

Kansas State Board of Education October 2014

Coalition of Innovative District Applicants

The State Board of Education approved three applicants for Innovative District status, which exempts districts from some state laws. Joining McPherson and Concordia after the 9-0 State Board vote are: Kansas City USD 500, Blue Valley USD 229 and Hugoton USD 210.

Emergency Safety Intervention

Update and Recommended Changes to K.A.R. 91-42-1 Adoption of 91-42-4

The State Board heard recommendations by Dr. Joan Robbins, Chair of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), for amending the appeals process for a parent who alleges their child was inappropriately restrained or isolated while at school. The Disability Rights Center has said that currently there are too many obstacles for parents when they submit a complaint or appeal a decision. During the presentation the board had a lengthy discussion and several expressed concerns of assuming local control. In the end, the board determined they needed time to consider new information presented.

Update on New Accreditation Model

Members of the QPA Advisory Council and KSDE staff presented an update on development of the proposed new K-12 accreditation model, including such features as transparency, external validation, and school/district/stakeholder participation in the process. The new model centers around the use of 5 R's – Relationships, Relevance, Responsive, Rigor, and Results – to ensure the quality and continuing improvement of Kansas education systems' to lead schools in producing college and career ready graduates. Transparency of the process is to be facilitated by use of a "Dashboard" on the KSDE website which would provide district and building specific data overview and how they are moving through the process.

Professional Practices Commission (PPC)

PPC president Calin Kendall presented results of the commission's findings with regard to one teacher licensure, and the State Board acted to approve licensure per the PCC's recommendations.

K-12 Student Performance and Efficiency Commission has been tentatively rescheduled for November 14, 2014.

Former KSDE Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker Recognized

Dr. DeBacker, who is currently serving as education advisor in Abu Dhabi, was presented the ABC Friend of Education Award in recognition of her contribution to public education in state of Kansas. She also provided an overview of education abroad and shared how she is influencing education policies in the United Arab Emirates.