

MINUTES



Kansas State Board of Education

Tuesday, May 12, 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, May 12, 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. Ms. Busch's opening remarks were to thank teachers, students and parents, and to congratulate seniors.

(00:00:08)

ROLL CALL

The following Board members participated:

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

Mrs. Dombrosky requested that Consent Items 17 h. (Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs), 17 i. (Preschool Pilot grants), and 17 j. (Parents as Teachers grants) be pulled for separate votes. Dr. Horst moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Jones seconded. Motion carried 9-1, with Mr. Roberts opposing.

MOTION
(00:06:32)

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Mr. McNiece moved to approve the minutes of the April 14 regular State Board meeting. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(00:07:12)

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Randy Watson began his report praising efforts of workers who provided food service delivery to children, and to educators who generated and implemented Continuous Learning plans during the time school buildings were closed. Dr. Watson addressed moving forward with plans for schools being in session this fall, giving consideration to students' social-emotional welfare as well as academic needs. He stated that he is cautiously optimistic school will resume in August, but reminded listeners that only certain entities can close schools — the Governor, health officials and the Legislature. Neither the State Board nor the Commissioner can close schools. The responsibility will be to ensure that teaching and learning occur for every student even if school is interrupted again. A team of KSDE staff and Kansas educators are preparing plans to assist schools, both with academic strategies and operational best practices for spacing, sanitation, etc. A time for questions and comments followed.

(00:08:05)

CITIZENS' OPEN FORUM

No written public comments were submitted for the meeting. However, Chairman Busch read excerpts from a thank you letter from KNEA to the State Board regarding the Board's prompt measures in response to the Coronavirus crisis.

BREAK

Board members took a 10-minute break at 11:09 a.m.

UPDATE ON CONTINUOUS LEARNING PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND SURVEY RESULTS

(01:10:41)

In April, the State Board approved Continuous Learning plans submitted by public school districts and private systems in Kansas. At the request of the Board, a survey was sent to all systems as a follow-up to plan implementation. Survey responses were compiled and presented in data form for the Board. Mischel Miller, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, explained that the questions were based on Board member inquiry and focused on student engagement, internet access, delivery methods for instruction, lessons learned, barriers, meal service, etc. Professional development for virtual instruction was an identified need. Chairman Busch was curious if a deeper analysis of the data would reveal more information about common trends or differences among rural, urban and suburban districts.

POTENTIAL ACTION ON CONTINUOUS LEARNING APPLICATIONS

Any school district(s) that made significant revisions to their original Continuous Learning plans needed to re-submit the plans for State Board approval. There were no new plans presented for the May meeting.

REPORT ON CURRENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

(01:27:07)

Dr. Brad Neuenswander prefaced a number of partnership initiatives established in the past several weeks, responding to circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, and designed to help parents and families.

Virtual ParentCamp experience — KSDE's Tammy Mitchell along with Laura Gilchrist, Vice President of ParentCamp, described the pilots marketed in Sedgwick County, which provided a platform for parents and educators to collaborate and learn from each other. Julie Pile, President of ParentCamp, and Jane Groff, Director of the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center, were also instrumental with the project. Districts interested in hosting their own virtual ParentCamp were given assistance on getting started.

Senior Leader Project — A group of 64 seniors from all across Kansas was selected to share their own stories and give guidance to their peers on how to transition from high school to postsecondary plans during the COVID-19 pandemic. Two participants in the senior project—Alyvia Zeigler, Paradise USD 399, and Annie Bogart, DeSoto USD 232, talked about plans for a senior appreciation day on May 20 utilizing social media and commentaries from notable Kansans. Other student participants were introduced to the Board. KSDE's Jay Scott noted that this tribute for seniors was a student-driven way to honor the class of 2020.

Learning Across Kansas, the Public Broadcasting Service Alliance — The objective of this new partnership is to promote the work of the KSDE Continuous Learning Taskforce and provide supplemental educational content to students and families across the state by partnering with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). Kansas educators and all four Kansas PBS stations coordinated to provide 30-minute segments for elementary, middle and high school students based on consistent themes across the grade bands. The stations' work was given in kind. Eugene Williams, Executive Director at KTWU in Topeka, as well as the teacher co-hosts described how the project evolved from building relationships to discovering new skills.

At 12:17 p.m., Chairman Busch recessed the meeting for lunch.

LUNCH

At 1:15 p.m., Chairman Busch reconvened the video conference meeting.

ACTION ON THE KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD STRATEGIC PLAN

Early Childhood Director Amanda Petersen announced that Kansas had been awarded nearly \$9 million in federal grant funding to put the early childhood strategic plan in action. Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, spoke about the various infrastructure improvements that the grant would support across several agencies. Many of these were identified through the needs assessment to better serve communities. The “All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan” was presented last month for review. The Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund will provide oversight for early childhood systems building, including implementation of this strategic plan. Mr. Jones moved to accept the “All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan.” Mrs. Clifford seconded. Motion carried 8-2 with Mr. Roberts and Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition.

P.M. SESSION
(00:00:10)
(Timer restarted)

MOTION
(00:12:57)

UPDATE FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The purpose of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is to provide policy guidance to the State Board of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the state. Bert Moore, Director of Special Education and Title Services with KSDE, reported on current activity of the Council. During the Council’s April meeting, the group discussed responses to COVID-19, implementation of Continuous Learning Plans and special education resources. Mr. Moore also talked about evaluation training for the field and gave a SEAC membership update. He then answered questions from Board members.

(00:16:56)

ACTION ON SEAC TRANSITION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The SEAC, with support from KSDE’s Special Education and Title Services team, has prepared a transition table based on recommendations of the Transition Task Force. This comprehensive plan was the result of much collaboration. It incorporates existing supports, proposed immediate action and long-term strategies. The document continues to evolve and be refined based on the needs of students and the input of stakeholders. A virtual Transition Summit will be offered on July 27. Mr. McNiece moved to approve the SEAC plan for implementation of the Transition Task Force recommendations. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.

MOTION
(00:41:18)

RECEIVE ACCREDITATION REVIEW COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS EDUCATION SYSTEMS ACCREDITATION

Accreditation recommendations on four school systems were presented to the State Board for consideration: USD 259 Wichita, USD 393 Solomon, USD 491 Eudora and the Kansas State School for the Deaf. During the 2019-20 school year, 30 systems are scheduled for accreditation based on their placement in the five-year cycle. The systems will be grouped and presented for Board consideration in May, July and November, depending on when final visitations are complete. Assistant Director Jeannette Nobo described the critical nature of the reviews, which evaluate both process and product, and the role of the Accreditation Review Council (ARC). Beth Sandness, a member of the ARC from Prairie View USD 362, talked about questions the ARC considers and reflection of feedback. Board members asked questions about focus and goals, charting academic results, refining reports, plans for improvement and chronic absenteeism data. Board members will act on the recommendations at the June meeting.

(00:44:25)

There was a break from 2:35 to 2:50 p.m. to manage technical difficulties which caused a brief interruption in livestreaming.

BREAK

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

MOTION
(01:21:01)

Linda Sieck, Chair of the Professional Practices Commission, represented the PPC in presenting the cases for consideration this month. Dr. Horst moved that the State Board of Education suspend the license of 19-PPC-29 through April 26, 2021 or until the individual successfully completes diversion, whichever occurs later. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION
(01:23:41)

Ms. Sieck then gave an overview of the next cases. Mr. Jones moved that the State Board of Education deny or revoke the licenses in the cases of 19-PPC-14 (denial), 19-PPC-35, 19-PPC-42, 19-PPC-43, 19-PPC-44 and 19-PPC-46 (revocations). Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 10-0.

REPORT FROM TEACHER VACANCY AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE AND ACTION ON EXTENSION OF HIGH INCIDENCE SPECIAL EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE PATHWAY PILOT

(01:24:59)

The Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee (TVSC) has considered alternative licensure pathways. Mischel Miller and Susan Helbert from KSDE's office of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation reviewed specifics of the Limited Apprentice Pilot pathways the State Board approved in 2018 for two years. The Limited Apprentice Pilot allows candidates meeting certain requirements to teach while achieving their license. Following an evaluation process, the TVSC has recommended continuation of the pilots, which have recorded 269 participants. Mr. Jones moved to approve an extension of the High Incidence Special Education and Elementary Education Limited Apprentice pilots by allowing new cohorts to start through the program summer semester of 2020. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts in opposition.

MOTION
(01:37:10)

ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION
(01:38:26)

Dr. Horst moved to approve the Consent Agenda, excluding Items 17 h. (Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs), 17 i. (Preschool Pilot grants), and 17 j. (Parents as Teachers grants) be pulled for separate votes. Mr. McNiece seconded. Motion carried 9-1 with Mr. Roberts abstaining. In the Consent Agenda, the Board:

- received the monthly Personnel Report for April.
- confirmed the unclassified personnel appointment of M. Kay Emerson as Public Service Executive on the Teacher Licensure and Accreditation team, effective April 5, 2020, at an annual salary of \$47,985.60.
- accepted the following recommendations for licensure waivers valid for one school year:
High Incidence Special Education — Jaimee Broadus, USD 261, Melissa McBrayer, USD 512.
Low Incidence Special Education — Katherine Allison, D0607.
- approved, with modifications, the in-service education plans for USD 262 Valley Center, USD 315 Colby, USD 396 Douglass, USD 435 Abilene, USD 449 Easton, USD 511 Attica, USD 512 Shawnee Mission.
- accepted the following recommendations of the Evaluation Review Committee for program approval: **Benedictine College** — Art (PreK-12), Biology (6-12), Building Leadership (PreK-12), Elementary (K-6), English Language Arts (6-12), Foreign Language (PreK-12 French, Spanish), Health (PreK-12), High Incidence (K-6, 6-12), History Government Social Studies (6-12), Physical Education (PreK-12), Physics (6-12), all continuing programs through Dec. 31, 2026; **Friends University** — History Government Social Studies (6-12), new program through June 30, 2022; **Newman University** — History Government Social Studies (6-12), continuing program through June 30, 2026; **Ottawa University** — Biology (6-12), History Government Social Studies (6-12), both continuing programs through June 30, 2026; **University of Kansas** — Art (PreK-12), English Language Arts (6-12), Low Incidence (PreK-12), Mathematics (6-12), Music

(PreK-12), Physical Education (PreK-12), School Psychologist (PreK-12), all continuing programs through Dec. 31, 2026.

- accepted recommendations of the Licensure Review Committee as follows: *Approved Cases* — 3302, 3306, 3312.
- approved the Kansas Volunteer Commission's recommendations for 2020-2021 AmeriCorps subgrantees as follows: Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence \$665,597; Harvesters Community Food Network \$108,353; Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism \$358,253; International Rescue Committee \$108,350; Rosedale Development Association \$77,579; USD 260 Derby \$247,649; United Way of Douglas County \$232,185; Wichita State University \$80,558; Kansas State University (AmeriCorps Planning Grant) \$20,000. Total funding: \$1,898,524.
- approve the continued funding and extension of contracts for TASN projects (evidence-based professional development system evaluation, Kansas special education personnel recruitment and retention programs, installation of high quality instruction within inclusive learning environments, scaling up family/school/community partnerships) to Dec. 31, 2020, in a total amount not to exceed \$488,847.

SEPARATE ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. McNiece moved to approve consent agenda items 17 h., 17 i., and 17 j. as presented. Dr. Horst seconded. Motion carried 8-1-1 with Mrs. Dombrosky in opposition and Mr. Roberts abstaining. In this motion, the Board:

MOTION
(01:43:43)

- approved districts to operate Preschool-Aged At-Risk (State PreK four-year-old at-risk) programs for 2020-21.
- approved grant awards for the Kansas Preschool Pilot for 2020-2021 in an amount not to exceed \$8,332,317.
- approved grant awards for the parent education program (Kansas Parents As Teachers) for 2020-2021 for an total award amount of \$8,437,635.

LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis informed members that several legislative committee meetings are scheduled to take place during the days before May 21, the day all the legislature is to return for sine die. The dates and times were provided to members. He answered questions about the wrap-up session and concerns about balancing the budget.

(01:43:15)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee reports were given on KSHSAA's summer guidelines and anticipated first day of sports practices; Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom virtual farm tours; School Redesign Advisory Committee and application extension for Apollo II; School Mental Health Advisory Committee subcommittee work and preparation of recommendations; and E-Cigarette/Vaping Task Force discussions of cautions related to COVID-19.

(02:07:51)

Board Attorney Mark Ferguson reported on procedure developments for Kansas School for the Deaf NEA negotiations. The next meeting is May 14.

Requests for Future Agenda Items —

- Deeper analysis of Continuous Learning survey data for discussion, i.e. differences experienced in rural, urban, suburban schools (Ms. Busch)

- Regular updates on progress of work associated with the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (Ms. Busch)
- Report from School Mental Health Advisory Council, including subcommittee activity (Ms. Busch)

BOARD MEMBER TRAVEL

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Busch adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting is June 9 and 10.

Kathy Busch, Chairman

Peggy Hill, Secretary

MOTION
(02:32:58)