

TUESDAY MINUTES

To be approved at the October 2025 meeting



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Kansas State Board of Education
September 9th, 2025

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Hopkins called the meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas. Chair Hopkins recited the Board mission statement and then asked for a moment of silent reflection or prayer, followed by everyone standing and joining in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

The following Board members were present:

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 seated at the Board table.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR August 12 & 13, 2025

Mrs. Dombrosky moved to approve the minutes for the August 12 & 13, 2025, Kansas State Board of Education meeting. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Potter present not voting.

AGENDA There were three changes to the agenda. The Kansas State School for the Deaf presentation was cancelled due to a family emergency for the Superintendent. There was an executive session added for Wednesday and a receive/action item: *Receive and Act on a Resolution to Disorganize USD 334 Southern Cloud and attach the territory thereof to USDs 273, 333, 224, 379 and 239* presented by General Counsel R. Scott Gordon.

Consent items: b, e, g and t were removed from the agenda.

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the agenda for September 9 & 10, 2025 with the changes

noted and consent items b, e, g, and t removed for a separate vote/discussion. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

INDIVIDUAL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED:

Mrs. Haas asked for discussion on F.

F. Act to change category to Postsecondary Asset List: student officer in any state level high school organization.

Mrs. Dombrosky ask for discussion, comment and separate votes on:

B. Act on Request to contract with Kansas State University to support Kansas Family, Career & Community Leaders of America

E. Act to extend contract with ACT for ACT, WorkKeys, and Pre-ACT assessments as required by Kansas Statute.

G. Notification to the Kansas State Board of Education of four private schools and one scholarship granting organization to participate in the Tax Credit for Low Income Student Scholarship Program (TCLISSP).

Mrs. Potter also requested B and added for discussion, comment and separate vote on:

T. Act on request from USD 353 Wellington, Sumner County, to hold a bond election.

There was a brief presentation from Beth Fultz, and comments from Mrs. Haas on F; the issue of the Kansas Thespians wanting to be on the postsecondary asset list. Mrs. Fultz explained that the Thespians are able to use their membership as an asset through a different item. The item stayed on the consent agenda.

VOTING ON PULLED CONSENT ITEMS:

Consent Item B

Mrs. Potter asked for a presentation on the pathway that she feels is not clear. The Chair answered that the pathway has already been voted on. Dr. Watson clarified that there could be a presentation on Mrs. Potter's concern, but the vote on the table is to contract an advisor.

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to contract with Kansas State University to support the Kansas State Advisor of Family, Career & Community Leaders of America at a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 per year, up to a total of \$300,000.00 for the period of five years, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2031. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion.

Mrs. Potter made a point of order and offered an amendment to the motion:

Mrs. Potter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner

of Education to contract with Kansas State University to support the Kansas State Advisor of Family, Career & Community Leaders of America at a total amount of \$60,000 for a period of one year, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion failed 5-5 with Mrs. Haas, Dr. New, Chair Hopkins, Mrs. Arnold, and Mr. Porter voting no.

(back on the original motion) Motion carried 6-3-1 with Mrs. Potter, Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Dombrosky voting no, Mr. Zeck present not voting.

Consent Item E

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to extend the contract with ACT for the purpose of providing ACT assessments to students in accredited schools. The contract will provide one PreACT to all students enrolled in grade 9, one ACT to all students enrolled in grade 11 including science and one WorkKeys suite to all students enrolled in either 11th or 12th grade. This action would extend this contract to five more years from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031, not to exceed \$25 million. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-2-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky and Mrs. Potter voting no, and Mrs. O'Brien present not voting.

Consent Item G

Mrs. Dombrosky commented that if a child is attending a school receiving a scholarship the parents should be notified. Deputy Commissioner Harwood explained that this item is a notification only and does not need a vote by the Board.

Consent Item T

Mrs. Potter commented that businesses are coming and being paid by the schools to sell these bonds to the public. She stated that local boards are pressured into voting for the bonds even when they know their constituents are not in favor of the bond. She referenced a local survey.

Mr. Porter moved that the Kansas State Board of Education issue an Order authorizing USD 353, Wellington, Sumner County, to hold an election on the question of issuing bonds in excess of the district's general bond debt limitation. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Potter and Mrs. O'Brien voting no.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Receive monthly personnel report and appointments to unclassified positions.
- c. Act on local professional development plans.

- d. Act on licensure waivers.
- f. Act to change category to Postsecondary Asset List: student officer in any state level high school organization
- h-bb (capitol improvement and hold a bond election) There were many requests due to the new law that limits the time period these items can be submitted.
 - USD 107 Rock Hills, Jewell County, Bond Election and Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 263 Mulvane, Sedgwick County, Bond Election and Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 274 Oakley, Logan County, Bond Election and Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 288 Central Heights, Franklin, Bond Election/Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 294 Oberlin, Decatur County, Bond Election and Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 350 St. John-Hudson, Stafford, Bond Election and Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 353 Wellington, Sumner County, Bond Election and Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 407 Russell County, Bond Election and Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 450 Shawnee Heights, Shawnee, Bond Election/Capital Improvement State Aid
 - USD 470 Arkansas City, Cowley County, Bond Election and Capital Interest State Aid
 - USD 335 North Jackson, Jackson County Capitol Improvement State Aid only

Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Porter seconded the motion.

Motion carried 10-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

38:00

Dr. Randy Watson shared the topic of the next KSDE Insight Podcast, *Raising Readers: What Every Parent Should Know*. Constitution Day, which will involve thousands of Kansas students, will be September 17th. There will be two more sections added to the three part series and guidance on technology in schools. A survey is being conducted on how districts use school issued devices, and there will be monthly presentations and discussion on the impact of artificial intelligence on education. He presented data from the state's largest district, USD 259 in Wichita, on reading proficiency. Dr. Watson presented the idea of a three year pilot to examine the effects of targeted summer school for literacy in the early grades.

CITIZENS' FORUM

- Matt Smith, Superintendent USD 208, spoke in support of the recent change in the KPA cut scores, and believes this is best for students.
- Michael Dome, Maize USD 266, also supports the change in cut scores. He was one of the 141 educators who worked on the scores, and he is very appreciative of having descriptors that are focused on standards.
- Shane Kirchner, Kansas Association of Private Colleges of Teacher Education, KAPCTE, gave an update on the progress being made in teacher training for reading. He wants to make sure private colleges are part of the process.

1:03:24

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- Emily Brownlee, Overland Park citizen, spoke of her continuing concerns that technology is too present in the classroom and causing harm and affecting the brain development of students. Wants to reevaluate screen time effects.
- Chad Higgings, ESSDACK service center, spoke in support of the KPA cut scores. Stated this will help students and thanked the many educators who contributed to the cut score setting. He believes the scores do not reduce rigor.
- Cathy Couchman, Superintendent USD 313, spoke in support of the Board's decision on the cut scores. She is in strong agreement with the boots on the ground teachers who advised on the cut scores.
- Jessica Dain, Superintendent, Piper school district, thanked the Board for the decision on cut scores, which she believes are aligned to student performance.

PRESENTATION ON STATE ASSESSMENT SCORE REPORTS

1:36:04

Beth Fultz, Julie Ewing, Matt Copeland and Susan Martin, KSDE & KU Assessment Team

After the October State Board, meeting the building report cards, with performance level reports, will be released. The team reviewed the types of reports that will be released at that time. They went over the various ways the information will be gathered, including a parent portal for individual student reports. There will be a concordance which provides a general relationships between the scores of both assessments by comparing scale scores from the 2024 KAP assessments and the new 2025 KAP assessments. The scores are linked, but not interchangeable. Also, the scores should not be used to compare individual scale scores from one grade to the next.

PRESENTATION ON KANSAS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

2:23:04

G.A. Buie, Executive Director, United School Administrators in Kansas

Mr. Buie noted that individuals are entering leadership roles at increasingly younger ages. This shift underscores the pressing need to ensure adequate preparation and support for these emerging leaders. He described efforts by his organization to mentor and coach new leaders and emphasized this must be a collective effort.

PERFORMANCE: SALINA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ COMBO

3:31:54

The Board was regaled by an absolutely stunning and enjoyable performance by this group of musically talented students, led by Mr. Rodriguez, director and teacher.

READING CORNER:

3:41:45

Dr. Laurie Curtis, Early Literacy/Dyslexia Program Manager
Sarah Newton, Reading Specialist in Holton USD 336

Mrs. Newton shared the inspiring story of two students who struggled with reading through elementary school. They started working with her when they were in 6th grade. Both students had minimal scores in reading words correctly per minute, accuracy and comprehension. From 6th grade to 8th grade, they made incredible progress. These remarkable students were present and shared their stories, thoughts and feelings with the Board. It was an inspiring reminder that reading can be vastly improved at any time on the educational journey. It is never too late.

ACT ON ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Jay Scott, Director, Accreditation and Design

4:12:15

Dr. Scott presented the recommendations in August and now asked the Board to take action on the KESA accreditation.

The Accreditation Review Council (ARC) is made up of educators, diverse in role and geographic location, which is charged with making a recommendation of accreditation status for every system, every year to the State Board of Education. This receive item is comprised of the ARC's recommendations of accreditation status for each system in KESA (303 school systems in 24-25). The ARC makes their recommendations of accreditation by reviewing reports prepared by KSDE showing how each school system in KESA either met or did not meet KESA standards.

For 2024-2025, KSDE evaluated school systems in two areas, School Improvement and Compliance. In School Improvement, KSDE's Action Plan Review team evaluated each system's KESA Action Plan for clarity, alignment to the 4 Fundamentals, and being data-driven. A school system meeting those criteria would result in having a Ready-to-Implement KESA Action Plan. In Compliance, each system was evaluated by a lead team at KSDE against the standards for being "in compliance". The ARC reviewed the attached reports (Action Plan status, Compliance status) and then voted on a recommendation of accreditation status for each system during an early July meeting.

During the meeting, the ARC voted to recommend every school system in KESA to be accredited based on the attached reports.

Every school system in KESA has a Ready-to-Implement KESA Action Plan, meeting the KESA standards in School Improvement. In Compliance, the majority of the school systems met the standards in each of the 14 KESA Compliance areas. There are several school systems that are Not In Compliance in a few Compliance areas, however, this is the first year for those particular school systems to be Not In Compliance and, following our evaluation process, a school system's accreditation status is not affected when not meeting standards for one year. If a school system does not meet standards for two consecutive years in the same KESA area, that is when the ARC will complete a more in-depth review to

determine if the system should remain accredited or be accredited with conditions.

Therefore, while not all school systems met standards in each KESA Compliance area, the ARC, following our KESA process, is recommending each school system to remain accredited. The school systems that did not meet KESA Compliance standards have been notified.

The Accreditation Review Council is recommending each school system in KESA to be accredited for the 25-26 school year.

Dr. New moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Accreditation Review Council recommendation that each school system in KESA be accredited for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Arnold was not present at that moment.

ACT ON REQUEST TO CONTRACT WITH AMERICA LEARNS FOR AMERICORPS
PERFORMANCE

4:18:30

Dr. Jessica Dorsey, Kansas Volunteer Commission

The Kansas Volunteer Commission will contract with America Learns, LLC, for the AmeriCorps Impact Suite, which is a subgrantee progress and financial monitoring system. This system will be utilized to monitor the approximately \$2 million dollars in grant funds allocated to AmeriCorps Kansas subgrantees.

In 2021, AmeriCorps moved to the America Learns system because it has budget templates aligned to the requirements of our federal funder, preloaded performance measures aligned to the required performance measure instructions, and a time sheet system for AmeriCorps members to record their service time. There was a growing need to develop an electronic system for maintaining the files of the 250+ AmeriCorps members across the state for compliance and monitoring.

Previously, the files were kept on paper form and when they were monitored for compliance, staff had to either travel onsite or the programs had to scan the files (with over 25 required pieces of documentation each) and then send them to the Americorps office via a secure file sharing system. This was cumbersome, time-consuming and unnecessary.

America Learns offers a robust member file keeping system that makes compliance visits efficient. All programs need to do is click a button and Commission staff instantly have access to each electronic member file.

The contract includes the following services and costs:

Grantee Progress Reports: \$3,750

Financial Reports: \$3,750

Timesheets and Member Files: \$2,625 x 8 programs = \$21,000

Electronic document signing: \$250 x 8 programs = \$2,000

Implementation Consulting and Ongoing Support: Included

This contract will not exceed a total of \$30,500 and is contingent upon receiving the 2025-2026 AmeriCorps formula grant.

The contract also includes unlimited accounts for commission staff, unlimited data storage and access across program years, including archived data from My Service Log, multiple daily data backups, including seven year storage of end-of-the-month backups, and access to all upgrades and new features within the services being used.

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education contract with America Learns for AmeriCorps performance, progress and financial reporting. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky voting no.

ACT ON EVALUATION REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM APPROVALS

4:19:59

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Assistant Director, Teacher Licensure

PROGRAM APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommend "Approved" status for Emporia State University programs through December 31, 2032:

Building Leadership PreK-12, A

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7

None

Chemistry 6-12, I

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-8

None

District Leadership PreK-12, A

Areas for Improvement

Standards 1-7

None

English Language Arts 6-12, I Areas

for Improvement Standards 1-7,

Science of Reading None

*Gifted PreK-12, A Areas
for Improvement
Standards 1-6*

None

*Health PreK-12, I
Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-5*

None

Music-Instrumental PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7

None

Music-Vocal PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7

None

Physical Education PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-7

None

Speech/Theatre 6-12, I

Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-6

None

World Languages PreK-12, I

Areas for Improvement
Standards 1-8

None

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for educator preparation program approvals for Emporia State University and Kansas State University. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

HONORING CLELIA MCCRORY FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

Beth Fultz, Director, Career, Standards and Assessment Services

4:33:20

Mrs. Fultz shared the following with the Board and the public:

Ms. McCrory taught in the classroom for twenty-four years. She was licensed as a teacher in elementary education, math, biology, physics, chemistry, ELA, FACS, and had three different special education endorsements. After the classroom, Ms. McCrory has been with

ESSDACK for 21 years.

Some of the highlights of her work at ESSDACK are:

- Clelia has successfully written grants for \$97,240,000 (as of mid-August)
- She helped bring Anatomy in Clay to a multitude of KS districts.
- She helped Kansas school districts with acquiring, maintaining, and improving career and technical education programs and developing approved CTE programs in the areas of Business, Technology, Agriculture, FCS, and Trade & Industry
- She continues to help districts develop new Pre-Collegiate Education and Health Occupations programs
- She works closely with KSDE Career and Technical Education consultants and has served on peer review committees evaluating programs in the past. Including serving as co-chair of three Comprehensive Regional (Hutchinson) Needs Assessments (21-22, 23-24, 25-26)
- Her training workshops are designed to keep teachers abreast of changes and help schools improve CTE program quality

Clelia is well known in Kansas as an educator who never gives up. She faced her own struggles in life and when she found a path forward, she decided to spend her life helping others find better lives than they might ever have imagined. She is courageous, persistent, full of hope, and has been a true gift to the students, families and communities of Kansas.

The Board gave Mrs. McCrory a standing ovation. She was presented with a plaque in honor of her outstanding lifetime of service.

RECEIVE ASSESSMENT CONTRACTS

Julie Ewing, Assistant Director, Career, Standards and Assessment Services

4:39:53

Item A. RFP for Reading/Math Resources

Recommended Motion to be voted on in October:

It is moved the Kansas Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to enter into a contract with the recommended vendor resulting from the bidding process required by the Department of Administration and Division of Purchasing for the purpose of providing a product linked to English Language Arts and mathematics scale score on the Kansas state summative assessments and resources for students, parents, and teacher aligned to the scientific measure of a student's reading or mathematics ability with a contract amount not to exceed \$1.5 million through June 30, 2031. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is issuing this Request for Proposal to obtain competitive

responses from vendors. The contract will be issued for a licensing agreement from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031.

The vendor will provide a scientific approach to measuring reading ability and reading materials and mathematical achievement and concept/application solvability. The measure should be linked to English Language Arts and mathematics scale score on the Kansas state summative assessments. For instructional purposes, measures should be reported at the student and classroom levels. The measures should appear on reports that are sent home to parents and reports that are provided to the current grade-level teacher and/or the next grade-level teacher. The measure will be added to individual student score reports and used in peer review for summative assessment approval.

During the term of this agreement the vendor will provide access to online resources for students, parents, and teachers that are aligned to the scientific measure of a student's reading or mathematics ability.

Background/History: Previously the Kansas State Department of Education has had multi-year contracts with MetaMetrics for these products, services, and resources. The Department of Administration requires a bid for these services seeking the provider to provide approval for bid.

Item B. Act to approve the continuation of work on the Kansas Assessment Program
Recommended Motion to be voted on in October:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to contract with the University of Kansas for the purpose of providing state assessments to students in accredited schools. The contract will provide development of new items, test administration, score reporting, psychometrics, and some released items annually. This contract is for three years from July 1, 2026, and would not exceed \$6,000,000 annually.

Explanation of Situation Requiring Action:

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is committed to maintaining a balanced assessment system, emphasizing the provision of equitable resources to support diverse assessment opportunities. We believe that such a system offers a thorough and effective framework for evaluating student learning.

Currently Assessment and Technology Solutions (ATS) at the University of Kansas contracts for all state assessment products and services. Both Kansas state statute and federal regulations require students attending public schools to be assessed annually on content knowledge and skills. The Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas State Department of Education believe the balanced assessment systems approach to testing provides the best evaluation of student performance. The balanced assessment system approach includes mini-tests, interims, and summative assessments aligned to Kansas

content standards. All Kansas assessments are delivered to students on a single platform (Kite) and all reports related to the assessments are also available for parents, teachers and administrators on the Kite platform. It is a one-stop shop for all testing and reporting for Kansas schools. Work would include development of test items, test administration, scoring, psychometrics, and score reporting. By continuing to use the same testing platform and vendor to develop additional test items, some items could be released annually.

PRESENTATION OF KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND (KSSB) OVERVIEW/BUDGET

Superintendent Jon Harding, KSSB

5:03:45

Mr. Harding explained how the KSSB budget is approved. The Governor recommends it, the State Board “oversees” it, but the Legislature actually approves and funds the budget. Funding comes out of the State General Fund \$8,321,434 (not K-12 Funding), and the State Institutional Building fund \$3,487,554 (which is no longer a special tax levy but will come out of general state revenues).

KSSB has challenges, particularly with the many “elderly” buildings that are on the campus. Maintenance is an ongoing issue. 78% of the funding goes to instruction and 22% to administrative and support services. KSSB has day programs, live in programs, and also the FIT program that serves students and families across the state.

The superintendent invited the Board to many special events, including the ribbon cutting for the new gym on November 6th.

RECEIVE KANSAS SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF REQUEST TO RAISE OUT OF STATE TUITION

5:26:00

Superintendent Jon Harding, KSSB

(Superintendent Luanne Barron was not able to attend but this is the KSD receive item as well)

Since at least 2013, the out-of-state tuition rates have remained unchanged at \$40,000.00 per student for day services, with an additional \$20,000.00 for students residing in the dormitory. Over this same period, the cumulative inflation rate has been an estimated 38.3%, causing a substantial gap between the tuition collected and the actual cost of providing services. While out-of-state school districts cover transportation and some paraprofessional support, the schools themselves bear the majority of the costs, including certified teachers, specialized equipment, food, and all other indirect expenses.

The current tuition rates are no longer sufficient to cover the rising operational costs of KSSB/KSD highly specialized programs. The services provided, including instruction from

certified teachers of the deaf and blind, access to state-of-the-art adaptive technology, and residential care—are unique and essential for student success. The tuition has not kept pace with the economic pressures of inflation, which has impacted everything from salaries and benefits for staff to the cost of specialized educational materials, mandated related services, and building maintenance. In-state students do not pay tuition because their education is funded by Kansas state tax dollars, which directly support the KSD and KSSB. Out-of-state students, however, are not covered by Kansas taxpayers, so their families or home states are responsible for paying tuition. This ensures that Kansas residents receive the benefit of the state taxes they contribute, while still allowing students from other states access to specialized programs.

To mitigate the financial shortfall and ensure the sustainability of these unique programs, both KSSB and KSD propose a 25% increase in out-of-state tuition rates for both schools. The proposed new rates for the 2026-2027 school year would be as follows:

Day Services: An increase from \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per student.

Dormitory Services: An increase from \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 per student.

To prevent the need for future, one-time tuition increases, and to ensure that the out-of-state tuition rates accurately reflect the ongoing costs of operation, both schools propose that the approved tuition rates be adjusted annually. The adjustments will be equal to the annual percent increase to the Base Aide for Student Excellence (BASE) as defined in K.S.A. 72-5132. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the tuition rates for both day and dormitory services will be increased each year by the percentage change in the BASE. This annual adjustment will be applied on July 1st of each year. The BASE is adjusted by a three year average of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers in the Midwest region (CPI-U) as published by the US Department of Labor.

The Kansas schools for the Blind and Deaf ask the State Board of Education to approve the proposed tuition rate increases for out-of-state students.

ACT TO APPROVE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF EDUCATION DUES

6:11:45

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the payment of \$19,600 for the 2026 dues of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 8-2 with Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Dombrosky voting no.

REPORT ON KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF (KSD) NEGOTIATIONS

5:55:40

Board Attorney Mark Ferguson and Board Liaison to KSD Mrs. Dombrosky

Mark Ferguson shared the following document with the Board, and Mrs. Dombrosky commented on several areas, in particular the Inclement Weather Policy which is unique because KSD is a 24 hour school with live-in students.

KSD Summary of Tentative Agreement by Topic (as agreed by the Parties on 9/3/25)

1. Compensation, Departure from Past Practice & Salary Schedule

In year 1 (School year 25-26), the Parties recommend an increase to the salary schedule of \$6,000.00 per cell to the KSD salary schedule matrix. This is an increase in compensation which is greater than the amount previously requested by KSD for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, which has been approved by the Kansas Legislature. The increase will establish a minimum starting salary of \$50,000.00. KSD agrees to pursue a Supplemental Funding Allocation request of incremental cost to get to the \$6K/cell request by KNEA for FY 26 (School year 25-26). This request is through a Change Package to the Kansas Division of Budget and the KS Legislature pursuant to the published budget authorization procedures.

In year 2 of the Negotiated Agreement (NA), KSD will seek Budget Enhancement for School year 26-27 (FY 27) to get a 2.5% increase for the entire salary schedule. This percentage increase is *greater than* the percentage (%) increase that Olathe KNEA agreed to for the 25-26 school year negotiated agreement.

2. 187 Contract Days vs. 181 Contract Days

All contracts issued by KSD will provide for a minimum of 187 Contract Days, with additional days (over 187 Contract Days) paid at the published daily contract rate or the published supplemental contract rate. The six (6) additional Contract Days for FY 26 would be allocated as provided in the separate written summary. Generally, the six (6) additional days are allocated between three (3) additional Instructional and Student Contact Days and three (3) additional Professional Development Days (PDD). This would increase the number of Professional Development Days at KSD from 9 to 12.

3. Professional Development; Pilot Program for 1 Flex Day

The Parties will recommend to the Professional Development Council (PDC) that one (1) of the additional Professional Development Days (PDD) be designated as a "flex-day." The guidelines for a flex day will be determined by the Professional Development Council in accordance with the written and approved Professional Development Plan. The single day "flex-day" concept for PDD is a Pilot Program for one of the PDD at the end of the 25-26 School year and at a time to be determined during the 26-27 School year. The final decision for approval of the details and guidelines for implementation of a "flex day" will be within the authority of the PDC.

4. Supplemental Salary Schedule

No additional increases for the FY 26 (25-26) Salary Schedule but KSD agrees to request Budget Enhancement for FY 27 to accomplish several increases. The Parties will rely on the revised chart and supplemental salary schedule published. The amount of \$45K to cover the Supplemental Salary Schedule will be included in the FY 27 Budget request, for use in the Fall of 2026. There are other categories of compensation listed in the Supplemental

Salary Schedule.

5. ASL Stipends for Proficiency

KSD will include a budget request in the FY 27 Budget Request for an American Sign Language (ASL) one-time stipend of additional pay for ASL proficiency. The estimated amount to be included in the FY 27 Budget request is \$40,000.00. The budget request will not be enough to cover the request of \$2,500 for all employees of KSD during the 26-27 school year (FY 27) both from a funding perspective and from a testing/administration standpoint. The funding request would be contained within the FY 27 Supplemental Contract request; The details regarding amount (\$) per employee, testing, and implementation will be determined by the Administration. Administration reserves the right to prioritize the classification of employee eligibility as well as prioritizing the use of ASL Stipends as a recruitment incentive for new hires.

6. KSD Staff ASL Development Program

A Staff ASL proficiency and development plan has been discussed for many years. The discussion advanced and evolved into a comprehensive plan document. This establishes a minimum level of bi-lingual proficiency (sign language and verbal) for each category of employees at KSD.

7. Inclement Weather Policy [IWN]

The Inclement Weather Policy would substantially change the current practice. The new plan would be for KSD to follow Olathe closure schedule. This means KSD would close and there would not be instructional time for students during KSD closure due to inclement weather. KSD will provide a flat rate of \$150.00 for the 8 people needed for coverage. Certified Personnel are no longer required to use PTO leave.

8. Term of Agreement

2-Year Agreement. If approved, the Negotiated Agreement would cover School Year 25-26 and School Year 26-27. Formal negotiations would start again in early 2027.

PRESENTATION ON STUDENT DATA PRIVACY AND THIRD PARTY ACCESS

Virginia Crossland Macha, Parents In Charge

6:29:25

Mrs. Macha described her group, Parents In Charge, as a grassroot network of 1800 parents across Kansas. She stated that parents need to be at the table on the discussions about data security. Referring to the 4th amendment rights to individual privacy, she mentioned the present lawsuit that is happening in Lawrence USD 497 over students' information. It involved the district's use of Gagggle, an AI surveillance tool.

Mrs. Macha offered the idea of an initiative to protect kids, which she said would be the gold standard. The longitudinal student database puts labels on children which can stay in their record for decades. Parents are concerned about onscreen time, government overreach, unneeded surveys, and AI. In 2021, a Post Audit report found that 59% of

districts do not encrypt data.

Young children are spending too much time on screens. Many students use Chromebooks, and these kinds of devices have many apps on them. These apps are capable of sharing data with third parties. She spoke about online surveys, data, AI and data centers which house servers. Parents do not control Longitudinal databases. Mrs. Macha shared that Kansas Government data sales in 2022 were over \$58 million dollars. She recommends that a gold standard protection be put in place as soon as possible.

*Superintendent Luanne Barron, Kansas School for the Deaf, was not able to attend due to a family emergency. She will present next month.

Chair Hopkins recessed the meeting until the following day at 9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education
September 10, 2025

Chair Hopkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All Board members, Dr. Watson and Attorney Ferguson were present.

PRESENTATION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EDUCATION

1:27

Dr. Jake Steel, Office of the Commissioner

Dr. Steel began by noting that AI is not new. Despite many fears surrounding the topic, it is knowable because it is a science. Our culture is starting to become aware of AI as it becomes part of our everyday life and people fall along a “spectrum” of reaction to AI, Doomsday, Cautious, Pragmatic, Optimistic and All-in. This kind of reaction is typical when any major shift happens, and Dr. Steel led the Board through major changes such as the advent of writing in 3200 BCE, the printing press in 1450, newspapers in 1605, the telegraph, cinema and radio, television, the web, smart phones and “Generative” A.I. in 2022.

In terms of the mission of Kansas education, “*..success (is) through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents,*” Dr. Steel laid out four principles to keep in mind when evaluating how AI should be used in schools.

Principle 1: Instruction first. Kansas must keep the main thing the main thing and that is rigorous academic instruction. The priority is high quality, standards-aligned teaching. This will help each student succeed.

Principle 2: Use purpose-built tools for the job. AI is a tool. Just as we use different tools for different jobs, so AI is not used for everything. As we learn what AI does best, we can use it for that purpose.

Principle 3: The framework matters. AI's potential to support teaching, learning and school operations may be overshadowed by unintended consequences such as lack of access, overreliance on automation and data misuse.

Principle 4: AI at its core is a pattern recognition system.

In the coming months, Dr. Steel will continue looking at AI topics:

- What is AI
- Public perception
- Research and reports
- Data privacy and security
- Frameworks for responsible adoption

PRESENTATION ON COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS) EDUCATION IN KANSAS

40:10

Dr. Stephen King, STEM program manager

Dr. King shared the growth of computer science education in Kansas, specifically starting with the Model Computer Science Standards in 2019. The Computer Science Implementation Committee was launched that year and in 2020 they made five recommendations:

1. Educated statewide computer science education position
2. Encourage all schools to offer computer science.
3. Computer science should satisfy a core graduation requirement.
4. Create licensure endorsement.
5. Arrange funding (\$1,000,000).

He went through each recommendation and gave an update.

1. He serves as the Education Program Consultant position (merged with the CTE IT Education Program Consultant position in 2020).
2. The PACK Act was initiated by the Kansas State Legislature and has granted approximately \$1 million to Kansas Universities and Service Centers, from 2022-2025 to train teachers for computer science high school classes. This funding was ended in 2025.
3. In 2021, the Kansas State Board approved graduation requirements that allowed Computer Science to count as a core math/science credit. In 2024, the Board added an advanced STEM requirement in addition to current 3 credits for math and 3 credits for science.
4. Endorsement standards committee met in 2021 and created standards for endorsement.
5. PACK Act (2022, 2023, 2024) provided: \$1,000,000 per year for training entity. Specifically aimed at high school teacher preparation.
Covered costs of training and other expenses for teachers and entities.
PACK Act did not provide: Coherent definition of computer science requirement.
Flexibility for KSDE to guide direction or adopt overarching CS education plan.
Funding for CS in earlier grades.

Multi-year (or summer training) opportunities.

PRESENTATION ON DIGITAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS FOR STUDENTS

Katie Kincaid-Longhauser, The Screen Guardians

Kevin Cronister, Detective with Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force in Kansas City Metro Area

1:29:55

Mrs. Kincaid Longhauser began with the two major concerns she sees:

1. Screens Impact on Learning
2. Screens Impact on Health and Safety.

Screens are a distraction to student's learning, taking away their ability to focus. They overstimulate the brain's reward center and under stimulate the brain's judgement and critical thinking area. Screens have an impact on mental and emotional health. They can disrupt sleep, make kids moody and less able to regulate emotions when screen use stops. Screens decrease real-life social interactions; weakening empathy.

In terms of child safety, internet crime is the fastest growing crime in the U.S. and children are the fastest growing victim pool. There are legal obligations to protect kids such as:

- Kansas Children's Internet Protection Act (KS-CIPA)
 - mandates Kansas public school districts employ technology protection measures (e.g., filtering software) to block minors from accessing visual depictions that are child pornography, harmful to minors, or obscene
- Federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
 - requires public schools and libraries that receive federal funding to employ technology protection measures and block minors from accessing harmful content.
 - Give at least one public hearing before adopting the policy
 - Monitoring of minors' online use (for schools),
 - Educate minors about safe online behavior, including cyberbullying and social media risks

Detective Cronister stated 60% of teens have received communication online from a stranger and half have communicated back. (from Pew Research 2001) Digital safety risks are: exposure to harmful content, exploitation and predation, and bullying and harassment. There is widespread access to pornography, even on school-owned devices. Boys are most likely to fall victim to financial extortion. Girls are more likely to fall victim to online enticement.

The presenters encouraged the Board to take action. Schools are where students spend

the majority of their time. Educators witness the fallout- declining scores, rising behaviors and safety incidents. Without intervention Kansas schools face widening achievement gaps and escalating safety concerns.

Recommendations:

- Educate teachers, students, & parents on impact of excessive screen use and teach more balanced and healthy ways to use and interact with technology
- Identify potential harm and mitigation strategies for device uses impact on physiological, mental, emotional and social well-being.
- Use tools to assess screen use and its impact on health & safety.
- Empower teachers, parents and students with knowledge for staying safe online using a proactive approach with tips and tools to optimize health and safety.
- Strengthen and increase sense of community and support around technology use
- Critically evaluate technology use, needs and benefits for best practices especially with implementation and use of AI (use Neil Postman's Questions and Approach)

PRESENTATION ON THE PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF STARTING THE SCHOOL YEAR FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR POINT OF VIEW

2:50:45

Dr. Renee Nugent, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services

Dr. Nugent took the Board through the multitudinous steps, starting in May and June, which are required of a district superintendent to start the school year. These duties encompass legislative statutes, state regulations, federal law and practical matters of running, regulating, maintaining and nurturing a school community. The entire list of steps is available on her PowerPoint.

RECEIVE AND ACT ON RESOLUTION TO DISORGANIZE USD 334 AND ATTACH THE TERRITORY THEREOF TO USDs 273, 333, 224, 37, AND 239

2:18:30

R. Scott Gordon, KSDE General Counsel

Mr. Gordon explained the situation in USD 334, where they have been working over the past year to divide territory between the many adjoining districts.

1. Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education suspend the policy of voting on action items a month after receiving the proposed action and vote on the Disorganization item immediately. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried

10-0.

2. Chair Hopkins moved to approve the resolution for the proposed disorganization of USD 334 and attach the territory to USDs 273, 333, 224, 379 and 239 as presented. Vice Chair Zeck seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Haas reported that the Policy Committee is working with R. Scott Gordon on school district procedures. Next month they will meet with John Hess about when financial items need to be approved by the Board.

Mrs. Haas reported that the Kansas State School for the Deaf School Improvement Task Force has been meeting on a regular basis. Mrs. Dombrosky and Dr. New are both on that Task Force with her. Last meeting focused on literacy and parents' reading with their children. Dr. New felt there is good fact finding activity on resources for students, teachers and curriculum leaders.

Mrs. O'Brien attended the Kansas Advisory Council for Indigenous Education. The topic of funding was discussed and concerns about the possibility of Haskell closing.

Mr. Porter reported on the Kansas Legislative Task Force on School Funding. He noted they are not as far along in the process as predicted. Goal was to have something to look at. There are no more meetings scheduled this year, but there is time left to work on the formula next year. He also spoke about accountability and the cut scores. He was on the board when the last set up cut scores were set.

BOARD TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Board member travel requests as presented. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. (Mrs. Arnold was not present).

FUTURE AGENDA REQUESTS

Mrs. Potter:

1. Discuss limit contract periods to one board time period.
2. A review of the US Dept. of Education letters that have been sent out.
3. Persistently Dangerous School Definition. Follow up on definition of *Persistently Dangerous Schools* as reviewed by committee for board discussion.
4. Mrs. Dombrosky: Look over the increase in regulations (using the list Mr. Buie gave the Board)

Mr. Porter: Teacher point of view on screens and technology in the classroom

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Presented
late
Tuesday
afternoon

3:17:38

3:24:00

Vice Chair Zeck moved the Board go into executive session, Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0. There were 10 minutes added. Same motion and result. Mrs. Arnold was not present.

ADDED ITEM: Dr. Watson's intention to retire

Mrs. Haas moved that the Kansas State Board of Education, reluctantly and with the Board's deepest gratitude, to accept Dr. Watson's intent to retire upon the appointment and transition of his successor. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. Arnold was not present.

3:44:16

The Chair adjourned the meeting until the October 14th meeting at 10 a.m.

Cathy Hopkins, Chair

Deborah Bremer, Board Secretary