

# State Board of Education News April 2016

All members were present for the April 19, 2016 meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education with the exception of Sally Cauble who joined via teleconference.

## Commissioners Report

Commissioner Dr. Randy Watson led his report with “New School Thought,” a CBS video report on changes to the college admissions process which could revolutionize college admissions in coming years. He applauded the State Board for their Kansans Can vision and outputs which put Kansas poised and moving in the right direction. Commissioner Watson also highlighted his newly formed “Blue Ribbon Task Force,” charged to review the Kansas teacher shortage. The task force will meet at least four times with expected recommendations to the State Board by July 12, 2016.

## State Board Action Items

- Adopt the proposed Kansas Virtual Education Requirements and Monitoring Plan, and the Kansas Diploma Completion Program Requirements and Monitoring Plan. Approved 10-0.
- Approve the revised Higher Educator Licensure Program Standards for Art (PreK-12), Gifted (K-6, 5-8. 6-1212), PreK-12), Music (PreK-12, Instrumental Music (PreK-12) and Vocal Music (PreK-12). Approved 7-3. Steve Roberts, John Bacon and Ken Willard opposed.
- The Board acted on recommendations from the Professional Practices Commission: 12 breach of contract license suspensions (approved 10-0), and one PPC license revoked (approved 10-0).
- Board Attorney contract renewal. Approved 9-1, John Bacon opposed.

The board received information from supporters of the Seal of Biliteracy diploma credential, readiness to use two additional languages in the work place. This may be an action item at next month’s meeting.

## Legislative Update

Deputy Education Commissioner Dale Dennis highlighted HB 2655, the legislative Gannon fix, hearing scheduled for May 10, 2016. He advised education officials to anticipate the law taking effect even though the court has not yet taken final action.

He also briefed the board regarding draft guidelines on processing applications for extraordinary needs funding. A committee to review such applications would include Director of School Finance Craig Neuenswander, a board member who has experience with school budgets, a superintendent or retired superintendent not involved in any of the applications received, and Deputy Commissioner Dennis. Districts could qualify for the funding because of extraordinary enrollment increases, reduced assessed valuation, tax appeal refunds, and cuts in revenue.

Applications for extraordinary needs funding would be due by July 15 and school districts would receive approval or denial within 21 days. Hearings for applications received will be held in late July and the State Board would make their final decision on applications.

## Coalition of Innovated School Districts Report

To date, innovative districts are Kansas City KS, Blue Valley, Concordia, Hugoton, Marysville, and McPherson. Three additional districts are expected to submit applications soon.

## **Day Two**

The second day meeting of the State Board of Education was designated a work session to discuss a new state accreditation model. The new proposal for a district accreditation system would replace the current Quality Performance Accreditation system, which grants accreditation by school building. State law charges the State Board with the accreditation of schools, a process that provides official recognition that schools have met a defined set of standards. The goal is to implement a new system in 2017. The new accreditation model may be a “receive” item on the Board’s agenda in May.

**The next Kansas State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 17-18, 2016.**