

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education - Special Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kathy Busch called the special meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education to order at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 12, 2020. The meeting was conducted by conference call.

ROLL CALL

Board members participating in the call were:

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

Member Deena Horst was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Waugh moved to recess into Executive Session to discuss the subject of potential litigation/pending litigation/legal matters with legal counsel, which is justified pursuant to the exception for matters which would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client relationship under KOMA, in order to protect the privilege and the Board's communications with an attorney on legal matters. This session will begin at 11:04 a.m. for 20 minutes; no action will be taken during this session; and the open meeting will resume by conference call at 11:24 a.m. Mark Ferguson, Scott Gordon, Randy Watson and Dale Dennis are invited to join this Executive Session. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 9-0.

MOTION

The open meeting resumed at 11:24 a.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. McNiece moved that the Kansas State Board of Education waive the requirements of Kansas Law relating to the duration of the school term as authorized by K.S.A. 72-3117 and regulations relating to the following specific accreditation requirements for all public schools in Kansas for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year: (1) length of school days, hours and term; (2) suspension and cancellation of school operations and activities; (3) method and manner of delivery of educational content; (4) school attendance and duration; and (5) graduation requirements. The State Board provides the Commissioner of Education the authority to make further Executive Orders related to the temporary or permanent waiver of these specific accreditation requirements without further action by the Board. This official action of the State Board and the authority granted to the Commissioner is in direct response to the national and regional health concerns related to COVID-19 and shall expire upon the next regularly scheduled meeting of the State Board on April 14, at which time it will be reviewed further. Mr. Jones seconded.

MOTION

Discussion followed the motion. Commissioner Watson explained that the Coronavirus pandemic was a fast-moving situation and that the agency would issue guidance to school districts later in the day. He reviewed options for districts and answered questions. The special meeting was to execute plans before the next State Board meeting in several weeks. Motion carried 9-0 on a roll call vote; Dr. Horst was absent.

ADJOURN

Chairman Busch adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Kathy Busch, Chairman

Peggy Hill, Secretary