

State Board of Education News January 2017

Porter, Busch elected as new chair, vice chair of State Board of Education

As a result of the November 2016 elections held for positions in Board Districts 2,4,6,8, and 10, winners Deena Horst of Salina, Ann Mah of Topeka, Kathy Busch of Wichita, and Jim McNiece of Wichita, were sworn into office. Steve Roberts, of Overland Park, had been sworn in a day earlier during a ceremony in Johnson County.

In the subsequent Board reorganization, the Board elected Jim Porter as its new chair with a vote of 8-1, John Bacon opposed. Kathy Busch was elected new vice-chair with a vote of 7-2, John Bacon and Steve Roberts opposed. Porter, with 47 years of service in public education including 34 years as a superintendent, replaces chair Jim McNiece, who remains on the Board and will serve as the Board's legislative liaison. Busch, who retired as an assistant superintendent of middle schools for Wichita USD 259, replaces vice-chair Carolyn Wims-Campbell who did not seek re-election.

In other reorganization action, Mark Ferguson of Gates Shields Ferguson Hammond, P.A., Overland Park, was approved as State Board Attorney by a vote of 8-1, Bacon opposed. It was moved and approved to continue Peggy Hill's designation as State Board Secretary.

Commissioner's Report –

Commissioner Randy Watson gave update on work KSDE staff is doing to determine whether or not the Department of Education is properly aligned with goals set by the State Board of Education.

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Annual Report

The Board received the annual report from the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), which advises the Board on issues relevant to the area of education supports and services for students ages 3-21 with disabilities. A copy of the report may be found at

<http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Board/Materials%20%26%20Agendas/2017/JANUARY%202017%20PACKET%20rfs.pdf> (link to Item 16 attachment).

Direct Entry Special Education Program Standards: Elementary Unified K-6 License

New program standards for Institutions of Higher Education providing teacher preparation for Special Education, Elementary Unified K-6 Licensure, were introduced for the Board's review. Staff and a representative from the standards' writing committee offered explanation of the process and were available to answer questions. Approval of the standards will occur at the February Board meeting.

Recommendations of the Professional Practices Commission

The Board acted on recommendation by the Professional Practices Commission to approve three applications for teaching licensure, issue one public censure, revoke two licenses, and deny one application for teaching license.

Recognition of the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools

Four Kansas schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, and received honors in November at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Principals from each school introduced themselves and shared with Board members the factors they have found most helpful in raising student achievement and narrowing achievement gaps at their schools. These principals were:

- Jess Herbig of Challenger Intermediate School, USD 265 Goddard
- Gary Wheeler of Chanute Elementary School, USD 413 Chanute
- Tom Schwartz of McKinley Intermediate Elementary School, USD 435 Abilene
- Jim Brockway of Wheatridge Middle School, USD 231 Gardner Edgerton

Report on work of the Teacher Vacancy and Supply Committee (TVSC)

The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Teacher Vacancy and Supply called for the creation of the TVSC as a standing subcommittee of the Professional Standards Board. Following their first meeting in October 2016 and subsequent monthly meetings, TVSC Co-Chairs Deb Ayers-Geist and Dr. Laurie Curtis presented their top priority focus on mentoring, outlining a need for curriculum concepts that are mentee driven with co-created experience and reflection oriented. In addition, they emphasized the need to ensure mentor selection and training occur before the school year begins. Recommendations align with what is already required by statute since 2014. State Board members expressed frustration that no new recommendations were provided.

Update on review of Mathematics Standards

KSDE mathematics Education Program Consultants Melissa Fast and Sara Schaefer reviewed the changes proposed by the Mathematics Standards Writing Subcommittee, stating that most are found in the 9-12 Standards. Next steps involve providing an open document for public feedback. Five regional “town hall” type meetings are currently scheduled in Dodge City, Hays, Pittsburg, Topeka, and Wichita. The 3rd draft will be developed by March 2017 and presented to the SBOE May 2017 with adoption by summer/early fall 2017.

Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) Leaders

CSTO Citizenship Day offered the Board the opportunity to meet the elected student officers of the eight career and technical student organizations. Each organization’s representatives gave a brief presentation to the Board, allowing these officers to gain a better awareness of the roles individuals, such as members of the State Board, have in Kansas education.

New CTSO for Future Educators

The Kansas State Department of Education has added a new Career and Technical Student Organization to the already well-established eight CTSOs existing in the state. Educators Rising provides students with the opportunity to experience teaching as a profession. Cathy Mong, Wichita Teacher Specialist, and Idalia Shuman, Educators Rising State Coordinator and KNEA Director of Teaching and Learning, provided the Board a brief introduction of Kansas’ newest CTSO.

The next Kansas State Board of Education meeting is scheduled for February 14 and 15, 2017.