

Kansas State Board of Education News February 2016

Commissioners Report

Kansas Commissioner of Education Dr. Randy Watson provided the State Board an update of the new vision for Kansas education. He stated, KSDE staff members and board members are in the midst of “the really hard work,” of defining what the vision will look like. KSDE will need to organize the agency to carry out the board’s work; continue to discuss the vision across the state, build momentum for the work; and do some in-depth work on the board’s outcomes.

Action on KSDE Committee/Board nominees

Dr. Scott Myers, director of Teacher Licensure and Accreditation, recommended to the board two appointments:

- Professional Standard Board nominee Christina Carlson of Valley Center, CTE-Art, approved 10-0
- Licensure Review Committee nominee Jaime Byers of Great Bend, Elementary Ed, approved 10-0

2016 Kansas Teacher of the Year

Justin Coffey, high school Algebra teacher at Dodge City, USD 443.

2016 Kansas Regional Teachers of the Year

Kristoffer Barikmo- USD 229	Lucinda Crenshaw- USD 497	Sheila Koup- USD 389
Nona Mason- USD352	Jolene Pennington- USD 368	Anna Sahadeo- USD 232
Shelly Jennings- USD 266		

Suicide Awareness and Prevention Regulation

The Jason Flatt Act, recently introduced to the Senate, was presented to the Board for review by General Counsel Scott Gordon. Under the proposed regulations, all school employees would receive suicide prevention training annually, and each building would establish a crisis plan as part of their criteria for accreditation. States which adopt the Jason Flatt Act, named for a high school age suicide victim, can access suicide prevention training modules at no cost.

The proposal will be voted on at the March State Board of Education meeting.

Temporary Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) Regulations

General Counsel Scott Gordon reminded the Board that the Freedom from Unsafe Seclusion and Restraint Act, which was enacted during the 2015 legislative session, requires the State Board to adopt rules and regulations by March 1, 2016. In order to comply with that deadline, the State Board voted to adopt temporary regulations. Following a public hearing in April, the Board will vote on whether to adopt them as permanent regulations. Motion passed: 10-0.

Individual Plans of Study (IPS) – Initiate contract bid process for software systems

It was moved that the State Board of Education authorize the Commissioner of Education to enter into a Request for Proposal bid process for the purpose of identifying state-preferred vendors of Individual Plans of Study software systems and grant Perkins Reserve Federal dollars for start-up costs to middle and high schools that are not currently utilizing a state-preferred vendor. This start-up cost grant opportunity will be in place for a two-year period (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018) in an amount to not exceed \$625,000.

The creation of a state-preferred IPS vendor list carries two financial purposes for schools. First, the State will provide funds for start-up costs for schools contracting for new service with a state preferred vendor. Second, this action would reduce the cost for our schools that contract for service with a state-preferred vendor. Ultimately, KSDE believes this will lead to every middle school and high school in the State having an IPS system in place for the 2017-2018 school year. Motion passed: 10-0.

The next Kansas State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for March 8-9, 2016.

Temporary ESI Regulations provided to State Board members in the Board Packet for their meeting February 9-10 may be accessed at <https://goo.gl/Cnwxbb>.