

State Board News August 2014

Commissioner's Report

Interim Commissioner Brad Neuenswander introduced Scott Gordon as the new KSDE General Council, and Lane Wiley as the new Director of Information Technology. He also announced the reconvening of the Closing the Achievement Gap Task Force to dig deeper into gaps that persist. He then provided a brief on a working partnership with KSDE and the Kansas Department of Agriculture to promote and expand agriculture education in Kansas.

Amendment to the Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) Regulations, K.A.R. 91-42-3:

Jana Rosborough, Assistant Director of Early Childhood, Special Education and Title Services, provided timeline and background for the proposal being submitted to exempt certified law enforcement officers from the Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) regulations. The board approved submission of the ESI regulation amendment to the Department of Administration and Attorney General for review. Discussion surrounding the vote resulted in recommendations for further work on clarifying procedural steps and a pathway to resolve conflicts. Further work on an appeals process proposal and results of the next Special Education Advisory Council meeting are to be shared with the Board in September.

Summer Academies and Standards Implementation

2014 KSDE Summer Academies focused on advancing instruction in the classroom using College and Career Ready Standards. Sessions were held in Derby, Topeka and Abilene. Four guests shared their participation experiences. Presenters were Elisa Dorian, USD 469 Lansing (mathematics); Lori Rice, USD 320 Wamego (history, government and social studies); Julie Aikins of Chanute (English Language Arts); and Lisa Blair with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush (science). They highlighted shifts occurring in the classroom with implementation of the new standards which focus more on critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Assessment Update

Director Scott Smith introduced Beth Fultz as the new Assistant Director on the Career Standards and Assessment Services team. Dr. Smith reported that various federal agencies had been notified of the Board's decision in July not to release 2014 assessment scores.

Coalition of Innovative Districts

Jim McNiece and Deena Horst, State Board representatives serving on the Coalition of Innovative Districts Board, presented the [Coalition Bylaws](#) as revised pursuant to suggestions made by the State Board in their July meeting. The board voted to approve the Bylaws upon final review by legal counsel for consistency with state statutes. The Coalition Board will meet at Smokey Hill Service Center on August 27, 2014, to hear from four school districts applying for Innovative District status: USD 500 Kansas City, Kansas, USD 229 Blue Valley, USD 434 Santa Fe Trail and USD 210 Hugoton.

Career and Technical Education

Jay Scott presented highlights from 2013-2014 and a look ahead to the 2014-2015 school year. Kansas Secondary Career & Technical Education (CTE) Division has adopted National Career Clusters model of 16 career clusters and has developed 36 pathways within these clusters. He noted that an energy pathway would be piloted soon.

Professional Practices Commission:

Results of teacher licensure hearings by Professional Practice Commission were presented to the State Board, which approved the PPC recommendations to grant three teacher licenses.

New appointment to the Professional Standards Board

Dr. Scott Meyer recommended and the board approved appointment of Tammy Bartels to the Professional Standards Board. Additionally, PSB member Fred Patton may need to be replaced due to his new legislative position.

NASBE Annual Conference

The board acted to appoint member John Bacon as delegate and Deena Horst as alternate to the National Association of State Boards of Education conference in Denver, Colorado, on October 16-18.

Appoint representatives to the Interstate Migrant Education Council

The Interstate Migrant Education Council (IMEC) was established in 1983. Their role is to enhance educational opportunities for migrant students and to help examine policy issues concerning coordination between public and private agencies, including all levels of government. IMEC members have included chief state school officers, state legislators, state board of education members, state education agency personnel, local and district representatives and state directors of migrant education, parents and employers of migrant families. The board acted to appoint board member Sally Cauble and Rep. John Doll of Garden City to represent Kansas on this council.

Board Reports & Request for Future Agenda Items

Howard Shuler, of McPherson & Jacobson, LLC, Recruitment and Development, gave a report on their nationally-promoted search for the new Kansas Commissioner of Education. As of the August State Board meeting, ten applications had been received, and Mr. Shuler anticipates receiving as many as fifteen applications by the October 15 deadline. The board will receive the narrowed list of candidates by October 29, and interviews will be conducted November 5, 6 and 7.

Board member reports:

During the Chairman report, Jana Shaver acknowledged the late Karen Godfrey, KNEA president at the time of her passing, for her commitment and advocacy for Kansas students and public education and conveyed sympathy to her family.

Dr. Mercer will be chairing the Professional Standards Board.

Next State Board meeting – September 16-17, 2014