in ten Kansans are part of KPERS. Two issues the Board had asked Mr. Conroy to address were the lack of a cost of living adjustment for retired educators, and the state of KPERS 3 for recent and new educators.

Mr. Conroy explained there is no cost of living of adjustment (COLA) with KPERS because it was not built into the program when it was started. In 1987, KPERS 1 added a 13th check each year, and currently 500 individuals still receive that. KPERS 2 originally had an automatic COLA. The legislature changed that, and there are five persons were part of KPERS 2 prior to the change by the legislature still receiving a COLA. In KPERS 3 there is a COLA, but it is self-funded. The legislature must approve any cost of living adjustment. The last COLA for KPERS 3 was in 2008, a $300 payment, but it was only for those who retired in 1999.

COLA legislation is often introduced during the session, but the legislature is resistant, citing the funded status of KPERS as the primary reason for not supporting benefit enhancements. For the past six years the legislature has been paying the actuary paying rate.

KPERS 1 is for those employees hired before 2009.
KPERS 2 is for those hired between 2009 and 2014.
KPERS 3 is traditional final pay, covering those hired 2015 to present.

Mr. Conroy explained the intricacies of the three tiers. He especially took time to explain KPERS 3 as it covers new teachers. KPERS 3 can be enhanced, but it takes money. The state pays the employer contribution for all state and local schools. Two possibilities for improving the pension system would be to move everyone into KPERS 2 or create a KPERS 4 and consolidate.

Policy
07:22:30

Recess

Policy Changes (continued)

Mrs. Betty Arnold, Policy Committee Chair

The conversation about the potential changes progressed, but the Chair decided to table it again, until the next day.

Chair Haas recessed the meeting until Wednesday, October 9th, at 9:00 a.m.

Kinder-garten Readiness Snapshot 00:02:00

Kansas State Board of Education
Wednesday, October 9 , 2024

Chair Haas called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All members were present.

Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot
Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood
Pre-K Principal Mrs. Green and Title 1 teacher Mrs. Williams from Stockton
Amanda McKee, Pre-K teacher and Krista Linenberger, Dir. of Elem/ Programs, Salina
Mrs. Petersen explained the first five years of a child's life are an incredible opportunity for parents and educators to set a positive direction. If children are prepared for school, they will experience greater success in life. Engaging families to better understand children's development can improve school readiness. It takes work to get ready for kindergarten, for both families and schools. Kansas uses Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) as a tool for helping each child be successful as they begin school. This questionnaire can be completed by parents, or caregivers. It addresses developmentally appropriate milestone across a range of domains. It is a tool used across ages and settings. The sooner there are interventions for children who have developmental delays, the better a child can progress.

Kansas utilizes two questionnaires: the Ages & Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition, and Ages & Stages Questionnaires, Social-Emotional. The State Board approved the use of this tool starting in 2017.

The Kansas education system is required by state statute to have a method approved by the State Board for collecting kindergarten-entry data. Parents may opt in if they wish. However, while parents have a choice to participate by using the questionnaire, schools are responsible to provide the ASQ to all families. Failure to do so can result in putting the school system into non-compliance.

Mrs. Green, Elementary Principal, from Stockton, and Mrs. Williams, Title 1 teacher, shared they have a 30 minute interview with each family and child, and the ASQ can be part of this conversation. Mrs. Green shared the ASQ portal is quite easy to use. She monitors that website for completed forms and she can look over the questionnaires. That helps her build relationships with the family. Mrs. Williams supports the use of the ASQ, based on her several decades of working with early childhood students.

Amanda McKee, Pre-K teacher in Salina, and Krista Linenberger, Director of Elementary Programs, spoke about how helpful the ASQ is with finding any developmental delays. The

second helpful aspect is the relationship that it helps build between the teacher and the family. In Salina they have created a little booklet, *Playful Learning for You and Your Child*, which offers many ideas to encourage children to develop physical, intellectual, and social emotional skills. This starts what is hopefully a continuing positive relationship between educators and families that will continue through all the child's K-12 education.

Ag in the Classroom 01:06:05

There was a conversation about data security, parent's ability to opt in, the history of ASQ and of early childhood education and the involvement of the State Board in offering guidance to PreK education.

Ag in the Classroom
Nancy Zenger-Beneda, Director

Ms. Zenger-Beneda gave an overview of this statewide organization. She stated the mission of Ag in the Classroom is to connect classrooms to Kansas agriculture. Agriculture literacy is important. "An agriculturally literate person is one who understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life."

Youth today are four and five generations removed from the farm. Employment opportunities exist across the Board in agriculture. Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health. Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

Bus Safety Dorothy Dorman 01:35:18

Incorporating Ag concepts into core curriculum can provide reinforcement for teachers and students. Ms. Zenger-Beneda led the Board in a lesson, using playdough, to understand how small the portion of arable land is in terms of the size of the earth.

Dorothy Dorman, National First Place winner in the 2024 School Bus Driver International Safety Competition
Melissa Ostermeyer, School Transportation Unit, KSDE

Mrs. Ostermeyer is in her twenty sixth year working education. She worked for seven years in the local school transportation division and has experience as a school bus driver.

October 21-25 is National School Bus Safety Week. There are 9,176 Kansas School Bus drivers who log more than 62 million miles per year. She shared the requirements for school bus drivers: BCDL with a P and S endorsement, air brake endorsement, current DOT physical, accident prevention courses, first aid CPR, must be enrolled in alcohol and drug testing, participate in ten safety meetings a year, and have human trafficking training. They need a superior driving record and must enjoy working with kids of all ages. It is a demanding job and carries much responsibility. She noted that both students and bus drivers are precious cargo. There is a worldwide shortage of school bus drivers.

Ms. Ostermeyer shared some of the regional bus safety events. There are state, national, and international competitions. This year a Kansas bus driver was given the 2024 State Champion and went on to place first in the International Bus Safety Competition in Houston, Texas. Her name is Dorothy Dorman, and she was brought up to the podium where Dr. Watson presented her with a personalized jacket and congratulated her as the Board applauded.

Dorothy Dorman shared she has been encouraging competitions for bus drivers in her area, as it is continuing education. It is not just driving out on the streets and showing skills (she does that every day), but it is also the knowledge that is necessary for the job, and competitions are places to increase a driver's knowledge. When drivers are out working, they are on their own and have no backups. Drivers need to be very solid on knowledge when they are working so they can handle any situation.

Tallman High Performing Schools 02:00:39

How high performing school districts exceed expectations on State Board outcomes
Mark Tallman, Researcher, Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB)
Mr. Tallman has served as a KASB lobbyist for almost 30 years but recently shifted to researching school performance. He has focused on schools who are exceeding expectation and spent months in those schools, observing and spending time with educators to learn about the traits of these high performing schools. His list of common traits based on his research is as follows (in his own words):

Traits of High Success Districts

- Intensity, intentionality, urgency, and clear goals
  Change in attitude (culture) before change in results, Status quo is not acceptable, need to keep getting better, even if perceived to be doing better. Clear measurable, Actionable goals.
- Increased and fearless use of data
  Accept validity of state outcomes data and add to it. Time and staff support for using data at every level from school Board to classroom to individual students. Do not just trust your instincts. Compare results of standards, other schools and districts progress over time.
- Quick response and more options for struggling students
  Key use of data: response at first sign a student is falling behind. Some form of MTSS; many credit the state's program. Allows enrichment and advancement for students who ARE on track. Different use of staff, more people involved. High school: start intervention BEFORE students fall behind in credits, working with students and family with ways to catch up. Waiting for state results for senior year is too late.

- High Love and High Expectations
  Students face unprecedented social, behavioral and health issues. High success districts increased mental health, character education and social emotional learning. Help necessary for academic learning, but not a substitute for it. High success districts do both.
- Engaged students are successful students (Same for families and communities)
  Strong Individual Plan of Studies (IPS) while stressing students can and will change their minds and learn from doing so.
- Leadership and Collaboration
  High performing schools mentioned the support of the Commissioner, State Board and KSDE staff, Kansans Can vision, school redesign, MTSS, etc. They understand the power of leadership. They have supportive local Boards who balance oversight with letting educators do their job. The teachers in these districts overwhelming support for district and building leadership as making a difference. Teachers feel valued, have input and strong sense of collaboration: teamwork, everyone in on it together, and no one blaming others. He would often hear educators remark, "This particular district supports teachers, our administrators support us more in this district than in other districts. They have less concern about teacher shortages because they do not lose teachers. Overwhelming, these districts say there IS something different about what they are doing: success is result of intent, not chance.

Policy Committee 02:57:00

When compared to similar public districts, Kansas private systems performed about as expected. Many high success districts are close geographically, suggesting competition or cooperation plays a role. Many small districts have all grades in a single building or campus; all stress need for district unity. Many systems *conditionally accredited* by KESA were lower performing compared to similar districts.

Act on Policy Committee Recommendations
Betty Arnold, Chair, Policy Committee
The recommendations are divided into the five separate motions.

Motion 1
Mrs. Arnold moved that the Quick Start Reference Guide be accepted by the Kansas State Board of Education as recommended. Mrs. Horst seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Hopkins offered an amendment to the motion, on line 10 of the Board member expectations, to strike the words "to the press or in social media." Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

(back on the original motion) Mrs. Arnold moved that the Quick Start Reference Guide be accepted by the Kansas State Board of Education as recommended. Mrs. Horst seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Motion 2

Mrs. Arnold moved that the logistics section of the Quick Start Reference Guide be accepted by the Kansas State Board of Education as recommended. Mr. Porter seconded.

Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Dombrosky moved that the word "continued" be stricken from the fourth section "First Meeting." Mrs. Hopkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

(back on the original motion) Mrs. Arnold moved that the logistics section of the Quick Start Reference Guide be accepted by the Kansas State Board of Education as recommended. Mr. Porter seconded Motion carried 9-0-1. Mr. Zeck abstained.

Motion 3

Mrs. Arnold described the recommendation of the Policy Committee in reference to the seating chart for the Board. The proposed addition is:

[Policy 1007: OFFICERS – ELECTION, TENURE, AND DUTIES; P. 8]
(insert prior to existing B) Order of seating: Board leadership is elected at the first official meeting. After input from Board members and considering length of service, Board leadership will design a seating chart for use starting the following month. There is a long tradition that members who have served the longest always have a choice of where they want to sit. Leadership will take this into consideration when designing the seating chart.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the addition to Policy 1007 be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. Mrs. Hopkins seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Motion 4

Mrs. Arnold explained the recommendation relating to the election of officers (Chair and Vice Chair) as the removal of the word *may* and the insertion of *shall*.

(Policy: Officers – Election, Page 8 in Policy Manual) At its January meeting in odd-numbered years the state Board shall organize by election of a chair, vice chair and appointment of an attorney for the Board and secretary to the Board. Election of officers may (delete may) (insert shall) be by signed ballot. Each signed ballot shall be open for inspection by law

Mrs. Arnold moved that the recommendation of replacing *may* with *shall* be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. Mrs. Horst seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Motion 5

Mrs. Arnold explained the recommendation relation voting by the State Board.

[remove the words "or abstaining" from Section G.(2)]
Replace Section G.(2) (Page 17) as follows:
(2) On any motion before the State Board, a recorded vote shall be taken and made a part of the public record. (K.S.A. 72-251) The name of any member voting against a motion, or present not voting, shall be recorded in the minutes.

(insert new section H on p. 18) Voting
(1) Voting is done by a visible show of hands for each motion made and seconded.
(2) State Statute requires six (6) affirmative votes to pass a motion regardless of the number of Board members present for the meeting. (KSA 72-251)
(3) As amended: "The Board votes with a yes, no, present not voting, or recusal. A present not voting will be recorded in the minutes
(4) A "recusal" from voting is based upon a direct interest in a question, not based upon disagreement with or opposition to the question presented.
(5) The Board member who has a direct interest in the question, shall state the reasons for the request and shall leave the room when the vote is taken.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the changes to G.(2) (Page 17) and H (Page 18) be approved as recommended. Mr. Porter seconded the motion.

Amendment: Chair Haas moved that on H. item 3 "The Board votes with a yes, no, present not voting, or recusal. A present not voting will be recorded in the minutes." Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-1. Mr. Zeck voted no.

(back on the original motion) Mrs. Arnold moved that the changes to G.(2) (Page 17) and H (Page 18) be approved as recommended. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2. Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck voted no.

Consent Agenda Motion 03:22:03

WED Item 7: Consent Agenda

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve those items on the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-1. Mr. Zeck voted no.

a. Receive monthly personnel report and personnel appointments to unclassified positions.
b. Act on teacher licensure waivers

c. Act to approve local professional development plans
d. Act on request from USD 259 Wichita for capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid
e. Act on request from USD 259 Wichita to hold a bond election
f. Act to approve school districts participating in the At-Risk Accountability Plan Pilot Program in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.
g. Act to authorize initiation of Request for Proposal (RFP) process to negotiation a contract for State Board Attorney legal services.

Motion for those items taken off consent 03:33:14

Motion 03:37:38

WED Item 7: Items taken off the Consent Agenda (items h. and i.)

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve Consent item h. Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot (ASQ) contract for state fiscal years 2025-2028. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-3. Mr. Zeck, Mrs. Hopkins, and Mrs. Dombrowsky voted no.

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve Consent Item i. Contract with the Assessment and Technology Solutions (ATS) at the Achievement and Assessment Institute (AAIO) at the University of Kansas to develop and field test the US Department of Education grant award for the Partnership to Review and Improve Student Performance via Multiple Measures (PRISM). Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-3. Mrs. Dombrosky, Mr. Zeck and Mr. Hershberger voted no.

Chair Report 03:29:00

Motion 04:44:45

Chair Report

There was a lengthy conversation about board committee assignments. The Board members shared information about each committee and updates were made as to who is presently assigned to each commitment.

Request for Future Items

Travel Requests

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the travel requests of the Board. Dr. Horst seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-1.

Requests for future items:

Mrs. Dombrosky requested a presentation on school choice and vouchers. She is interested in potential legislation and how such policy would affect schools.

Mrs. Arnold requested a presentation on the background of the Teacher of the Year procedure and history.

Executive Session Motion 04:48:51

Mrs. Arnold requested a presentation from the Wichita USD 259 district, with special focus on low math scores.

Mr. Hershberger also requested that the Wichita USD 259 Superintendent give a presentation.

Executive Session

Adjourn

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters to protect the confidentiality of the employees discussed. The length shall be ten minutes and Commissioner Watson and Board Attorney Ferguson are invited to attend. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion passed 10-0.

After the executive session, Chair Haas adjourned the meeting.

_____ _____

Chair Melanie Haas Board Secretary Deborah Bremer