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Danny Zeck
District 1

Melanie Haas
District 2

Michelle Dombrosky
District 3

Connie O'Brien
District 4

Cathy Hopkins
District 5

Dr. Beryl A New
District 6

Dennis Hershberger
District 7

Betty J. Arnold
District 8

Jim Porter
District 9

Debby Potter
District 10

SPECIAL MEETING September 25, 2025 Summary Report Kansas State Board of Education



Purpose of Meeting: To begin the discussion of hiring a new commissioner

The meeting took place in the Boardroom of the Landon Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas

At 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. September 25, 2025

Present in Person:

Chair Cathy Hopkins, District 5

Vice Chair Danny Zeck, District 1

Dr. Beryl New, District 6

Melanie Haas, District 2

Connie O'Brien, District 4

Commissioner Randy Watson

Board Secretary Deborah Bremer

Present on Zoom:

Michelle Dombrosky, District 3

Dennis Hershberger, District 7

Betty Arnold, District 8

Debby Potter, District 10

Board Attorney Mark Ferguson

The meeting began with the mission statement, moment of prayer or silent reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair then explained changes to the Agenda, including adding an action item to establish a 3 person subcommittee to work on a Request for Proposal (RFP) from executive search firms.

Vice Chair Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the agenda. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no.

Each board member was given 3 minutes to share their thoughts on beginning the process of hiring a new commissioner.

Dr. John Hess then came before the Board to explain the RFP process. Any state contract over \$25,000 is required to go through the process of having the RFP approved by the Department of Administration and then put out to bid for 30/60/90 days. In this case, Dr. Hess feels it would be for 30 days, as the process needs to begin as soon as possible.

Chair Hopkins and Vice Chair Zeck appointed themselves and Mrs. Dombrosky to work together on a subcommittee that would start the RFP process.

Dr. New moved that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the rules to take action on the development of a subcommittee to focus on the RFP process. Vice Chair Zeck seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-1-1 with Mrs. Potter voting no and Mrs. O'Brien voting present no voting.

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education appoint Chair Hopkins, Vice Chair Zeck and Mrs. Dombrosky to work together on a board subcommittee that can supervise the RFP process. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-3 with Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Potter and Mr. Hershberger voting no.

Dr. Hess will work with the subcommittee to submit the paperwork as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned until 3:00 p.m. October 13th, when the Board will have another Special Meeting to continue this discussion topic.