

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education - Special Meeting

Monday, February 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim Porter called the special meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, 2021. The meeting was conducted by video conference and was livestreamed for the public to observe and listen.

(00:03:18)

ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present at the Call to Order:

Betty Arnold	Ann Mah
Jean Clifford	Jim McNiece
Melanie Haas	Jim Porter
Deena Horst	Janet Waugh

Members Ben Jones and Michelle Dombrosky joined the video conference a few minutes later.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Horst moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Mah seconded. Motion carried 8-0 with Mr. Jones and Mrs. Dombrosky absent for the vote.

ACTION ON REQUESTS TO CONTRACT WITH UNITED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF KANSAS, THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP AND THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCIES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT OF ESSER II AND EANS FEDERAL COVID RELIEF FUNDS

Commissioner Randy Watson explained the purpose of the special session which is to present three contracts of a time-sensitive nature that directly relate to oversight of federal COVID relief funds. These federal assistance funds are in two categories: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS) — both intended to help state schools safely reopen and measure learning loss. The 19-member Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER II and EANS Funding Oversight will conduct its first meeting Feb. 26. The contracts are for administrative work connected to fund distribution and work of the Task Force.

Dr. Watson summarized each of the requests:

United School Administrators of Kansas will serve as the umbrella group that includes the Kansas Educational Leadership Institute and Kansas Association of School Boards to train administrators and local boards of education on how to effectively plan for and use the distribution according to federal guidelines.

Boston Consulting Group (BCG) will assist with the application process, allocation, oversight and reporting of the federal assistance for pandemic-related expenses. BCG was approved by the State Finance Council to aid with recovery and COVID relief.

Kansas Association of Educational Service Agencies will give direct oversight of services to private schools. Private schools can't directly receive federal money, so therefore they will apply for services outlined in the Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS). The timeline for private applications and requests for aid is much shorter than for the public systems.

Commissioner Watson and Deputy Commissioner Brad Neuenswander answered questions regarding depth of training and mentoring, accountability for spending, accountability for addressing learning loss, and reporting processes. Chair Porter noted that the Task Force for oversight is not a requirement, but an assurance arm and safeguard.

Mrs. Waugh moved to authorize the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and enter into contracts with the United School Administrators of Kansas, the Boston Consulting Group and the Kansas Association of Educational Service Agencies for the purpose of administrative oversight of ESSER II and EANS federal COVID relief funds in the amounts and contract periods specified. (See Page 2 and 3 of Link: https://www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ktGtyg_D_4o%3d&portalid=0) Mrs. Haas seconded. There was additional explanation about the do-not-exceed amounts in the contracts. Motion carried 9-0-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky abstaining.

MOTION
(00:30:31)

Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Jim Porter, Chair

Peggy Hill, Secretary