

Kansas State Board News January 2016

All members were present except for Carolyn Wims-Campbell, who attended via skype.

Commissioners Report

An Every Student Succeeds Act Advisory Committee has been established to review and advise KSDE as they begin to prepare the Kansas Plan which is due to the U.S. Department of Education by August 2017. The group will be divided into six sub-committees with each focusing on specific aspects for state implementation. The new education law gives states a lot of authority. States will determine how we use the results of the assessments for accountability, and how we provide supports to schools. The newly adopted ESSA also gives states the authority to decouple student measures from teacher evaluation.

KCCR Definition

The Kansas State Board of Education acted to approve, with revisions, the definition of College and Career Readiness. At recent retreats and at the December 2015 Board meeting the Board had discussed whether or not the current definition of Kansas College and Career Ready should be adapted to better reflect its new vision for education.

The definition, as was unanimously approved at the Board meeting in December of 2013, states:

College and Career Ready means an individual has the academic preparation, cognitive preparation, technical skills and employability skills to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

Commissioner Watson stated, "During months of statewide community forums, Kansans repeatedly stressed that students who are involved with their communities and demonstrate civic responsibility will be successful. Therefore, the following new definition is being presented for approval:"

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- *academic preparation*
- *cognitive preparation*
- *technical skills*
- *employability skills and*
- *civic engagement*

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification, or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

The phrase "College and Career Readiness" was dropped in favor of a "successful high school graduate." The Board also added "civic engagement" to the goals to the definition. The motion passed 10-0.

Vision Outcomes

The Board addressed the outcomes it will monitor in conjunction with the *Kansans CAN* Vision.

- Kindergarten readiness;
- Individual Plan of Study focused on career interest;
- High school graduation rates;
- Post-secondary completion/attendance; and
- Social/emotional growth measured locally

The original Outcomes list included tracking remediation at post-secondary institutions. However, that item was removed before the board meeting. Commission Watson stated there wasn't "good data" available, and the remediation standard was built into the "successful high school graduate" (former Kansas College and Career Ready) definition. The motion passed 9-1, with John Bacon, R-Olathe, voting nay.

Kansas EdReDesign

The EdReDesign Advisory Group, chaired by Inman USD 448 Superintendent Kevin Case, began meeting in September to assist with what the redesign of education in Kansas might look like under the Board's new vision. They reported regarding existing programs and curricula that districts use to energize student learning.

Informal Education Institutions

Representatives of Kansas' Informal Education Institutions (IEIs) presented their report to share the impacts of IEIs on PreK-12 learning opportunities through Kansas Informal Education Institutions. Kansas has a broad base of facilities that can be used to enhance and support current needs of formal education, such as applied STEM and career-focused programs. There are more than 40 IEIs across the state, including ones devoted to space, aviation, history, nature, animals and science. The presentation demonstrated the current reach in numbers of students and teachers served, plus the geographic areas covered.

Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

In its role as a liaison, the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) advises the State Board of Education on issues relevant to the area of education supports and services for students ages 3-21 with disabilities. A copy of the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council 2014-2015 Annual Report was provided for review at the meeting.

Profession Practice Commission

The Board acted on recommendations presented by the Profession Practice Commission, granting approval for one educator license, and revocation of four licenses.

Early Childhood Programs

Commissioner Watson reported that the Governor's proposed budget would move all Early Childhood budget to the Department of Education, pending legislative approval. Programs covered by this proposal are currently under the auspices of the Children's Cabinet & the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) early childhood divisions. Board Chairman Jim McNiece will write the Governor a letter of appreciation.

Career and Technical Student Organizations Luncheon

Board members attended a luncheon with elected student officers of various Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO), affording the officers an opportunity to make brief remarks to the Board as well as gain better awareness of the Board's role in Kansas public education.

The next Kansas State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 9 and 10, 2016.