

Kansas P-20 Education Council

May 19, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Minutes

Co-Chair Christine Downey-Schmidt opened the meeting of the Kansas P-20 Education Council in Conference Room B of the Kansas National Education Association, 715 SW 10th, Topeka, Kansas, at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Members present:

Co-Chair, Christine Downey-Schmidt, KBOR Regent
Terry Dunn, JE Dunn Construction
Janet Waugh, Member KS State Bd of Ed
Blake West, Kansas NEA
Pam Robinson, KS Assoc of School Boards
Doug Penner, Pres, KS Ind College Assoc
Janis Lee, Ranking Min Mem of Senate Ed Comm
Alexa Posny, Commissioner of KSDE
Cathy Hund, Commerce/KBOR for David Kerr
Sec of Commerce

Co-Chair, Bill Wagon, Chair of KS St Bd of Ed
Dick Hedges, KBOR Regent
Jan Long, Pres KS Parent-Teacher Assoc.
Brenda Dietrich, United School Admin of KS
Linda Robinson, Pres, USD 497 School Bd
Sue Storm, Ranking Min Mem House Ed Com
Barry Downing, Northrock, Inc. Pres & CEO
Deena Horst Vice Chair House Ed Committee
for Clay Aurand, Chair House Ed Committee

Members Absent:

David Kerr, Sec of Commerce
Jean Schodorf, Chair Senate Ed Committee
Gail Kuehl, McDonald's of Hays, Russell & Wakeeney

Melissa Ness, Chair, KS Children's Cabinet
Kate Wolf, Governor's Office
Reginald L. Robinson, Pres & CEO KBOR

Staff Present:

Gary Alexander, Vice Pres Acad Aff, KBOR
Sherry Farris, Sr Admin Specialist, KBOR
Blake Flanders, Vice Pres Workforce Dev, KBOR

Jean Redeker, Dir of Acad Affairs, KBOR
Diane DeBacker, Assoc Comm KSDE

Charge for the Day

- Discuss and approve the members of the alignment team and the recommended charge
- Affiliating with Achieve
- Supporting a memorandum of agreement

Overview of the Work of the P-20 Council

Bill Wagon, Co-Chair, presented the P-20 Council PowerPoint slides he used and the discussion that ensued at KSDE's annual conference in Wichita the end of April. This information was shared with the P-20 Council members to provide them with background material to share with his/her representative group.

- Our System is Disconnected
- What's Being Done – P-20 Council
- Vision
- Mission

- Goals/Objectives
- Strategies
- Guiding Principles
- Identifying and Advocating a System Approach
- The Key is an Uninterrupted Connection at All Level
- First Challenge – Make Sure by Third Grade
Every Child has the Skill “Reading to Learn” Rather Than “Learning to Read”
- Link Preparing Students for Both College and the Workforce with Capabilities
- Workforce Connection – Students Capabilities Compatible with the Needs of Workforce
- Seeking Input and Guidance

The Council thanked Bill Wagon for his excellent overview.

The P-20 Council chose “alignment” as its first issue to address.

Common Core Standards Work

Alexa Posny shared information from the meeting in Chicago with 41 Chief State School Officers and/or Governor’s offices represented. She discussed the work of Achieve. A PowerPoint of that presentation may be found at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2880>. The presentation covered the following topics:

- What We Know
 - 1983 report, *A Nation at Risk*
 - Kansas developed standards in the early 1990’s
 - Kansas has moved from minimal competency standards to rigorous state content and performance standards
 - Kansas standards based on the national standards, some examples are: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; International Reading Association/ and National Science Foundation
- What Has Changed
 - We live in a world without borders
 - All of our students need to be well prepared in order to be competitive
 - 21st century skills such as: Financial literacy; Civic literacy; Creativity and innovation; Critical thinking; Information and technology literacy; and flexibility, initiative, productivity, leadership and responsibility
- What We Need
 - Common core standards: Internationally benchmarked; Aligned with work and postsecondary; Inclusive of higher order skills; Based on research and evidence; and Inclusive of rigorous content and skills
- Ready for College and Ready for Work: Same or Different?
 - Students need to be educated to a comparable level of readiness in reading and mathematics
 - Education to a lesser standard narrows their options to jobs that no longer pay well enough to support a family of four
- Out of Many, One...
 - Align high school standards with the demand of postsecondary education and the workplace
 - Require students to complete a college- and career-ready curriculum to earn a high school diploma
 - Build college- and career-ready measures into statewide high schools assessment systems
 - Hold high schools and postsecondary institutions accountable for student preparation and success

- States must take the lead
- A critical mass of states has arrived at a *common core* of standards in English and mathematics
- Not a federal effort to either influence, direct, or determine state standards
- States, focusing on their own goals, working with their own constituents and on their own timetable, are putting into place rigorous, competitive standards
- English: Language; Communication; Writing (grammar, punctuation, spelling); Research; Logic (developing an argument); Informational text (interpreting significant works); Media; and Literature
- Mathematics: Number sense; Numerical operations (foundational computation); Algebra, geometry (performance constructions); Data interpretation (identify real world problems); Statistics and probability; Mathematical reasoning (prove theorems)
- Reading Standards (Compares Kansas Standard with Achieve Standard)
- Math Standards (Compares Kansas Standard with Achieve Standard)
- Council of Chief State School Officers/ National Governors Association (CCSSO/NGA) Partnership - (Memorandum of Agreement)
- Working with Achieve
- Alignment Team (Kansas P-20 Council will form an Alignment Team)
 - Review the current KS high school standards in Reading and Mathematics
 - Identify assessments KS uses that measure the skills needed to be work-ready and/or do college level work
 - Do a gap analysis to determine how well the current high school standards align with what postsecondary and the work world need and want
 - Do a linking study between the state high school assessment and other tests used for college and workforce placement

The question was asked, should the common core standards be accompanied by a national assessment. States have an opportunity to compete for some federal dollars to assist with assessment.

The Common Core Standards Memorandum of Agreement of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices was presented.

Discussion followed:

- Purpose
- Background
- Process and Structure
 - Common core State-Based Leadership
 - National Validation Committee
 - Develop End-of-High-School Expectations
 - Develop K-12 Standards in English Language Arts and Math
 - Adoption
 - National Policy Forum
 - Federal Role
- Race to the top Fund authorized in the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009
 - Provide key financial support for this effort to develop a common core of state standards and in move toward common assessments
 - A range of tiered incentives
 - Greater flexibility in the use of existing federal funds
 - Supporting a revised state accountability structure
 - Offering financial support for states to effectively implement the standards

- Additional long-term financial support for the development of common assessments, teacher and principal professional development, other related common core standards supports and research agenda that can help continually improve the common core over time
- The federal government can revise and align existing federal education laws with the lessons learned from states' international benchmarking efforts and from federal research
 - Each state submits an application with an approach to reform
 - Kansas is in a good position to be considered for federal funding

The Governor and Commissioner of Education have signed the above mentioned Memorandum of Agreement. The P-20 Council by consensus supported this Memorandum of Agreement.

Working with Achieve

“Achieve is leading the effort to make college and career readiness a national priority so that the transition from high school graduation to postsecondary education and careers is seamless.”

Achieve provides training and technical assistance in analyzing the gaps between K-12 and postsecondary education. Higher education needs to identify/assess what skills/capabilities are necessary to do college work and assess gaps.

The Kansas State Department of Education has the funds to pay for the cost of working with Achieve.

The Council discussed the “Race to the Top Funds” as follows:

- These funds are not defined by statute; few strings attached
- In the field there needs to a degree of assurance that there is a commitment to the standards
- 21st Century Skills should be included
- Real world learning (project learning) require significant resources across schools, districts – where will the funds come from
- This is a marketing opportunity
- The Council has to be guided by the data/information gathered

The P-20 Council agreed to enter into the process for Kansas to apply for the first federal funding available in the “Race to the Top Funds.”

Janis Lee moved and Jan Long seconded the motion that Kansas will enter into the process to apply for the first federal funding available in the “Race to the Top Funds.” Motion carried unanimously.

Alignment Team

An alignment team needs to be formed. It will be composed of representatives from the Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Board of Regents, State Universities, Secondary and Postsecondary Faculty in English and Mathematics, Superintendents, Business/Workforce, Human Resource Managers, LEPC, and Postsecondary Technical Authority. The Alignment Team will not receive compensation. The P-20 Council asks for suggestions for the Alignment Team.

Diane DeBacker, KSDE, and Gary Alexander, KBOR, will co-chair the alignment Team. A suggested list of members of the Alignment Team was distributed to the Council for consideration.

KSDE	Diane DeBacker, Deputy Commissioner	Curriculum Standards	Kris Shaw, KSDE Reading Consultant Dave Barnes, KSDE Math Consultant
KBOR	Gary Alexander, Vice President for Academic Affairs	H.S. Teacher English	Chele Behrens, Wichita, Metro Blvd. Alt. H.S.
Provost	Larry Gould, Fort Hays State University	H.S. Teacher Math	Mike Koehler, Blue Valley North H.S. Cindy Couchman, Buhler H.S.
1st yr Faculty English 4-yr university	Dr. Philip Marzluf, Kansas State University	H.S. Principal	Linn Exline, Salina South H.S. Ed Raines, Washburn Rural H.S.
1s yr Faculty Math 4-yr university	Dr. Estela Gavosto, University of Kansas	Superintendent	Pat All (Olathe)
1st yr Faculty English community college	Andy Anderson, Johnson County Community College	Business/Workforce (2)	Mike Valdiva (Dir. Of Human Services, BCBS) Gail Kuehl
1s yr Faculty Math community college	Kathy Malone, Fort Scott Community College	HR Manager (K-12 & Bus.) (2)	
Technical College	Thad Russell, Manhattan Area Technical College	LEPC	Marti Crow, State Representative Jean Schodorf, State Senator
Postsecondary Tech. Authority	Jack Wempe		

Blake West moved and Janis Lee seconded the motion to approve the suggested members of the alignment team. Motion carried unanimously.

The recommended charge to the Alignment Team:

- Review the current Kansas high school standards in Reading and Mathematics
- Identify assessments Kansas uses that measure the skills needed to be work-ready and/or do college level work
- Do a gap analysis to determine how well the current high school standards align with what postsecondary and the work world need and want
- Do a linking study between the state high school assessment and other tests used for college and workforce placement

Discussion followed:

- What are colleges doing to ensure that students are prepared for the workforce
- Postsecondary institutions have done some work toward assessing student's preparedness for the workforce – certificates, licenses, board exams, etc.
- Is there any assessment for students not entering professional or technical careers

- Some measures are data, the ACT study of college graduates, and what employers say about graduates as employees
- High schools and postsecondary institutions need to embrace the 21st Century Skills

Blake West moved and Janis Lee seconded the motion to adopt Achieve as the P-20 Consultant and approve the recommended charge for the Alignment Team. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of the Brochure

Preparing All Kansas Students for the 21st Century brochure was discussed as follows:

- A Call to Action/why we are doing what we are doing/to set the stage
- The strengths of the alignment piece need to be included
- Include a clear link to economic development
- Income differences use Kansas data
- Everybody wins the middle column on page 9 Will need to...,” is for the P-20 Council to fill-in
- What are the roles of: School Board Association, KNEA – provide ownership
- Take off “Civic Groups” from the Community and Civic Groups line on page 9

Page 9 – “Will need to...” column – suggested changes

Students

- Take more challenging courses
- Continue your education through workforce training and/or other postsecondary opportunities
- Take charge of your lives

Parents

- Expect more. Realize that high quality postsecondary education/training is a worthy goal
- Be an advocate. Make sure your children know that school is important
- Be actively involved to make sure schools provide quality learning

Business Leaders

- Support public investments in programs that work
- Partner with educators for children: Offer child care to employees; provide internships to high school students and teachers; provide time off for mentoring and parent involvement; look at transcripts when hiring grads; be engaged in mentoring; and cover tuition for employees who want to go back to school.

Community Groups

- Be part of an effort to encourage students to pursue education after high school.
- Support improved academic performance for the children you serve

Alignment

Robin Harris, KSDE and Blake Flanders, KBOR, described for the P-20 Council the work that has already been done in Kansas regarding the connection of the workforce to K-12 and higher education standards, curricula and assessments. Work ready certificates and the ability to earn them while in secondary or postsecondary settings were also discussed.

ACT – “This study provides empirical evidence that the levels of readiness that high school graduates need to be prepared for college and the workforce training programs are comparable.”

Technical Education Authority Strategic Priorities -

- Aligning Leadership
- Aligning Education with Business and Industry
- Aligning Educational Offerings within the System

- Enhancing System Participation
- Enhancing funding for Technical Education
- Enhancing Legislation and Policy for System Growth
- Evaluating and Measuring System Effectiveness

Strategic Questions for Higher Education

Align with K-12

Are we satisfied that high school graduation expectations are aligned with college preparation expectations?

Are students moving into our system from state high schools prepared to meet postsecondary expectations?

Priorities

Aligning postsecondary CTE programs

Enhancing seamless transition from high school to college

Implementing programs of study

Articulating statewide

Workforce needs and postsecondary education needs are equivalent. In order to succeed in this economy, everyone needs the skills usually associated with postsecondary education.

Approved Motions State Board of Education February 13, 2008

- #1. Create/Approve Gold Standard assessment (industry-recognized credentials/certifications) for each of the career Clusters that support high expectations.
- #2. Integrate core content standards with technical program standards utilizing the 16 career clusters as the organizing principle.
- #3. Support implementation of Individual Career Plans of Study for all students in 8th grade and above.
- #4. Improve Access to Career and Technical education by removing barriers and promoting partnerships.
- #5. Recommend KBOR to Update Qualified Admissions.
- #6. Create 21st Century School Standards to help guide reform and/or design of public schools.
- #7. Support Professional Development for teachers (e.g. mentor-mentee model) to help guide students in planning for future careers.
- #8. Revise Teacher Preparation Program Standards to reflect the integration of content standards.
- #9. Support the creation of dynamic funding systems that respond to the changing workforce and economic development needs.

Kansas Career Fields and Cluster Models

Foundation Knowledge and Skills

Postsecondary Technical Programs

- Program differences
- Program alignment process
- Industry Standards – Certification

Career Clusters/pathway Development Process

- Business Industry needs-Educators design curriculum-State approval-College implementation-Evaluation Improvement

Business and Industry Responses

Aligned Carpentry Program Model

Kansas WorkReady - WorkKeys

Kansas – Lifetime Earnings

Graduates remain in Kansas – Average 89% work in Kansas

Kansas – Participation in Workforce

Technical Education Provides Career Advancement

Key Points of Kansas Implementation

- What? Every student will follow a pathway that leads to career success
- How? Through seamless programs of study fostering academic and technical achievement
- Why? To develop a globally competitive workforce for Kansas

Discussion followed:

- Once the alignment is complete, an assessment must be put in place
- A web site is being built containing all of the information for the TEA
- KSDE has Career Clusters and related information on its web page
- A marketing campaign is needed
- Consider inviting constituents to future P-20 Council meetings (perhaps the Council of Superintendents invited to the August/October 2009 meeting)

Where do we go from here?

- Migrate to national standards (might pick from 2 or 3 choices)
- In that content do you have enough expertise
- What skills do you have outside of the content area
- There is no difference – an employee either has the skill or not
- What does it mean if I have a diploma from a Kansas university – what core skills will I have
- No matter where they are, there is a certain set of skills that all students need to have – no matter postsecondary or workforce
- Develop a belief statement
- Advocacy is important
- Need proactive discussions with policy makers – the importance of education to the Kansas economy
- Remove money from education and you have removed economic advancement within the state
- Leadership within state government and business and industry need to have the vision – be education friendly

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to noon, hosted by the Kansas State Department of Education. Early Childhood and Early Learning will be discussed. The next version of the brochure will be discussed and there should be only very minor changes. A future agenda item: diversity, uniformity, common elements that fit in with and preserve diversity in education, academic freedom.

A meeting will be scheduled in August to be hosted by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Meeting adjourned at noon.