



Kansas State Board of Education
Tuesday, March 11, 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, March 11, 2025, in the boardroom of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, Kansas. She welcomed special guests and thanked the students who created the works of art on the walls, and also thanked the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) for hosting the Board last month at their annual meeting and banquet. She read the mission statement for the Board and then asked for a moment of silent reflection or prayer, followed by everyone standing and joining in the pledge of allegiance.

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

The board attorney, Mr. Mark Ferguson not able to attend because of a jury trial and R. Scott Gordon, KSDE General Counsel substituted for him. Commissioner Watson was in attendance at the board table.

Approval of the February 11, 2025 minutes

Mrs. Haas moved to accept the minutes of February 11, 2025. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Approval of the Agenda

Chair Hopkins asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Mrs. Potter moved to approve the agenda. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

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

02:43
Start

Minutes motion
06:25

Agenda motion
07:30

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Mrs. Dombrosky moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Mr. Hershberger seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Items on the Consent Agenda:

- Receive monthly personnel report and appointments to KSDE unclassified positions
- Act on Teacher Licensure Waivers
- Act on Recommendations from the Licensure Review Committee
- Act on Appointment to the Professional Standards Board
- Approve USD 230 Spring Hill for Capitol Improvement (bond and interest) state aid
- Approve USD 230 Spring Hill to hold a bond election
- Approve USD 303 Ness City for Capitol Improvement (bond and interest) state aid
- Approve USD 303 Ness City to hold a bond election
- Authorize Out-of-State contracts for students attending Kansas School for the Deaf
- Act to approve Purple Star Schools: USD 203 Piper, USD 230 Spring Hill, USD 253 Emporia, USD 394 Rose Hill
- Notification of the intention of Faith Academy of Wichita to participate in the Tax Credit for Low Income Student Scholarship

Legislative Report

Dr. Harwood, Deputy Commissioner Fiscal and Administrative Services

Dr. Harwood presented the legislative actions/inaction on education issues.

Passed by the Senate:

- SB 2 – Validating the election results for the bond issuance question submitted by the board of education of USD 200, Greeley County, at a special election held on May 21, 2024. Yea 39 – Nay 1; House Committee recommended bill be passed and placed on consent calendar
- SB 45 – Excluding students who transfer to homeschools or nonaccredited private schools from the alternative calculation of graduation rates for virtual schools. Yea 32 – Nay 8; Passed the House as amended Yea 86 – Nay 36
- SB 47 - USDs and KSDE must publish board member contact info, board members may add new agenda items, ask questions and engage with public during meetings and access school property. Public may address the school board at meetings and board authorizes payment of certain annual dues. Yea 21 – Nay 19
- SB 76 – Requiring employees of school districts to use the name and pronouns consistent with a student's biological sex and birth certificate and authorizing a cause of action for violations therefor. Yea 29 – Nay 14, House Committee recommended bill be passed
- SB 87 – Expanding student eligibility under the tax credit for low income students' scholarship program, increasing the amount of the tax credit for contributions made and providing for aggregate tax credit limit increases under certain conditions. Yea 24 – Nay 16, House Committee recommended bill be passed
- SB 114- Authorizing nonpublic and virtual school students to participate in ancillary public school activities and making it unlawful for the KSHSAA and school districts to discriminate against such students based on enrollment status. Yea 32 – Nay 8, House committee

Consent
Agenda
Motion
08:00

Legislative
Report
08:25

recommended bill be passed as amended

Education Bills passed by the House:

- HB 2007 - Making and concerning supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2025 and appropriations for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for KSDE and various state agencies. Yea 83 – Nay 36
- HB 2031 - Providing that driving school instructors may possess a motorcycle driver's license from any state. Yea 117 – Nay 2, Senate Committee recommended bill be passed as amended
- HB 2033 - Amending current law and adds to the list of approved state-based nonprofit organizations to provide at-risk educational programs: any other nonprofit organization that is accredited by the international multisensory structured language education council. Yea 89 – Nay 32
- HB 2069 - Allow school psychologists to obtain equivalent licenses to provide school psychological services in any member state. Yea 119 – Nay 0, Senate Committee recommended bill be passed as amended
- HB 2086 - KPERs: Adjusting the investment return threshold for the dividend interest credit calculation and increasing such dividend share to 80%. Yea 116 – Nay 5
- HB 2102 - Permitting the advance enrollment of military students whose parent or person acting as parent will be stationed in this state prior to physical residency. Yea 121 – Nay 0
- HB 2382 - Establishing the daily compensation rate for members of the state board of education in an amount that corresponds to the daily compensation rate of members of the legislature while in session. Yea 115 – Nay 7
- HB 2396 - School districts: eliminating the revenue neutral rate requirements by school districts and the taxpayer notification costs fund other provisions for cities and counties. Yea 115 – Nay 6

HB 2007 – Kansas State Department of Education Budget

Budget Topic	HB 2007	Senate Ed Rec	Ways & Means
Consensus Estimates	\$208 mil (A)	\$208 mil (A)	
Special Education Increase	\$10 mil (A)	\$0 (A)	
Youth Career Program	\$320,000 (E-O)	\$320,000 (E-Any)	
SparkWheel	\$1.3 mil (E-O)	\$1.3 mil (E-O)	
Delete Safe & Secure Schools Grant	-\$5.0 mill (26)	-\$5.0 mil (25&26)	
Delete Professional Development		-\$1.8 mil (25&26)	

Delete CTE Transportation		-\$1.5 mil (25&26)	
Delete Mentor Teacher		-\$1.3 mil (25&26)	
Delete Computer Sci Grants		-\$1.0 mil (25&26)	
Delete Techers of Excellence		-\$361 K (25&26)	
Delete SparkWheel		-\$50 K (25&26)	

Dr. Harwood went over the bills that the State Board submitted testimony for: HB2382 Daily Compensation Rate (proponent), SB45 graduation rates for virtual schools (opponent), SB47 local school board regulations (opponent), SB87 tax credit scholarships (opponent).

Citizen's Open Forum

Chair Hopkins opened the Citizen's Forum and invited the following persons to speak to the Board.

1. Cheryl Cooper, Olathe, representing Johnson County Community College, spoke about math pathways. There is restructuring at the college level.
2. Bob Caldwell, Olathe, representing Johnson County Community College, also spoke about math pathways and the college algebra restructuring.
3. Michael Kratky, Wilson, representing the Wilson High School Future Committee, spoke about the future of education in rural Kansas. He feels closing a school should take the vote of an entire community not just the local board of education.
4. Nancy Moneymaker, De Soto, spoke about taking the Free Application for Federal Scholarship Aid out of graduation requirements and the Board priorities.
5. Sharon Knewtson, Olathe, spoke about concerns she has for her daughter who is attending the Kansas School for the Deaf. She requests a reading specialist be added to the staff.
6. Bri Wentz, Louisburg, also spoke about her concerns in reference to her child's education at Kansas School for the Deaf.
7. Scott Plummer, Paola, spoke about educational concerns at the Kansas School for the Deaf.
8. Zach Wentz, Louisburg, shared his concerns about Kansas School for the Deaf and the need for more reading specialists.

Forum
38:10

Act on Removing Free Application for Federal Scholarship Aid (FAFSA) from Graduation Requirements

FAFSA
1:09:50

On July 10, 2024, the Board acted to remove the FAFSA from the graduation requirements: "Mrs. Hopkins moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the submission of an amendment to K. A. R. 91-31-35 through the formal regulatory adoption process striking the requirement as presented. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-3. Mr. McNiece, Mr. Porter, and Mrs. Arnold voted no." (From the July 2024 approved minutes.)

The process to change regulations requires a number of steps, and last month, January 2025, the Board held a public hearing on this proposed regulation change. The public hearing was opened at 1:30 on February 11, 2025. Scott Gordon, KSDE General Counsel was present. Chair Hopkins invited anyone to speak. Each speaker was given five minutes to speak. There was only one speaker.

Mr. Gordon had no response to the hearing in February.

Mr. Hershberger moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the proposed amendments to its accreditation regulation, K.A.R. 91-31-35. (Roll call vote required). Mrs. Dombrosky seconded the motion.

Motion
1:15:30

Mr. Porter NO

Mrs. Dombrosky YES

Mrs. Arnold NO

Mrs. O'Brien YES

Mr. Zeck YES

Mrs. Hopkins YES

Dr. New YES

Mrs. Potter YES

Mr. Hershberger YES

Mrs. Haas YES

The motion carried 8-2 with Mr. Porter and Mrs. Arnold voting no.

Act on Evaluation Review Committee recommendations

Dr. Catherine Chmidling, Teacher Licensure

ERC
1:16:30

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education accept the recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for educator preparation provider accreditations for Fort Hays State University and Wichita State University, and program approvals for Fort Hays State University, Pittsburg State University and Washburn University. Dr. New seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0.

Motion
1:22:00

Receive request to contract with Kansas State University to support the Executive Director of Kansas FFA (formerly known as Future Farmers of America)

FFA
1:22:40

Natalie Clark, Assistant Director, Career, Standards and Assessment Services

Mrs. Clark explained that the current contract to support the Executive Director of Kansas FFA will expire June 30, 2025. Career and Technical Education (CTE) provides students with

academic, technical and employability skills to be prepared for the current and future workforce. The federal legislation that funds CTE, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, was reauthorized in 2018 and is referred to as Perkins V.

In April, the Board will be asked to authorize the Commissioner of Education to contract with Kansas State University to support the Executive Director of Kansas FFA at a total amount not to exceed \$75,427.00 per year, up to a total of \$301,708.00 for the four years, from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2029.

The Board members asked questions about the contract.

Receive request to contract for Summer Food Service Program Public Service Announcements

Kelly Chanay, Director, Child Nutrition and Wellness

Mrs. Chanay explained that the intent for this request is to increase awareness of summer meal service sites existing in poor economic areas to maximize access of summer meals by children in Kansas by disseminating a public service announcement (PSA) on radio and TV during the months of June and July.

The Public Education Partnership (PEP) program of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (KAB) is only made available to non-profits and government agencies. It is based upon "Total Fair Market Value" and provides a market value of 3 to 1. There are over 120 radio stations and 15 television stations who pledge a bank of airtime for use by the KAB for PEP. Since 2011, Child Nutrition & Wellness (CNW) has aired PSAs through the PEP of the KAB and has been pleased with the results. During the time periods the PSA aired CNW was provided data by the KAB to show that the spots aired throughout the state of Kansas and were aired in time slots that families and community members would be watching and listening.

The Public Service Announcement (PSAs) is of high quality and was developed by Gizmo Pictures, Inc. Funding. Child Nutrition & Wellness receives State Administrative Fund (SAF) from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to be used exclusively for state-level administration of the federal Child Nutrition Programs. KSDE has \$20,000 in federal fiscal year 2025 SAF funds available for this project. Due to the market value ratio of 3 to 1, the \$20,000 will result in at least \$60,000 of airtime during the identified periods (June-July). The KAB has exceeded the 3 to 1 market value ratio in all years we have aired PSAs. Any federal fiscal year 2025 SAF funds that are not obligated by September 30, 2025, must be returned to USDA.

In April, the Board will be asked to approve a request to contract with Kansas Association of Broadcasters for Public Service Announcements to advertise summer meals. The Board members asked questions about the program. Mr. Zeck requested a list of the actual times the radio spots would be broadcast.

PSA
1:29:12

Commissioner's Report

Dr. Watson announced that KSDE will start a new podcast called *Insight*, Thursday, March 27 on Spotify. The focus of the podcast is to help parents, and the public navigate the intricacies of Kansas public education, focusing discussions around current happenings in the classroom, state-led initiatives and societal changes influencing our students, all as it related to the educational experience of Kansas students. The first episode, titled From Slate to Screen: The Journey of Public Education, will set the stage for future discussions by looking back at the policies, reforms and pivotal moments that have shaped Kansas education, and what lessons we can take from that history. New episodes of *Insight* podcast will air every second Thursday of the month.

For the past week, Commissioner Watson toured many schools and read to classes as it was "Read Across America Week."

Dr. Watson shared a familiar graph showing assessments of classes 2017, 2018 and 2019 that correlate graduation and post-secondary effectiveness and added the chronically absent statistics to each category. Level one had 50.1% absent, Level two had 32.6% absent, Level three had 13.9 % absent and Level 4 had 3.4% absent, clearly showing the connection between attendance and success in academics.

Scores in English Language Arts for level one have slightly dropped, and the scores for level three and four have risen slightly. He adamantly stated that this is not the progress Kansas students need to make. More time is needed with literacy. He noted that from 2008 to the present the average number of school days has decreased by 174 to 165.8 days.

There was a conversation with the Board on these topics.

Recognition of the 2024 National Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Distinguished Schools

Roxanne Zillinger, Education Program Consultant, Division of Learning Services

Sterling Grade School, Sterling USD 376, was recognized for Category 1: Exceptional student performance and academic growth for two consecutive years.

Overbrook Attendance Center (K-3), USD 434 Santa Fe Trail, was recognized for Category 2: Closing the achievement gap between student groups.

Both schools gave inspiring presentations about the school and community they serve. The Board congratulated them and took photos with the principal and teachers.

Presentation on State Assessments: The Role of a Technical Advisory Committee

Presenter – Dr. Cara Cahalan Laitusis, Senior Associate at the Center for Assessment
Beth Fultz, Director, KSDE Career, Standards and Assessment Services, went over the past few years of working with the Board on assessments. She introduced Dr. Cara Laitusis of the

Watson
1:48:20

ESEA
Schools
3:03:25

TAC
3:39:30

National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment.

Dr. Laitusis explained that a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is a panel of advisors that are carefully and intentionally selected to provide technical guidance in a range of areas.

Each state has a different type of committee based on the specific needs of the state. There are usually 5-7 members. They inform and evaluate the state education agency's assessment contractors to ensure the assessments being used meet acceptable standards or make recommendations for improvement if they do not. They also collaborate to develop and implement effective continuous improvement systems. Dr. Laitusis' role as the facilitator of each state Technical Advisory Committee is to collect, assemble and distribute materials for the TAC review, facilitate the discussion, produce meeting summaries and work with the Department of Education to implement recommendations as applicable.

The National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment is a non-profit technical and policy consulting firm established in 1998 with the mission of improving student learning through improved assessment and accountability practices.

They currently contract with 40+ states, districts or other entities. There are 15 full-time professionals with extensive training and experience in the real world of state assessments. They are non-partisan.

The Kansas TAC is comprised of six members and two staff persons from the National Center.

- Dr. Derek Briggs (University of Colorado Boulder) – Expertise in psychometrics, learning progressions, and statistical models for educational interventions.
- Dr. Michael Russell (Boston College) – Expertise in validity theory, universal design in assessment, large-scale assessment program design, and quantitative methodology.
- Dr. Michael Kolen (University of Iowa) – Expertise in test equating, scaling, and linking methods.
- Dr. Edynn Sato (Independent Consultant) – Expertise in English language proficiency assessments, standards alignment, and inclusion of English language learners in accountability systems.
- Dr. John Popp (Great Bend Public Schools) – Experienced administrator in Kansas, providing historical insights and practical feedback on policy implementation, score reporting, and test design decisions.
- Dr. Arthur Thacker (HumRRO) – Expertise in psychometric measurement and standard setting methodologies.
- Dr. Erika Landl (Center for Assessment) – Expertise in psychometrics, Balanced Assessment Systems, and standard setting procedures.
- Dr. Cara Laitusis (Center for Assessment) – Expertise in assessments for students with disabilities, test design, validity studies, and various K-12 assessments, including teacher licensure and diagnostic tools used by IEP teams.

Standard setting is the process of establishing the cut scores that define different levels of performance on an assessment. In Kansas the TAC members each conduct a formal observation and share that with TAC in June, they document those observations, and that report will be presented to the Kansas State Board of Education in July.

The Board asked questions of Dr. Laitusis and thanked her for the presentation and her work in this field.

Receive Item and Presentation Science of Reading Relicensure requirements for Seal of Literacy

Shane Carter, Director, Teacher Licensure

Dr. Cindy Lane, Kansas Board of Regents, Blueprint for Literacy

Literacy
4:26:30

Mr. Carter reviewed who needs to have the Science of Reading as an endorsement on their teaching license as of July 1, 2028. (from the PowerPoint)

- 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

Science of Reading and Licensure Requirements:

Professional Development Training

State Board approved LETRS®

LETRS for Elementary Educators.

LETRS for Early Childhood.

LETRS for Administrators.

AIMS Pathways to Proficient Reading Pathways to Proficient Reading. Available for all educators.

Pathways to Proficient Reading Secondary.

Pathways to Literacy Leadership.

Keys to Literacy Keys to Beginning Reading. Available for all educators

Test Options for Veteran Educators

ETS #7002

Elementary Educators-Teaching Reading sub-test

Pearson

Pearson #890 Foundations of Reading.

Center for Effective Reading and Instruction

Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEE)

Mr. Carter explained that he is recommending two new ways to qualify for the seal of literacy, using the KBOR Kansas Board of Regents Blueprint for Literacy Curriculum and a new test that qualifies, ETS Reading Specialist Test #5302.

Foundations of the Science of Reading: Understanding and Applying Structured Literacy Principles courses

Reviewed and approved through KSDE literacy team.

Received third party vetting approval from *The Reading League*.

Dr. Cindy Lane, Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR), overseeing the Blueprint for Literacy initiative, shared the higher education side of improving reading skills in Kansas students. SB 438 (Senate Bill) established the Blueprint for Literacy, and it is fundamental to KBOR's Strategic Plan: *Helping Families; Supporting Business; and Advancing Economic Prosperity*.

The purpose of the Blueprint is to advance educator knowledge of the science of reading and skills to apply structured literacy. KBOR is focused on educator preparation, professional learning and workforce development and application of structured literacy. Their goal is that 100% of the elementary teacher workforce will achieve a credential in the Science of Reading/Structured Literacy by 2030 and that by 2033 3rd through 8th grade 90% of students will achieve a Level 2 and the amount of students in Level 3 and 4 will be increased by 50%. To do this, the State Board and KBOR need to collaborate to jointly approve the requirements for teachers in training and teachers already in the field.

The Foundations course is 12 modules, performance assessments, Test Out of Knowledge portion and support from a Literacy Coach.

It offers 6 graduate credits, tuition and stipend paid by KBOR.

The pilot begins March 24, 2025, with a full launch this summer, and the plan for pursuing full IDA Accreditation of the course 25-26 Academic year. Dr. Lane is requesting State Board approval of the course: *Foundations in the Science of Reading, Understanding and Applying Structured Literacy Principles* for the Kansas Seal of Literacy.

This is a receive item that the Board will be asked to vote on in April. The recommended motion for April is:

It is moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the Foundations of the Science of Reading: Understanding and Applying Structured Literacy Principles courses, and the ETS Reading Specialist test (test code 5302), adopted by the State Board September 1, 2020, to meet the Science of Reading Licensure requirements.

The Board members asked questions of Mr. Carter and Dr. Lane.

Act on Professional Practices Commission (PPC) Recommendations

Scott Gordon, Kansas State Department of Education, General Counsel, and Ricardo Sanchez, Professional Practices Commission Chair, presented the recommendations of the Professional Practices Commission to issue a license.

Mrs. Arnold moved that the Kansas State Board of Education adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law in order to issue the license in 24-PPC-29. Mrs. Haas seconded the motion.
Motion carried 10-0.

PPC
5:30:30

Motion
05:32:25

Receive recommendations for funding Kansas Parents as Teachers grants for 2025-2026

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood

Mrs. Petersen explained Parents as Teachers is an evidence based program that delivers personal visits, group learning and socializing events, child and caregiver screenings, and connections to community resources.

(from PowerPoint)

In 2023-2024, 63 Kansas Parents as Teachers programs:

- Served 5,847 families and 7,912 children.
- Conducted 54,572 personal visits.
- 11% of families served enrolled prenatally.
- Kansas Parents as Teachers programs have an 89% retention rate, meaning that families participate for at least 1 year.

Grant applications are currently being submitted. It is the responsibility of the State Board of Education to award grants to school districts (as per Kansas State Law 72-4163).

The annual amount depends upon the legislature's state budget.

The Board asked questions about the program and received answers from Mrs. Petersen.

Report on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ESSER) final funds

Dean Zajic, Asst. Director, Special Education and Title Services

Mr. Zajic explained that the ESSER funds are being phased out. ESSER II final summary of expenditures totaled \$343.5M with final funds of \$46,013 being released. ESSER III totaled \$768.1M with final funds of \$1,073,437 being released. The average expenditures per district for Essers I, II and III were \$4,531,615 and per student was \$2,870.

EANS final report was as follows: EANS I expenditures were an average of \$249,154 per school, and \$1,140 per student. EANS I allocated \$22,959,964 and expended \$17,689,916. Summary of EANS II expenditures were an average of \$407,922 per school and \$2,193 per student. Total EANS II allocated was \$12,972,094 and expended \$10,198,061.

The Commissioner formally thanked Mr. Zajic and all those who served on the ESSER committees for the tremendous effort made over the past four-five years. The Board joined in thanking everyone involved.

Opt In/Opt Out Discussion

General Counsel Scott Gordon

Scott Gordon began by sharing the actual statutes on which Opt In/Opt Out is based.

There are Kansas statutes defining exemptions based on religion, exemption from directory information, exemption from nonacademic tests, and student online personal protection.

Mr. Gordon noted that exemption from nonacademic tests include commonly used questionnaires, survey and exams such as the Kansas Communities that Care Survey, the Youth Risk Behavior surveillance system, and other locally developed surveys. These types of surveys

Parents as
Teachers
5:33:00

ESSER
6:03:37

Opt In/
Opt Out
6:31:30

do not relate to academic learning. There are some screeners that do impact academic progress and instructional practice such as: mySAEBRS through Fastbridge, Panorama, Xello, ACT Mosaic, NAEP, etc.

He discussed the consent required to screen a student for suicide risk. "If an employee becomes aware that a student may be at risk....school may administer a suicide risk assessment or screening after prior verbal consent from a parent or guardian or notification to parent or guardian after the fact IF reasonable attempts to notify have failed. "

In terms of student data, he gave an overview of the Student Online Personal Protection Act (K.S.A. 72-6331 et. seq) which is an expansion of Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). This imposes limits on what online educational service providers, aka "Operators" can do with information. They cannot use targeted advertisements in an educational product; cannot use information/data to create student user profiles except for educational purposes; and cannot sell any info to third parties. These are FERPA-esque protections against data disclosure. This statute does not apply to public schools or any national assessment provider that is administering a college and career readiness assessment.

There was a discussion following the presentation.

Committee Reports

Committees
6:57:00

Betty Arnold shared the Mental Health in Schools Advisory Committee is updating the Bullying Toolkit. They will present next month.

Jim Porter reported the Legislative Funding Task Force met and he shared the agenda for that meeting in each member packet. There was a presentation on the weightings and time for the Task Force to get to know each other. They will meet again in April.

Melanie Haas reported the Policy Committee has not yet met. The Kansas Volunteer Commission has not met in the past month. She shared information about National Association of State School Boards NASBE and Education Commission of the States ECS and encouraged other members to become involved in these national organizations.

Debby Potter connected with the Kansas Council for Economic Education and look forward to being involved on this committee.

Beryl New attended the Kansas Award luncheon for the Master Teachers. She attended a KESA meeting.

Dennis Hershberger reported on the Opioid and Prescription Drug Committee. There is a new type of fentanyl, a synthetic mix that is now on the street. One drop, the size of a grain of salt, can be lethal. The Ag in the Classroom Committee is looking for ways to fund in-class events. The Kansas Dept. of Ag has a grant on which they are working. He will be working with a sub-committee this week that will be part of giving grants of \$1000 to classrooms.

Cathy Hopkins spoke about the Professional Standards Board PSB. There was a presentation by Jamie Finkeldei, on the third tier of accreditation that there PSB is looking at. The history and government standards are going through review.

Chair Hopkins thanked everyone for attending the Board Retreat the previous day.

Mrs. O'Brien had to leave.

Board Travel

Mrs. Haas moved to approve the Board travel requests of February 2025. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. O'Brien was absent.

Travel
Motion
7:09:23

Future Requests

Mrs. Haas: leadership at the administrative level with focus on teacher retention, messaging to schools about providing FAFSA opportunities

Mrs. Arnold: IPS presentation, especially looking at Derby

Mrs. Potter: How to access revenue/expense reports on the district level

Mrs. Dombrosky: Issues at the Kansas School for the Deaf (reading)

Mr. Zeck: Longitudinal Database

Future
Requests
7:09:50

Board Member Comments (please see KSDE LiveMedia YouTube video for more detail)

Mrs. Potter spoke of her concerns over the federal "Dear Colleague" letters and the failure of her request for a special board meeting to discuss.

Comments
7:13:00

Vice Chair Zeck expressed his concerns over the Parents as Teachers program.

Dr. New spoke of her reasons behind her vote removing FAFSA from graduation requirements.

Mr. Hershberger praised the Great Bend district for their successful start of the RISE program this school year to help students with behavioral and emotional issues integrate back into the regular classroom.

Mrs. Arnold lifted up the Andover district which had three teachers who were Horizon and Presidential award winners. She offered her congratulations.

Vice Chair Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education recess into Executive Session to discuss the subject of non-elected personnel matters, which is justified pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, in order to protect the privacy interest of the individual(s) to be discussed. This session will begin at 5:35 for 10 minutes; no action will be taken during this session; and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room at 5:45. In the Executive Session the Commissioner and Scott Gordon will be present. Mrs. Arnold seconded. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. O'Brien was not present.

Motion for
Executive
Session
7:29:14

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel Matters)

After returning to the open meeting at 5:45, the Board took a vote.

Vote on Personnel Matters

Mr. Zeck moved that the Kansas State Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Renee Nugent as Deputy Commissioner of Learning Services, Kansas State Department of Education. Mr. Porter seconded the motion. Motion carried 9-0. Mrs. O'Brien was not present.

Motion
7:48:20

Chair Hopkins recessed the meeting until the following day when the State Board will visit the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe and the Kansas State School for the Blind in Kansas City.

Chair Cathy Hopkins

Board Secretary Deborah Bremer