

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Melanie Haas called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 14, 2023, in the Board Room of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

(00:14:04)

**ROLL CALL**

All Board members were present:

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Betty Arnold       | Deena Horst |
| Michelle Dombrosky | Ann Mah     |
| Melanie Haas       | Jim McNiece |
| Dennis Hershberger | Jim Porter  |
| Cathy Hopkins      | Danny Zeck  |

**STATE BOARD MISSION STATEMENT, MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Haas read both the Board’s Mission Statement and Kansans Can Vision Statement. He then asked for a moment of silence after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Haas asked to vote on consent agenda item d separately per Mrs. Hopkins request and consent agenda items d, f and j separately per Mrs. Dombrosky’s request. Mrs. Dombrosky also requested more time be allowed for the legislative report. Mr. Porter moved to approve the day’s agenda as amended. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 8-2 with Mr. McNiece and Mr. Zeck in opposition.

**MOTION**  
(00:16:50)

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McNiece moved to approve the minutes of the January 10 and 11 regular Board meeting. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Zeck in opposition.

**MOTION**  
(00:17:24)

**COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

In his Commissioner’s Report, Dr. Randy Watson talked about the actions the State Board has taken to help Kansas high school graduates become successful, such as establishing rigorous academic standards; and establishing, with the assistance of the Kansas Legislature, a dyslexia position at the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) to assist school districts in implementing the science of reading. The Board also set aside more than \$16 million to train teachers in the science of reading and

(00:17:48)

math. Watson highlighted Chetopa-St. Paul Unified School District 505 for the district's improvement in the areas of high school graduation rates and postsecondary effectiveness.

**CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM**

Chair Haas declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:34 a.m. There were eight speakers this month: State Representative Adam Thomas, introducing himself to the new Board members and offering a message of cooperation between the Board of Education and the Legislature, specifically the House Committee on Education; Michael Kratky, Kenny Beneda and Kayla Callens all discussing the closing of Wilson Jr/Sr High; Allen Jautz representing the Kansas Association for Private Colleges of Teacher Education; Analyssa Noe, sharing financial reports and trends for USD 113; Kirk Tast, shared his "citizen's viewpoint" on the upcoming year in regards topics the legislation and the Board of Education might be facing; and Dr. John Richard Schrock shared on XX and XY factors of gender. Chair Haas declared the Citizens' Forum closed at 11:11 a.m.

(00:48:30)

**RECOGNITION OF THE 2022 NATIONAL ESEA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS**

Tate Toedman, Assistant Director of Special Education and Title Services for KSDE, introduced the two ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) Distinguished Schools from Kansas:

- Westview Elementary School, USD 233 Olathe, Principal Cindy Kapellar
- Hillsboro Elementary School, USD 410 Durham-Hillsboro-Lehigh, Principal Nathan Hiebert

These schools were honored earlier in February at a ceremony in Indianapolis during the national ESEA conference. Both principals shared with the Board factors they have found to be significant in student achievement at their schools.

(01:25:04)

**ACTION ON ESSER EXPENDITURE PLANS FOR USE OF FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS**

Assistant Director Doug Bodine reported on the most recent ESSER Task Force recommendations, which included 19 ESSER II change requests with a total net change of \$399,154. As for ESSER III, 21 new districts have submitted ESSER III plans with a total value of \$18.6M. There are 18 ESSER III change requests this month totaling \$6.8M.

(02:00:00)

Mr. Porter moved to accept the recommendations of the Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER and EANS Distribution of Money and approve the public school district ESSER II change request as presented for use of federal COVID-19 relief funds. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 8-0-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck abstaining.

**MOTION**  
(02:05:52)

Mrs. Arnold moved to accept the recommendations of the Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER and EANS Distribution of Money and approve the public school district ESSER III expenditure plans and change requests as presented for use of federal COVID-19 relief funds. Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 8-0-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck abstaining.

**MOTION**  
(02:16:05)

**ACTION ON LICENSURE REGULATIONS K.A.R. 91-1-200, 91-1-201, 91-1-202, 91-1-203, 91-1-204, and 91-1-209**

(02:17:00)

A public hearing on the proposed legislation was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 and again on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt proposed amendments to its teacher licensure regulations, K.A.R. 91-1-200, 201, 202, 203, 204, and 209. Mr. McNiece seconded. A roll call vote was required, and members voted as follows:

**MOTION**  
(02:30:02)

Betty Arnold	Yes	Cathy Hopkins	Abstain
Michelle Dombrosky	Abstain	Deena Horst	Yes
Melanie Haas	Yes	Dennis Hershberger	Abstain
Ann Mah	Yes	Jim McNiece	Yes
Jim Porter	Yes	Danny Zeck	Abstain

Motion passed 6-0-4.

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS: 2023 KANSAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE**

(03:43:57)

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Craig Neuenswander gave an explanation of where we are in the annual legislative process and a summary of each of the bills that involve education and are being followed by the department. Board legislative liaisons Ann Mah and Deena Horst also shared an update as to the hearings they have been a part of representing the Board’s legislative priorities.

**PRESENTATION ON KANSAS SCIENCE OF READING**

(04:26:05)

Dr. Laurie Curtis, Early Literacy/Dyslexia Program Manager for the Kansas Department of Education, presented a current update on the Kansas dyslexia initiatives. Information was provided related to screening protocol, professional learning, collaborative partnerships and the newly established Kansas Literacy Advisory Council.

**ACTION ON ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEM ACCREDITATION (KESA)**

(04:58:58)

During the State Board meeting in January, Jay Scott, Director of Accreditation and Design, presented information on six public systems that were ready for review of an accredited status recommendation. The systems that were received by the Board in January were USD 250 Pittsburgh, USD 270 Plainville, USD 460 Hesston, USD 475 Geary County, USD 507 Satanta and the Kansas School for the Blind. Jay Scott brought these six systems back to the Board for action. Dr. Horst made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Accreditation Review Council and award the status of accredited to the systems presented. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(05:04:42)

**RECEIPT OF ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEM ACCREDITATION (KESA)**

(05:05:48)

The Accreditation Review Council (ARC) has recommended an accredited status for the next thirteen systems awaiting recommendation. Executive summaries, accountability reports and other narratives were provided to Board members for the six public systems. The ARC considers compliance and foundational structures to support a five-year process of continuous improvement. Board members will act on the ARC recommendations in March 2023. The systems that were received by the Board in February are USD 208 WaKeeney, USD 244 Burlington, USD 249 Frontenac, USD 289 Wellsville, USD 375 Circle, USD 378 Riley County, USD 383 Manhattan-Ogden, USD 448 Inman, USD 477 Ingalls, USD 505 Chetopa-St. Paul, USD 506 Labette County, Z0064-9898 Annoor

Islamic School (Redetermination – Conditionally Accredited to Accredited), USD 349 Stafford (Conditionally Accredited).

**ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION (PPC)**

General Counsel Scott Gordon presented the case for action and Professional Practices Commission Chair Jennifer Holt attended via Zoom and was available for questions. Mr. Gordon also stated that the individual named in the case had requested to be present but did not respond to requirements for the hearing or attend. Mr. Porter recused himself from the presentation and vote. Mrs. Mah moved to adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Professional Practices Commission and follow the recommendation to the deny the application in 22-PPC-06. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mr. Porter’s recusal.

(05:34:50)

**MOTION**  
(05:36:25)

**DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO K.A.R. 91-31-31 AND 91-31-35**

In June 2021, the Graduation Requirements Task Force was established to review and recommend changes to the Kansas State Board of Education's minimum graduation requirements. Last year, the Kansas State Board of Education reviewed the recommendations and asked for changes to be made to the accreditation regulations. KSDE's General Counsel R. Scott Gordon provided the proposed changes to K.A.R. 91-31-31 and 91-31-35 to reflect the State Board's desired changes to graduation requirements and answered Board member’s questions. Board members discussed some possible changes they would like to see in the proposed regulations. These proposed regulatory changes will again be discussed during the March meeting of the State Board with a potential action item in April to approve submitting the proposed amendments through the formal adoption process.

(05:37:45)

**ACTION ON JOINT RESOLUTION WITH THE KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS REGARDING DUAL CREDIT COURSES**

The Kansas State Board of Education (KSDE) and the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) previously discussed students enrolling in courses to receive both college and high school credit. This Resolution is proposed as a means to formally agree that students should receive credit in the subject areas most closely aligned with the disciplines approved by the Kansas Board of Regents regardless of which public postsecondary educational institution delivered the course. KSDE’s General Counsel, Scott Gordon and KBOR’s Daniel Archer were available to answer questions. Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education sign the proposed joint resolution that states:

(06:17:45)

**MOTION**  
(06:25:10)

WHEREAS, data shows that education beyond high school provides a proven path to increased earnings for Kansas families; and  
WHEREAS, the Kansas State Board of Education provides leadership, resources, support and accountability to the state of Kansas’ K-12 education system; and  
WHEREAS, the Kansas Board of Regents is the governing board of the state’s six universities and the statewide coordinating board for the state’s 32 public higher education institutions; and  
WHEREAS, approximately 37,967 Kansas high school students graduated last year, and approximately 14,864 of those students earned dual credit while in high school; and  
WHEREAS, those Kansas high school students who enroll in and earn college credits while enrolled in high school use those credits to progress toward graduating from high school; and  
WHEREAS, the Kansas Board of Regents has created a seamless education experience by approving specific courses that must be accepted for systemwide transfer among any public postsecondary educational institution in Kansas; and  
WHEREAS, students who earn college credits while in high school are more likely to complete a postsecondary credential; and

WHEREAS, all accredited Kansas high schools and their students benefit when courses taken for dual credit from a Kansas public higher education institution fulfill those graduation requirements most closely aligned with the disciplines approved by the Kansas Board of Regents. Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas Board of Regents encourage Kansas high schools to accept for credit the specific courses that the Board of Regents has approved for systemwide transfer regardless of which public postsecondary educational institution delivered the course.

Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 7-0-3 with Mrs. Hopkins, Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck abstaining.

**WORKING ON THE SUCCESS OF EACH STUDENT: EARLY CHILDHOOD**

(06:27:49)

Amanda Petersen, Director of Early Childhood for the Kansas Department of Education, presented information on the work of the Early Childhood team including the All In For Kansas Kids strategic plan, early childhood collaborations and the Kindergarten in Kansas booklet.

**PRESENTATION FROM NIOMI NDIRANGU, 2022 MISS KANSAS OUTSTANDING TEEN**

(06:45:10)

Miss Kansas Outstanding Teen, Niomi Ndiriganu, presented information to the Board on her social impact initiative, Epilepsy Awareness: Train Up to Step Up. Inspired by her own experiences with epilepsy, she works to spread awareness of epilepsy, reduce the stigma that comes with it, and educate students about how to recognize and respond to someone having a seizure.

**ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. McNiece moved to approve Consent Agenda items 20 a, b, c, e and f. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In this action, the Board:

**MOTION**  
(07:07:38)

- Received monthly personnel report.
- Approved personnel appointments to unclassified position(s).
- Approved recommendations for licensure waivers.
- Act on request from USD 313 Buhler, Reno County, for capital improvement (bond and interest) state aid.
- Act on request from USD 313 Buhler, Reno County, to hold a bond election.

**SEPARATE ACTIONS ON CONSENT AGENDA**

At the beginning of the meeting, Chair Haas asked to vote on consent item 20 d separately from the other submissions per Mrs. Hopkins's request, and to vote on items 20 g, h, and i together as a group but separate from all others per Mrs. Dombrosky's request.

Mrs. Hopkins moved to approve consent agenda item 20 d. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In this action, the Board:

**MOTION**  
(07:15:54)

- Approved appointments to the new Kansas Children's Vision Health and School Readiness Commission

Mrs. Dombrosky moved to approve consent agenda items 20 g, h, and i. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mr. Zeck in opposition. In this action, the Board:

**MOTION**  
(07:16:57)

- Approved request to contract with the Kansas Department of Agriculture for summer food service program food safety inspections.

- Approved amendment to the request to initiate contract bid process for property insurance on new Body Venture Learning Exhibit.
- Approved amendment to the contract for Adaptive Schools Training.

**CHAIR REPORT**

(07:17:17)

Chair Haas opened the Chair Report by announcing her appointment of Mrs. Arnold as Chair of the Policy Committee. She also asked for Board members to let her know if they would be interested in filling either of the open Board representative positions on the Charter and Virtual Education Advisory Council and the Interstate Migrant Education Council.

*Action on Board Travel —*

Mrs. Dombrosky moved to approve travel requests and updates. Mr. Zeck seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

**MOTION**  
(07:23:59)

*Action on Board Attorney Contract Renewal*

After discussion as to the process of renewing the Board Attorney contract and putting it out for RFP, Mr. McNiece moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve renewal of Contract ID 47925 with Gates Shields Ferguson Swall Hammond, P.A. for providing legal services for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 with no increase in rates. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion passed 9-1 with Mr. Zeck in opposition.

**MOTION**  
(07:25:13)

*Committee Reports —*

Mrs. Mah reported from the Student Voice Committee that there are two main concerns coming from the group: the mental health issues and stress that seems to be widespread amongst students and that students don't fully understand individual plans of study (IPS) as schools are not doing them with fidelity.

*Board Attorney's Report —*

Mr. Ferguson began by asking permission from Chair Haas to take the podium to give his report this month. He then provided the Board background on how he got into educational law and his experience practicing in this field.

*Requests for Future Agenda Items —*

Mrs. Arnold requested an in depth look at the state assessment regarding the public perception of data and how that can be corrected. Along those same lines Mrs. Mah also discussing moving towards assessments being more useful in describing student growth and meaningful in general.

**RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 5:52 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Kansas State High School Association.

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Melanie Haas, Chair

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Barbara Hughes, Board Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education  
Wednesday, Feb 15, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman Haas called the Wednesday meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at the offices of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, 601 Commerce Place, Topeka, Kansas, for the purposes of a Board Retreat. The retreat was not livestreamed but was open to the public.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Board Members were present:

Betty Arnold	Deena Horst
Michelle Dombrosky	Ann Mah (was on her way at the start of the meeting)
Melanie Haas	Jim McNiece
Dennis Hershberger	Jim Porter
Cathy Hopkins	Danny Zeck

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairwoman Haas moved that agenda be accepted, and Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 9-0 as Mrs. Mah had not yet arrived.

**BOARD RETREAT**

The Board continued their series of retreats led by Dr. Brian Jordan and Dr. Doug Moeckel of the Kansas Association of School Boards. Board members spent time in groups answering questions posed by Moeckel and Jordan. They discussed what the role of the State Board is; topics that can create a unity of purpose for the Board; collective behaviors of high-performing boards; and culture.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

The next regular meeting for the State Board of Education is March 14 and 15, 2023.

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Melanie Haas, Chair

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Barbara Hughes, Board Secretary