

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, October 13, 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, Oct. 13, 2020 in the Board Room at the Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

(00:01:03)

ROLL CALL

All Board members participated, either in person or 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 AGENDA

Mrs. Dombrosky asked for discussion on Consent Agenda Item 19 f. (Kansas Integrated Accountability contract). Mr. McNiece moved to approve the Tuesday agenda. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-0, with Mr. Jones absent for the vote.

MOTION
(00:03:36)**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Mrs. Mah moved to approve the minutes of the September Board meeting. Mrs. Dombrosky seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:04:11)**ANNUAL REPORT FROM KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**

Bill Faflick, Executive Director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, presented the organization's annual report of operation to the State Board. In his overview of the past year, Mr. Faflick commented on new opportunities such as girls wrestling, a two-day golf championship tourney, game day dance event held virtually, and football jamboree. He also addressed the challenges of a summer moratorium of activities due to COVID-19, working to minimize risks and responding to the global health crisis. Risk minimization also includes crisis drills, continued tracking of concussion data, and mandatory CPR/AED training. The presentation was paused to allow for Citizens' Open Forum at the appointed time.

(00:04:44)

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

Chairman Busch declared the Citizens' Forum open at 10:30 a.m. Speakers and their topics were: Allison Winters, Shawnee — correlation between dyslexia and mental health; Angie Schreiber, Emporia — support to end trauma and low self-esteem of students who struggle to read. Chairman Busch declared the Citizens' Forum closed at 10:38 a.m.

(00:31:07)

CONTINUATION OF KSHSAA PRESENTATION

KSHSAA Executive Director Bill Faflick welcomed questions from Board members following his annual report. He responded to inquiries about programs that educate about proper football techniques to reduce injury, adjusted fall sports schedules and considerations about mitigation during winter sports season.

(00:40:10)

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATION FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

At the September State Board meeting, members received the Executive Summary and accreditation recommendation for St. Patrick Elementary, a private system in the Kansas City Catholic Diocese. There was discussion about areas for improvement, particularly implementation of Individual Plans of Study, and the timeline to remedy. Chairman Busch read the motion for Mr. McNiece, in which he moved to accept the recommendation of the Accreditation Review Council and award the status of conditionally accredited to Z0029-8421 St. Patrick Elementary. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(01:01:43)

RECEIVE ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

These four public systems were presented for accreditation consideration: USD 229 Blue Valley (Overland Park), USD 267 Renwick, USD 298 Lincoln and USD 313 Buhler. Accreditation status recommendations are brought to the State Board upon completion of final visitations and meetings of the Accreditation Review Council (ARC). An Executive Summary was prepared for each system outlining evidence of goals and identifying both strengths and challenges. Accountability report data was also provided. Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Mischel Miller and Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo answered questions. The State Board will act on the recommendations in November.

(01:17:32)

Board members took a break from 11:05 to 11:15 a.m.

BREAK

COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT AND PROGRESS ON STATE BOARD OUTCOMES

Dr. Randy Watson provided his annual progress summary of the past year to the State Board. He shared a draft of the 2019-20 KSDE Annual Report titled "Together" and spoke in general about the contents. He commented on the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic which impact both schools and the agency, adding that such challenges won't stop work toward the Kansans Can vision. He announced two updates to the Navigating Change guidance document for schools. Commissioner Watson then commended the 40 school districts that met every qualitative measure for the Star Recognition Award. He summarized work on the State Board outcomes, with the Individual Plans of Study as central to preparing students for their future. Board members then asked questions or provided comments.

(01:17:32)

The meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m.

LUNCH

RECOGNITION OF CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION RECIPIENTS OF 2020 ABC AWARD

Chairman Busch reconvened the Board meeting at 1:30 p.m. The Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force is a non-profit corporation that strives to increase awareness of the positive aspects of public education in Kansas. Each year, the Task Force presents the ABC Award to an individual or organization that has provided a long-term contribution, had a significant impact or demonstrated an uncommon commitment to public education across the state. Task Force Chair G.A. Buie, who joined the meeting via video conference, announced multiple recipients for the 2020 award. Honorees are: Cindy Couchman - Superintendent at Buhler USD 313 and 2009 former Kansas Teacher of the Year; Cory Gibson - Superintendent at Valley Center USD 262 and 2020 Kansas Superintendent of the Year; Dyane Smokowski - Coordinator for Digital

P.M. SESSION
(03:32:36)

Literacy with Wichita USD 259 and 2013 Kansas Teacher of the Year; Shannon Ralph - teacher at Gardner Edgerton High School and 2015 Kansas Teacher of the Year; and Tabatha Rosproy - Winfield Early Learning Center and 2020 National Teacher of Year. These individuals were instrumental in leading the development of Continuous Learning Plans for Kansas schools and "Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations" — the guidance document to aid schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each recipient shared brief remarks, including their support of educators putting into practice what their group put on paper.

RECOGNITION OF ANTI-BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK IN KANSAS

Education Program Consultant Kent Reed presented information regarding Anti-Bullying Awareness Week in Kansas Oct. 5-11. This year's campaign emphasized the theme "Choose Peace." Mr. Reed shared examples of anti-bullying activities and reported on baseline bullying data gathered through the Kansas Integrated Accountability System. Fewer bullying incidents were reported during the time students were at home while school buildings were closed to slow the spread of COVID. Board members commented on addressing key items of proposed legislation regarding bullying, the Kansas Communities That Care survey students are asked to complete, concerns about suicide ideation and impact of school closings.

(03:44:32)

RECOGNITION OF COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL AS 2020 NATIONAL SCHOOL OF CHARACTER

Each year, many Kansas schools apply for the Kansas Schools of Character recognition awards as well as the National School of Character Recognition Award. The National Award is sponsored by Character.org. Complete High School Maize, USD 266, was named a 2020 National School of Character. CHS is the first school in Kansas to receive the national honor twice. School Principal Dr. Kristy Custer and several CHS students joined the meeting virtually to talk about ways they promote character development. A video was shown that captured comments about positive school culture from current students and one former student who now teaches at Complete High.

(03:52:55)

REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR SYSTEMS OPTING TO POSTPONE KESA ACTIVITY

Board members received a report on what will and will not be required from systems that choose to pause/postpone KESA activities for one year because of the pandemic. Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation Mischel Miller and Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo explained that this would mean the first cycle of accreditation would be completed by the 2022-23 school year instead of 2021-22. Reporting of academic progress, social-emotional supports and maintaining continuous improvement process are among the requirements still in place. Public and private schools were surveyed. Responses indicated that 68 percent desire to postpone. The purpose of the postponement is to help systems focus on the logistical issues related to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and to maintain the health and safety of students and staff.

(04:22:00)

ACTION ON EXTENDING POSTPONEMENT OF KESA ACTIVITY

At its September Board meeting, the State Board took action to help alleviate stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on school systems by allowing them, as a voluntary option, to suspend Kansas Education Systems Accreditation activities through the fall semester of 2020 or to continue in the KESA process as normal. Because of the timeliness of activities during the 2020-21 school year, the Board was asked to consider extending the voluntary suspension through June 30, 2021, at the conclusion of the current school year. Mr. McNiece moved to allow public and private systems, as a voluntary option, to suspend Kansas Education System Accreditation activities through June 30, 2021 or to continue in the KESA process as normal. The Board directed KSDE to have systems account for social-emotional and academic data in their narrative reports and further directed KSDE staff to report back to the State Board in July 2021. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.

MOTION
(04:51:07)

ACTION ON DECLARATION EXTENSION OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ELIGIBILITY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kansas school systems have asked to be provided more flexibility than standard law allows regarding the use of substitute teachers. As a response, Teacher Licensure and Accreditation has asked the State Board to declare a time of emergency in order to alleviate restrictions on the number of days a substitute teacher may teach in any one position.

(04:52:21)

The declaration is as follows:

WHEREAS on Sept. 11, 2020, Governor Laura Kelly extended the current state of disaster emergency,

WHEREAS a significant number of school districts throughout the state of Kansas need additional staff to keep students socially distanced while providing instruction,

WHEREAS the already difficult task of hiring qualified teaching staff has been exacerbated by the current state of affairs,

Mrs. Mah moved that the Kansas State Board of Education, pursuant to K.A.R. 91-31-34(b)(5)(B), declare a time of emergency whereby any person holding a five-year substitute teaching license or an emergency substitute teaching license or certificate with a baccalaureate degree may teach through June 30, 2021. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(04:55:47)

Members took a break from 2:56 to 3:10 p.m.

BREAK

UPDATE ON TEACHER VACANCY AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE AND HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL LICENSED PERSONNEL REPORT

Presenters from the department of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation were Susan Helbert, Assistant Director, and Shane Carter, Data Systems Coordinator. They reported on continued work of the Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee, plus participation numbers in the Limited Apprentice Licensure pilots for High Incidence Special Education and Elementary. Then they summarized licensed personnel data collected from Aug. 17, 2020 to Sept. 28, 2020. Data is again collected in the spring. COVID-19 created an unprecedented end to last school year and the start of the current school year, impacting vacancy data. Categories of the top five teacher vacancies have remained consistent, and in no particular order are: science, math, English Language Arts, Special Education and elementary. There was discussion about alternative pathways to licensure, waivers in special education, retention, mentoring, entrance and exit data, and opportunities to attract new teachers. The annual Retention Summit will be virtual this year and is Nov. 23.

(05:12:05)

RECEIVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY MODEL GUIDELINES

Cheryl Johnson, Director of Child Nutrition and Wellness (CNW), presented proposed updates to the policy model guidelines for School Wellness. She was joined by Mark Thompson, Education Program Consultant for Health and Physical Education, and Jill Ladd, CNW Assistant Director. They explained why the revisions were timely and outlined additional supports for nutrition promotion and education. Mrs. Johnson shared information from the Rudd Center indicating that steady increases have been seen over time for creating healthy school environments in Kansas. Board action on the model guidelines is anticipated in November.

(05:54:03)

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Dombrosky presented her questions about the bidding process for Item 19 f. (Kansas Integrated Accountability contract). Dr. Horst moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 10-0. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

MOTION
(06:19:42)

- received the monthly Personnel Report for September.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointment of Joshua Bailey as Applications Developer on the Information Technology team, effective Sept. 1, 2020, at an annual salary of \$55,099.20.
- approved issuance of Visiting Scholar licenses for the 2020-21 school year for Chase Brazzle, Barnes-Hanover-Linn, USD 223; and Norman Schmidt, Central Heights USD 288.
- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year:
Deaf or Hard of Hearing -- Olivia Fellhoelter, D0602. *Early Childhood Special Education* -- Denise Koelzer, Joan Donovan-Thomas, USD 372; Melissa Keuchel-Edmonds, Sharon Wilkes, USD 458; Amanda Vander Linden, Gena Jones, D0701. *Early Childhood/Preschool* -- Lydia Brown, USD 259; Elizabeth Tice, D0620. *English as a Second Language* -- Jessica Vogt, USD 259; Patricia Mills, USD 475. *Gifted* -- Cody Swartz, Erika Roberts, USD 259; Sarah Reynolds, USD 330; Lewis Toole, Megan Curtis, D0611; Andria Harris, D0613; Logan Brown, Michelle Lewis, D0618; Gina Peak, Kimberly Kasson, D0636; Gerald Schwinn, Hillary Raple, D0638. *High Incidence Special Education* — Colette Berak, USD 229; Brent Fales, Kendra Walsh, Morgan Kerfes, Maximo Penichet, USD 230; Kelsey Demott, USD 234; Denise Roberts, Heather Brown, Jacqueline Bishop, Janet Ralston, Joanne Fluker, Kimberly Giesen, Kirk Merwin, Megan Plant, Nathaniel Ames, Priscilla Kralicek, Rebecca Hamilton, Reno Ferris, Saffron Hibbard, Sonya Adams, Amanda Cook, Amani Ross, Angela Smith, Ashley Dowell, Aubrey Heier, Bethany Ensign, Britney Purdom, Chelle Fraley, Esmeralda Gutierrez, Jessica Holdt, Kaitlyn Bumgarner, Kelsey Jones, Marsha Geer, Montana Severe, Robert Tinker, Shelley Louthan, Susan Sterling, Taylor Buford, Janet Tull, Jennifer Laflamme, Heather Crump, Mariah Reimer, Shannon Balthrop, USD 259; Mickenzi Rutter Evers, USD 263; Deborah Stoughton, Derek Racette, USD 308; Kasi Kraus, USD 330; Mandy Saxton, Jessica Bienhoff, USD 336; Ryan Swiggart, USD 353; Kiara Rolfs, Angela Mitchell, Jenessa Maldonado, Rebecca Ryan, USD 418; Megan Mejia, Audry Annis, USD 458; Amity Ihrig, Colby Soldan, D0602; Rachel Hough, Simona Finney, Lisa Meise, Rachel Gutschenritter, Shandi Kepley, Anne Millis, Jessica Hall, Kyle Groff, D0607; Jessica Wobus, D0608; Abigail Clemmons, Chelsea Parsons, Courtney Harwager, Kara Delauretis, Makala Leichtenberg, Priscilla Hollingsworth, Taylor Walker, D0611; Deborah Davis, Thomas Shields, D0613; Alexis Vincent, Lorie Schaller, Melissa Smith, Melissa Brady, Julie Rader, Logan Harpool, Cameron Peak, D0618; Nancy Robinson, D0620; John Lambert, D0636; Kristi Visor, Amy Dieter, Hannah Mason, D0638; Kelly Kimerer, D0700; Mindy Woods, D0701; Cynthia Leniton, Kylee Brenn, D0725. *Library Media Specialist* — Lara Dodson, Amber Waterbury, Amy Beckmann, Christina Kindle, Elizabeth Tackett, Jessica Schmidt, Julia Duggin, Kelly Cotton, Kelly Kelly, Krista May-Shackelford, Krista Schrag, Kristi Grant, Rachel Johnson, Rebecca Janssen, Renee Franklin, USD 259; Torrie Ellis, USD 343; Eric Dickens, Haley Fairbank, USD 475. *Low Incidence Special Education* — Rachel Young, USD 229; Jennifer House, USD 230; Abigail Myril Semple, Adam Jilka, Ali Wagner, Andrea Adams, Brandi Hendrix, Camalia Finton, Jeffrey Mork, Jennifer Talkington-Sy, Kayla Nott, Lindsay Gress, Lucas Young, Mar Jean Valenzuela, Melissa Baysinger, Teresa Martinez, Alexandra Kimmel, Aubrie Ellis, Christopher Brown, Darla Saindon, Jessica Aaby, Nicolle Herman, Rachel Veloza, Samantha Teed, Sarah Warren, Shara Splichal, Stacy Satterfield, Whitney Steele, Amy Woodard, USD 259; Ada Farringer, USD 353; Jessica Childress, D0607; Tessa Hiatt, D0613; Mary Winger, Briana Talley, Ginny Nickel, D0618; Ranae Gifford, D0701; Alyxandra Rush, D0725. *Math* — Alicia Holland, USD 259. *Visual Impaired* — Lisa Bohlen, USD 308.
- accepted recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for higher education program approvals as follows: **Benedictine College** - Chemistry 6-12 continuing program

through Dec. 31, 2026; **McPherson College** - Art PreK-12, Chemistry 6-12, ESOL undergraduate and ESOL graduate, English Language Arts 6-12, Mathematics 6-12, Music PreK-12, Music instrumental, music vocal, speech/theatre 6-12, all continuing programs through June 30, 2027; **Ottawa University** - Elementary Education Unified K-6, English Language Arts 6-12, both new programs through Dec. 31, 2022; **University of Kansas** - Elementary Education Unified K-6, new program through Dec. 31, 2022, and Biology 6-12, Chemistry 6-12, Earth and Space Science 6-12, History/Government/Social Studies 6-12, Physics 6-12, all continuing programs through Dec. 31, 2026.

authorized the Commissioner of Education to negotiate and

- amend and increase the Kansas Integrated Accountability contract by an amount not to exceed \$43,020;
- amend and extend the dates of the current Microsoft Imagine Academy contract through Nov. 30, 2024.

Board members took a 10-minute break at 4:20 p.m.

BREAK

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Action to accept Navigating Change document updates — Dr. Watson reviewed updates to *Navigating Change Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations* earlier during in his report to the Board. These included replacement of the daily remote learning logs with an assurances form and an additional resource regarding youth mental health and COVID-19. Ms. Busch read the motion for Mrs. Waugh, in which she moved to accept updates to the Navigating Change document reflecting changes and new information since State Board approval on Sept. 8. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(06:31:50)

Assignments — Chairman Busch announced the assignment of Jim McNiece and Ben Jones to the Spring Break Calendar Alignment Work Group, and the assignment of Mr. McNiece to the Education Commission of the States P-3 Policy Academy team for Kansas.

Committee Reports — Mr. Porter commented on the recent NASBE Governmental Affairs Committee call; asked members to submit their legislative priority suggestions to him or Dr. Horst; and reported that the new chair of the Professional Standards Board would be Dean Cameron Carlson from Newman. Mr. Jones welcomed feedback from members regarding the NASBE Chair-Elect nominees. Mr. McNiece reported on the Special Education Advisory Council meeting including efforts to fill specific requirements for SEAC membership. Mrs. Mah commented on the Career Technical Education committee.

Board Attorney's Report — Board Attorney Mark Ferguson plans to attend the virtual annual conference of state education attorneys hosted through NASBE. He reported on an upcoming hearing before the civil service board. Mr. Ferguson also provided a refresher on open records and open meetings rules.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Presentation about Kansas Communities That Care Coalition survey to students, including consideration of different questions for younger students. (Mrs. Mah)
- Discussion on teacher licensure transition for those serving in the military. (Mr. Porter)
- Mental Health – gauging how districts are doing with general morale of adults and students, and how mental health is impacting academics. (Mrs. Dombrosky)

- Retreat or work session on lessons learned from pandemic moving forward and how experiences shape future of mission and vision (Mr. McNiece)
- Discuss ways to take birthdate out of the equation for students, particularly in regards to math instruction (Mr. Roberts)
- Discuss crafting a system in which teachers can negotiate their own salaries (Mr. Roberts)
- Additional discussion on microcredentialing (Mr. Porter)
- Report from Commissioner Watson on options for waiving hours of instruction and easing reporting requirements other than KESA (general)
- Consider charges from Kansas Teacher of the Year team regarding support to schools and families during the pandemic; invite group back for more conversation (Ms. Busch)

Chairman's Report - Chairman Busch updated members on the School Mental Health Advisory Committee subgroup work to put recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying into an operational form. She also distributed annual evaluation forms for the positions of Commissioner, Board Attorney and Board Secretary. These are due back to Ms. Busch by Oct. 28. The next State Board meeting is Nov. 10 and will be a one-day meeting because the 11th is Veteran's Day, a state holiday.

BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL

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

MOTION
(07:13:08)

RECESS

Chairman Busch recessed the meeting at 5:15 p.m. until 9 a.m. Wednesday.

Kathy Busch, Chairman

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kathy Busch called the Wednesday meeting of the State Board of Education to order at 9 a.m. on Oct. 14, 2020, in the Board Room at the Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson St., Topeka, Kansas.

(00:07:58)

ROLL CALL

All Board members participated, either in person or 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. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-0 with Mr. McNiece not available for the vote.

MOTION
(00:08:19)

DISCUSS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MICROCREDENTIALING AND INDIVIDUALIZED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF LICENSED EDUCATORS

The Professional Standards Board, in conjunction with KSDE staff, has been researching and exploring options to use competency-based microcredentials as a means of personalized professional learning for educators. Guest presenters were Dr. Paul Erickson, Principal at Buhler schools, and Dr, Debbie Mercer, Dean of the College of Education at Kansas State University. Together, along with KSDE staff, they talked about a voluntary microcredential pilot in which 50 Kansas educators initiated the process and 21 finished. Other discussion centered on relicensure of educators based on personalized professional learning, components of the process, that the process is suitable for various educator levels, and other considerations. Additional discussion on this topic will occur at a future meeting.

(00:09:15)

DISCUSSION WITH KANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR TEAM ON IMPACT OF COVID-19

The pandemic created by COVID-19 caused interrupts to the 2019-20 and current school years. Board members had an opportunity to converse with the 2020 Kansas Teacher of the Year team via video conference to talk about their experiences in and out of the classroom since March 2020, when the virus began to significantly disrupt the school system. The group acknowledged both the positive and the negative symbolized by roses, thorns and buds of hope. Participants were:

(00:52:44)

Tabatha Rosproy, Winfield USD 465 (2020 KTOY and 2020 National Teacher of the Year)
 Kara Belew, Andover USD 385
 Amy Hillman, Olathe USD 233
 Shawn Hornung, Wamego USD 320
 Stefanie Lane, Clay Center, USD 379

Julie Loevenstein, Basehor-Linwood USD 458
Melissa Molteni, Shawnee Mission USD 512

Team member Lara McDonald, Auburn-Washburn USD 437, was not able to participate. Among their concerns were: equity, mental health, missed chance to say goodbyes at the abrupt closure of school buildings in the spring, creating a safe place for teachers, more frequent testing, valuing teachers as front-line workers. In contrast, they were encouraged by opportunities to involve students in leadership, to form connections within the community and support families, and inspire educator-led initiatives.

There was a break until 10:45 a.m.

BREAK

COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS ON SUPPORTING SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES DURING PANDEMIC

Dr. Randy Watson commented on the uncertainty schools experience in determining which learning environment to utilize — in-person, remote or hybrid. The decision is impacted by multiple factors. Flexibility for the long-term is not easy because there are competing interests about how to set up schools safely. He talked about the Navigating Change guidance to schools and the importance of following medical advice for safety of all. Board members discussed ways to assist schools and families. There was discussion about the 1,116 hour school term required by statute, counting professional development as a full credit toward the total hours, evaluating what constitutes a school day for remote learners, use of outdoor areas or other facilities to space students during instruction and easing reporting requirements. The Board asked Commissioner Watson to research options and report back next month.

(02:06:08)

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Busch adjourned at noon. The next meeting is one day only, Tuesday, Nov. 10 in Topeka.

Kathy Busch, Chairman

Peggy Hill, Secretary