

State Board News February 2014

Citizens' Open Forum

KNEA President Karen Godfrey opposed changes in the fingerprinting regulations stating "A few isolated incidents does not justify finger printing all our teachers; why only teachers are being targeted is concerning."

Board Members Review Proposal for Criminal History Check for All Licensed Educators

Proposed change to Kansas Administrative Regulation 91-1-214 would require all licensed educators in Kansas to have a complete set of fingerprints on file. As of 2002, all applicants for a new license or renewal of an expired license are required to submit fingerprints for background information from both the KBI and FBI. The board will vote at the March meeting whether to approve this proposed regulation change.

Recognition of Kansas Teacher of the Year Team

Honorees each shared with the Board specifics about their teaching style and student successes. Presenting was 2014 Teacher of the Year Jeff Baxter, an English language arts teacher at Leavenworth High School USD (435), and team members Brandi Leggett, a third grade teacher at Prairie Ridge Elementary School in Shawnee (USD 232); Jennifer Bailey, a high school English language arts teacher at Valley Center High School (USD 262); Jennifer Smith, an eighth grade social studies teacher at Lakewood Middle School in Overland Park (USD 229); Jenny Nash, a kindergarten teacher at Cottonwood Elementary School in Paola (USD 368); Katie Perez, a fourth grade teacher at Morgan Elementary School in Hutchinson (USD 308); Marney Hay, a fourth grade teacher at Pray-Woodman Elementary School in Maize (USD 266); and Mary Lonker, a high school English language arts teacher at Wamego High School (USD 320).

Update on Accreditation Model

Progress of the new state accreditation model, includes five rubrics: Relationships, Relevance, Responsive, Culture, Results and Rigor. Dr. Scott Myers, Director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation highlighted primary differences in the new model that will focus on school districts rather than individual schools. He went on to emphasize the new model moves away from a punitive system focused primarily on student achievement on a single test. This is still a work in progress and it was decided that continued discussion would occur in the future.

QPA Advisory Council Recommendation

All Schools retain their accreditation this year and continue the use of the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) in place of AYP during the transition period to a new accreditation model. The Board is to vote in March.

Update on Licensure Considerations

Dr. Scott Myers recommended changes for enhanced options for Career and Technical Education (CTE) educators, which include offering a permit certificate that would allow a school district to bring in a professional from a specific vocational area to the school on a limited basis; creating a direct-entry special education license; and considerations for out-of-state alternative route completers that would include acceptance of a set amount of successful experience completed by the applicant in lieu of review by the Licensure Review Committee. The Board will submit amendments for attorney review prior to being submitted to the Regulatory Committee.

March State Board Meeting: The next meeting of the State Board will be a one-day meeting scheduled for March 11 Room 102 of the Landon State Office Building.