

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kathy Busch called the monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020. The meeting was conducted virtually using interactive communication. It was broadcast livestream for the public due to restrictions prohibiting mass gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(00:00:45)

ROLL CALL

All Board members participated by video conference:

Kathy Busch	Ann Mah
Jean Clifford	Jim McNiece
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Steve Roberts
Ben Jones	Janet Waugh

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

Chairman Busch read both the Board's Mission Statement and Kansans Can Vision Statement. She then asked for a moment of silence after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA

Chairman Busch announced that Item 13 "Flexibility Options for Schools This Year" is labeled as Discussion, but because of its timely nature is being changed to an Action Item. Mr. Jones moved to approve the Tuesday agenda as amended. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:04:38)

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Roberts asked that his suggestion last month to change the school term to 900 hours or 144 days be added to the November meeting minutes. Dr. Horst moved to approve the minutes of the November Board meeting, including the additional comment. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:06:02)

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Randy Watson began his report with information from medical partners who advise on guidance to share with schools. This included new information regarding shortened quarantine periods after exposure to COVID. County health officers, however, ultimately decide on whether to adopt the shortened quarantine guidance, not the State Board of Education. Commissioner Watson spent time reviewing contents of the Navigating Change document, both learning and operations sections. He then explained recommendations from health professionals to modify Navigating Change guidance and gating criteria to allow elementary schools to remain open in an in-person or hybrid learning environment when county metrics recommend otherwise. School districts should still use specific safety measures, such as masking. Dr. Watson cited Kansas data on what is currently known about infection rates and transmission in young children. There were multiple questions or comments about the proposed elementary gating criteria, testing, accuracy of tests, and goal of protecting the health and safety of students and school workers.

(00:06:33)

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

No written public comments were submitted for the meeting.

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATION FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

At last month's meeting, members received the Executive Summary and accreditation recommendation for USD 450 Shawnee Heights. There were no further questions before action. Mrs. Mah moved to accept the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council and award the status of accredited to USD 450 Shawnee Heights. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:53:06)

ACTION ON DYSLEXIA HANDBOOK

The concept of developing a Dyslexia Handbook for Kansas was one of the recommendations arising from the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia. The handbook was created with input from a variety of stakeholders to be used by schools, parents and others who work with struggling readers. Content is comprised of the characteristics of dyslexia, screening, evidence-based reading instruction guidelines and reading intervention recommendations. Board members received the proposed handbook in November for review. Education Program Consultant Cynthia Hadicke was available to answer questions. Mr. Porter moved to approve the Dyslexia Handbook as presented. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:54:45)

RECEIVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT PERFORMANCE LEVELS

Board members received performance level and cut score recommendations for Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessments (KELPA). The KELPA aligns with the 2018 Kansas Standards for English Learners. Presenters were Beth Futz, Assistant Director at KSDE; Dr. Neal Kingston and Dr. Brooke Nash from the University of Kansas. They described the format of the assessment, which is comprised of four domains: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Then they explained the standard-setting process to establish recommendations for performance levels and cut scores. Additional stages include evaluation and feedback. State Board members will act on the recommendations in January. Once approval is granted, the results of the 2020 KELPA can be released.

(00:55:37)

Board members took a break until 11:35 a.m.

BREAK

RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BULLYING TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The report presented to Board members summarized considerations by subcommittees of the School Mental Health Advisory Council (SMHAC) tasked with formulating strategies to implement recommendations from the Bullying Task Force. The implementation guide is designed for school districts and buildings based on work of the task force, which was created in 2019 to research and identify current bullying trends, data and prevention measures across the state. The Task Force's Final Report was transferred to the SMHAC, chaired by Kathy Busch. A team of presenters addressed portions of the report during the meeting focusing on prevention, school climate and culture. They covered the definition of bullying, requirements of Kansas school districts, leveraging resources, education about digital citizenship and more. Questions or comments targeted the status of bullying in schools, collecting data, achieving results in reduction of incidents, providing tools for victims. State Board members will act on the report and recommendations in January.

(01:35:24)

The meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m.

LUNCH

RECOGNITION OF 2020 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes schools whose students achieve at very high levels or are making significant progress in closing achievement gaps among different groups

P.M. SESSION
(03:16:37)

of students. Representatives from the 2020 Blue Ribbon Schools honored in Kansas spoke about their use of the Navigating Change document in their current learning environments impacted by COVID-19. Topics ranged from social-emotional awareness to importance of communication and maintaining relationships.

2020 Blue Ribbon Schools are:

- Bostic Traditional Magnet Elementary School, Wichita USD 259, Principal Jared Grover
- Bradley Elementary School, Ft. Leavenworth USD 207, Principal Michaela Culkin
- Piper Elementary School, Piper-Kansas City, USD 203, Principal Bilee Grable
- Prairie Creek Elementary School, Spring Hill USD 230, Principal Tammy Endecott
- St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, Wichita, Principal Stephanie Warren
- Timmerman Elementary School, Emporia USD 253, Principal Allyson Lyman

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 1,116 HOUR FLEXIBILITY OPTIONS FOR SCHOOLS THIS YEAR

Last month, Board members asked Commissioner Watson to bring back recommendations intended to provide limited relief to school districts concerned with meeting the 1,116 hours required for a school term. Because Kansas remains in a state of declared emergency during the pandemic, the State Board is allowed to waive hours. Dr. Watson's report outlined specific criteria if school districts chose to request a waiver for up to 20 hours in the 2020-21 school term. He then answered questions and confirmed that the Board could re-examine the change later in the year.

(04:07:45)

Mrs. Waugh moved to establish the following criteria for any waiver requested by a school district under K.S.A. 72-3117 for the 2020-21 school term:

MOTION
(04:27:49)

- Schools requesting a waiver must schedule and use professional development hours between Dec. 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021;
- The State Board will waive the number of school hours equal to the number of hours used for said professional development up to 20 hours;
- The time must be used for either staff development, staff collaboration, parent-teacher conferences, assistance to teachers and other staff in the planning and delivery of instruction during the pandemic, or any combination thereof.

Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 7-1, with Mr. Roberts in opposition. Dr. Horst and Mr. McNiece were absent for the vote as they temporarily left the State Board virtual meeting to represent the State Board at the virtual Kansas State High School Activities Association special meeting.

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Porter moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 7-0-1, with Mr. Roberts abstaining. Dr. Horst and Mr. McNiece remained temporarily absent and therefore did not vote. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

MOTION
(04:30:55)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for November.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointments of Lindsay Wells as Technology Support Consultant on the Information Technology team, effective Nov. 15, 2020, at an annual salary of \$48,880; Jeff Ensley as Education Program Consultant on the Special Education and Title Services team, effective Nov. 15, 2020, at an annual salary of \$56,118.40; Katie Albright as Administrative Specialist on the School Finance team, effective Nov. 15, 2020, at an annual salary of \$36,504.

- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year: *Deaf or Hard of Hearing* -- Kelsey Bonnel, D0608. *Early Childhood Special Education* -- Elizabeth Moore, USD 229; Mallorie LaFarge, Jessica Weishaar, Stephanie Davies, USD 345; Janae Palet, D0603; Lacey Maddick, D0614; Tina Vitztum, D0708. *Early Childhood/Pre-School* -- Trinnie Bush, D0710. *Gifted* -- John Williams III, Diann Faflick, USD 437. *High Incidence Special Education* -- Allyson Turrentine, Christina Sollars, Christy Curtis, USD 229; Allison Fleming, USD 232; Aidan Simecka, Lauren Henton, Kelly Barrett, Scott Starr, USD 253; Vicki Rierson, Amanda Hawkinson, Sharon Norden, Stephanie Dunback, Audrey Allen, USD 260; Linda Smith, Lisa McFadden, USD 333; Christine Warren, USD 383; David Letson, USD 437; Bristol Bale, USD 480; Marsha Warren, Robert Ewing, Crystal Wells, Donald Robertson, Rebecca Sprague, Brandy Hempen, Erica Wisdom, Kyley Long, Maranda Downey, Kyle Joyce, USD 500; Amity Ihrig, D0602; Cody Easley, Rachel Mentzer, D0603; Tonya Younie, Bryan Mead, D0605; Mary St John, Amanda Pfeifer, Caleb Pokorny, Jerritt Curtis, D0608; Shelley Gaddis, D0611; Jeremy Dalton, Amanda Shockley, Emily Taylor, Sydney Gulley, D0614; Ira Cape, D0707; Amber Prochaska, Christen Greving, Shelby Herl, Sidney Schmeidler, Trey O'Neil, D0708; Jennifer Weaver, Cristen Bahr, Erin Warren, Rachel Campbell, D0710; Laurie Jacklovich, Z0032. *Library Media Specialist* -- Annelise Irick, USD 260. *Low Incidence Special Education* -- Jennifer Scritchfield, USD 260; Sara Gormley, Dixie Schierlman, USD 437; Clarence Forshey III, USD 500; Ashley Davis, D0707. *Visual Impaired* -- Daniel Kelly, D0708.
- Approved the 2021 Kansas Volunteer Generation Fund subgrantees as recommended by the Kansas Volunteer Commission as follows: Douglas County CASA, Flint Hills Volunteer Center, Kansas Humane Society, Heart of a Champion, Peace Connections, Rosedale Development Association, United Way of Douglas County, United Way of Franklin County Association with each award in the amount of \$15,000 with a \$15,000 match amount.
- issued licenses to these recommended commercial Kansas driver training schools for the period Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021: Legacy Driving School of Andover, Andover; Varsolona Driving School, Frontenac; Go Driving School Manhattan, Manhattan; McPherson Driving School, LLC, McPherson; Royal Driving School, Salina; Safety First Driving, Olathe; BuckleUp School LLC, Lawrence; Behind The Wheel Defensive Driving School, Wichita; Horizon's Driving Academy, Salina; Premier Driving School LLC, Newton; Premier Driving School of Derby, Derby; Premier Driving School of Hutchinson, Hutchinson; Premier Driving School of Wichita, Wichita; Drive Right School of Wichita, Wichita; Little Apple Driving School, Manhattan; KS International Drivers Education, Wichita; Suburban Driving Academy, Kansas City; InSpireKC Foundation Driving School, Kansas City; Behind The Wheel, Inc., Overland Park; Topeka Driving School, Inc, Topeka; Twister City Motorcycles, Park City; Drive Right School of Johnson County, Overland Park; Yost Driving School, Wichita; Schuetz Driving School, Olathe; Wichita Collegiate Comm Driving School, Wichita; Motorcycle Rider Education, Wichita; Midwest Driving School, Lawrence; EcoDriver School, Lenexa; Freedom Driving School, Lenexa; Twin City Driver Education, Overland Park; Double Team Driving School, Overland Park; Johnny Rowlands Driving School Metcalf, Overland Park; Wichita Driving School East, LLC, Wichita; Wichita Driving School, Inc, Wichita, Bi-State Driving School, Inc Overland Park; HyPlains Driving School of Garden City, Garden City; HyPlains Driving School, Inc Dodge City; Rawhide Harley Davidson Olathe.
- accepted the following recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee: accreditation for Sterling College through Dec. 31, 2027; accreditation for Tabor College through Dec. 31, 2025; and high education program approvals as follows: **McPherson College** - Foreign Language (Spanish) PreK-12, continuing program through June 30, 2027; **Newman University** - Speech/Theatre 6-12, continuing program through June 30, 2026; **University of Kansas** — Science 5-8, continuing program through Dec. 31, 2026.

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCHOOLS FOR STATEWIDE SPRING BREAK ALIGNMENT

Commissioner Watson reported on a proposed plan through the Kansas Board of Regents and the State Department of Education to align spring break calendars across the state’s education system. He noted that the alignment is voluntary, not required, and would start in 2022. The Board of Regents and the Coordinating Council agreed to a schedule of spring break alignment for March dates in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Alignment was seen as a benefit to students taking concurrent classes from higher ed institutions and to families. Concerns included giving calendar guidance to schools. Mrs. Clifford moved to accept recommendations for aligning spring break calendars across the education system as proposed by the work group representing Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas State Board of Education and Coordinating Council. Mr. Porter seconded. The vote was 5-2-1 and so the motion failed to receive the six votes necessary for passage. Mr. Jones and Mrs. Dombrosky opposed; Mr. Roberts abstained.

(03:52:55)

MOTION
(04:41:39)

Board members took a break from 2:45 to 3 p.m.

BREAK

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Action to accept Navigating Change document updates — Dr. Watson reviewed proposed updates to guidance in *Navigating Change Kansas’ Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations* that he described earlier during his Commissioner’s Report to the Board. These updates center on changes to the gating criteria for elementary schools, which would allow them to remain open for in-person or hybrid learning—with safety measures in place —regardless of what level the county metrics are in. This is not mandated and is ultimately a decision of the local board of education.

(05:01:41)

Dr. Horst and Mr. McNiece returned to the Board meeting following the KSHSAA special meeting.

Chairman Busch read the motion for Dr. Horst who moved to accept updates to the Navigating Change document reflecting changes and new information since State Board approval on Nov. 10. Mr. Roberts seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(05:21:19)

Committee Reports — Dr. Horst reported on the day’s KSHSAA meeting and decision to allow limited spectator attendance at sporting events through Jan. 28 in accordance with school or health department rules. Mrs. Mah commented on the school redesign meeting, in particular use of redesign principles to get through the pandemic.

ACTION ON MOTION TO RECONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 15

Chairman Busch called the Board’s attention to the option for reconsidering a motion. This could be applied to Agenda Item 15 “Act on recommendations to schools for statewide spring break alignment” in order to allow two Board members (Dr. Horst and Mr. McNiece) a voting opportunity since they were, at the time of action, attending another required meeting.

(05:34:38)

Mr. McNiece requested a Motion to Reconsider spring break calendar alignment as a result of he and Dr. Horst being absent for another required meeting (KSHSAA). Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0. Dr. Watson explained the proposed spring break schedule, which had been agreed upon by the Board of Regents and forwarded to the State Board for consideration. The schedule is not required, but would be referred to local boards of education as guidance. Additional discussion followed. Chairman Busch read the motion for Mr. Porter who moved to accept the recommendations for aligning spring break calendars across the education system as proposed by the work group representing Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas State Board of Education and Coordinating Council. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 7-3 with Mrs. Dombrosky, Mr. Jones and Mr. Roberts in opposition.

MOTION
(05:36:8)

MOTION
(05:45:51)

Committee Reports Continued — The Coordinating Council discussed the steps to transfer a students Individual Plans of Study to postsecondary institutions. Mrs. Clifford and Ms. Busch serve on the Coordinating Council. Mrs. Waugh reported on the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee and discussions about crossover youth in the foster system.

Board Attorney's Report — Board Attorney Mark Ferguson commented on the opportunity to reconsider a motion and the intended purpose of promoting discussion, debate and open dialogue. He also provided an update on a Civil Service appeal and role of the Civil Service Board.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Discuss process to transfer a student's Individual Plan of Study to postsecondary institution and describe how Regents will use the IPS information. (Ms. Busch and Dr. Horst)
- Demonstration of what's collected from the Kansas Communities That Care survey and how to interpret the data. Likewise, what is collected through the Kansas Integrated Accountability System regarding bullying. (Ms. Busch)
- Recommendations from the Professional Standards Boards on microcredentialing will be ready in February. (Mr. Porter)
- Navigating Change success stories from districts or schools. (Mrs. Dombrosky)
- Information on how schools are addressing diversity; explanation of progress. (Mrs. Waugh)

Chairman's Report - Chairman Busch updated members on the NASBE whole child study group, reaffirming the importance of social-emotional well-being. She also talked about the need to evaluate learning loss during the pandemic.

BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL

Board members had the opportunity to make changes to the travel requests for approval. Dr. Horst moved to approve the travel requests and updates. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(06:28:47)

RECESS

Chairman Busch recessed the meeting at 4:30 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.


Kathy Busch, Chairman

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kathy Busch called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on Dec. 9, 2020. The meeting was conducted by video conference in order to observe restrictions due to COVID health concerns. The meeting was broadcast livestream for the public.

(00:00:29)

ROLL CALL

All Board members participated by video conference.

Kathy Busch	Ann Mah
Jean Clifford	Jim McNiece
Michelle Dombrosky	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Steve Roberts
Ben Jones	Janet Waugh

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Wednesday agenda as presented. Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:01:27)

LITERACY NETWORK OF KANSAS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR 2019-20 ON STRIVING READERS IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) received the federal Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy award in 2017. The \$27-million-plus grant provides the state with an opportunity to improve literacy growth and development, especially for disadvantaged children and youth. Kimberly Muff, KSDE Education Program Consultant overseeing the LiNK, said 190 schools are involved through eight projects. The Annual Report features highlights from year two. Reports were given by Monica Murman from Greenbush, leading a 16-district consortium; and a team from Garden City Public Schools USD 457. The goal through Greenbush is to form district leadership teams and establish literacy supports so programs can be self sustaining after the grant concludes. Monica Diaz with Garden City emphasized professional development, community engagement and technology integration. Presenters answered questions about potential continuation, dyslexia and lessons learned.

(00:02:01)

DISCUSSION OF STATE BOARD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2021

State Board Legislative Liaisons Deena Horst and Jim Porter led a discussion of existing and potential issues for the development of State Board legislative priorities. Members considered areas where they have direct responsibility. They discussed topics that the State Board would support and/or oppose, by general consensus. Members had the chance to comment or offer suggestions as the group worked through sections of the list.

(00:35:40)

There was a break from 10:45 to 11 a.m. to address technical difficulties with livestreaming.

BREAK

CONTINUATION OF STATE BOARD LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Mr. Porter moved that legislative priorities for the State Board of Education be adopted as

discussed, including everything on the draft list above the line "Other issues to be considered." Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-1, with Mr. Roberts in opposition.

MOTION
(00:15:19 -
timer restarted)

Dr. Horst moved to include the following position statement to the list of legislative priorities: Opposes efforts to divert funds from public schools to non-public educational options. Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 8-2, with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

MOTION
(00:16:47)

Mr. Porter moved to include the following statement: Recognizes that COVID-19 has created additional financial burdens on school districts. Some examples are additional professional development to prepare staff for remote and hybrid learning, providing additional space for social distancing, additional cost of increased building sanitation, PPE, additional staff requirements when schools are in multiple settings, etc. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 8-2, with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

MOTION
(00:23:23)

Mrs. Mah suggested addressing the issue of moving teachers up the priority list for COVID vaccines. There was discussion about whether this topic belonged with the legislative priorities list or should be directly communicated to the Governor's Office and/or KDHE. Mrs. Mah moved to include the following statement: The State Board supports prioritizing school workers for receipt of COVID vaccine in Kansas. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 9-0-1, with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

MOTION
(00:43:07)

Mr. Roberts exited the virtual meeting and did not return.

UPDATE FROM KANSAS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Kansas School for the Deaf Superintendent Luanne Barron reported on activities this past quarter. These included an update on the parent support group, mentoring and teacher of the deaf program, building renovations and highlights of the school's strategic plan. Superintendent Barron also shared photos from an Eagle Scout project completed on campus and fall events.

(00:45:45)

Jon Harding, Superintendent at KSSB, reported on field services outreach across the state, use of the new Brighton Makerspace, visits to Pittsburg State and Fort Hays State universities; and continued success of the computer science course offered in partnership with Microsoft TEALS. This year's Braille Challenge will be conducted virtual Feb. 11 and 12.

(01:14:50)

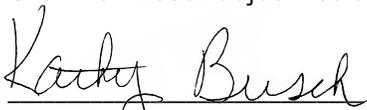
RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING STATE BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman Kathy Busch, District 8, and Steve Roberts, District 2, will not serve another four-year term. Traditionally an in-person reception is held to acknowledge the service and dedication of members who are departing the Board. Instead a virtual farewell recognition was organized. Guest remarks were from representatives of KNEA, Kansas Association of School Boards, Kansas Board of Regents, USA-Kansas, former Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis and Commissioner Randy Watson. Outgoing members received a service plaque and gift on behalf of the Board. Vice Chair Mrs. Waugh commented on the accomplishments and areas of impact these past eight years while they served. Among these are a working partnership with the Kansas Board of Regents, development of a legislative platform and a new vision for Kansas education.

(01:35:16)

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Busch adjourned at 1 p.m. The next meeting is Jan. 12 and 13.


Kathy Busch, Chairman

Peggy Hill, Secretary