

## **MINUTES**

### **JOINT MEETING OF 2010 COMMISSION AND LEGISLATIVE EDUCATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

October 9 Afternoon-October 10, 2008  
Room 783-Docking State Office Building

#### **2010 Commission Members Present**

Rochelle Chronister, Chairperson  
Dr. Ray Daniels  
Dennis Jones  
Emile McGill  
Carolyn Campbell  
Steve Iliff-Thursday only  
Barb Hinton  
Lee Urban

#### **Members Absent**

Senator Jean Kurtis Schodorf-Friday only  
Representative Clay Aurand  
Representative Sue Storm-Friday only

#### **LEPC Members Present**

Representative Deena Horst, Chairperson  
Senator Marci Francisco  
Senator Roger Pine  
Representative Owen Donohoe  
Representative Eber Phelps  
Representative Steve Huebert  
Representative JoAnn Pottorff  
Representative Valdenia Winn

#### **Members Absent**

Senator Mark Taddiken  
Senator Jean Kurtis Schodorf-Friday only

Senator John Vratil-Friday only  
Senator Ruth Teichman-Friday only  
Representative Barbara Ballard-Friday only

### **Staff Present**

Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Kristen Kellems, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Dale Dennis, Kansas Department of Education  
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

### **Others Present-Afternoon of 10-9-08**

Barton Goering, USD 230 Spring Hill  
Val DeFever, Schools for Quality Education  
Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools  
Mark Desetti, Kansas National Education Association  
Blake West, Kansas National Education Association

### **Others Present- 10-10-08**

Jackie Combs, Teacher, USD 298, Lincoln School District  
Jill Naasz, Teacher, USD 298, Lincoln School District  
Galane Cavalli, Teacher, USD 298, Lincoln School District  
Gary Nelson, Superintendent, USD 298, Lincoln School District  
Joan Friend, Superintendent, USD 494, Syracuse School District  
Paul Zuzelski, 7-12 Principal, USD 494, Syracuse School District  
Eric Reid, Principal, USD 327, Ellsworth School District  
Julie Wright, Teacher, USD 327, Ellsworth School District  
Mary Anne Donley, Teacher, USD 327, Ellsworth School District  
Judy Beedles-Miller, USD 443, Dodge City School District  
Annette Aldape, USD 443, Dodge City School District  
Donna Roetzer, USD 443, Dodge City School District  
Val DeFever, Schools for Quality Education

### **Thursday, October 9 Afternoon Session**

The joint meeting of the 2010 Commission and Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairperson Chronister.

### **Overview of Virtual Education in Kansas**

Theresa Kiernan, Office of Revisor of Statutes, addressed the Committee members by giving an overview of the background on virtual school issues ([Attachment 1](#)).

## **Changes in Law in 2008**

Kristen Kellems, Office of Revisor of Statutes, gave a summary to Committee members of the Virtual School Act ([Attachment 2](#)).

## **Kansas State Department of Education Guidelines**

Dr. Diane DeBacker, Deputy Commissioner, Kansas State Department of Education, introduced Dr. Bill Hagerman, Director, Title Programs and Services, Kansas State Department of Education, to Committee members.

Dr. Hagerman told Committee members the Virtual Schools Advisory Council held its first meeting on September 16, 2008, and the virtual education requirements for Kansas were reviewed. Dr. Hagerman told Committee members that it was important for members of this Advisory Council to get a broad perspective of what is needed in terms of virtual education. He also stressed that it is important to remember this is the world in which our young people live.

Dr. Hagerman told Committee members that virtual schools use distance learning technologies which predominately use internet-based methods to deliver instruction. It involves instruction that occurs asynchronously or at different times with the teacher and pupil in separate locations. Dr. Hagerman advised virtual schools are serving a variety of students; for example, previously home-schooled students, any child in Kansas who has a need not fulfilled elsewhere in a school, and any learner without a high school diploma.

Dr. Hagerman advised the Advisory Council will be conducting additional meetings and topics of discussion could include: at-risk (non-proficient) education plans, weightings including local option budget (LOB), and marketing ([Attachment 3](#)).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

## **Virtual School Presentations**

Gary Lewis, Head of School, Lawrence Virtual School (LVS), addressed Committee members and stated LVS serves students in kindergarten through twelfth grade using the online curriculum of K12. Enrollment in LVS includes access to online curriculum, associated materials and resources, the loan of a computer, the expertise of Kansas licensed teachers and administration, and school activities, all within their school community.

Mr. Lewis stated enrollment in LVS is open only to residents of the State of Kansas. He stated that all LVS teachers hold a Kansas teaching license, have had extensive teacher professional development, and represent a diverse spectrum of educational backgrounds and experience.

He also stated the online school provides a recommended schedule that will ensure all lessons in each content level are presented in one academic school year's time frame. The online school is flexibly designed to accommodate year-round schooling. Progress data is used by the teachers and parents to evaluate student progress and learning. LVS requires 80 percent mastery

on learning objectives. Progression to the next level requires 100 percent completion in foreign languages, 95 percent completion of math and language arts lessons, and 85 percent completion of the remaining subject area (Attachments 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Brooke Blanck, Director, iQ Academy in Manhattan, Kansas, spoke to Committee members and advised that iQ Academy Kansas is a 7-12 online school. Students can choose from a complete curriculum of core and advanced placement (AP) classes, elective courses in world languages, art and music appreciation, and technology. Middle school students follow a grade-specific curriculum of core and elective courses that prepare them for high school and beyond. High school students in grades 9-12 have a broader range of electives that fit their interests and educational needs. Graduates earn high school diplomas from Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 and are accepted at colleges and technical schools throughout the United States. Manhattan-Ogden USD 383 and iQ Academies agreed to partner beginning the 2007-08 school year. The iQ Academy Kansas is meeting the needs of a diverse student population ranging from at-risk students to high achieving students seeking additional coursework (Attachment 11).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Dr. Barton Goering, Superintendent, Spring Hill USD 230, spoke to Committee members on Insight School of Kansas. He advised Insight School of Kansas (ISKS) began classes on August 25, 2008, and is an online public high school serving students all across Kansas. The school offers over 130 courses to approximately 600 students and is divided into two schools within the school:

- An adult school serving students 20 years and older; and
- A teen school serving students ages 14-9.

Dr. Goering advised that Insight Schools, Inc. operates 11 high schools in ten states and a national school. They are a subsidiary company of the Apollo Group which also owns and operates the University of Phoenix, the largest university in the world. Insight School of Kansas is the second largest high school in the Insight family. He also stated that ISKS is piloting the first online vocational class for high school students in collaboration with the National Construction Center Educational Research (NCCER) and Crossland Construction of Columbus, Kansas (Attachment 12).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

## **Report from a National Task Force on Virtual Education**

Dr. Blake West, President, Kansas National Education Association, spoke to Committee members of quality and issues of virtual education. Dr. West stated a National Task Force on Virtual Education had met and there were two criteria of discussion: Online high school courses and teaching online courses.

Dr. West stated there were two parameters for the work and included the limitations of what could be done for socialization, particularly with younger children. In the first parameter, it was determined through research, that elementary students need to be in a face-to-face environment. The second parameter spoke to the use of an entire high school curriculum. It was determined that while it is appropriate to do some high school work online, it probably would still be appropriate to have some of the programs done in a face-to-face environment.

Dr. West stated there are major areas for attention regarding virtual education which include:

- Learner Characteristics;
- Infrastructure;
- Evaluation and Assessment;
- Curriculum;
- Effective teaching;
- Teacher quality: Licensure, Certification and Accreditation (Attachments 13, 14, 15, and 16).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

Chairperson Chronister advised Committee members that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 10, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 783, Docking State Office Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

### **Friday, October 10 Morning Session**

The joint meeting of the 2010 Commission and Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Horst.

#### **Presentations from the Five Kansas Blue Ribbon Schools**

##### *Syracuse High School, USD 494 Syracuse*

Joan Friend, Superintendent, and Paul Zuzelski, 7-12 Principal, Syracuse High School, in USD 494, spoke to Committee members about their school and stated they are the largest school district in the state in terms of geographic area. Mrs. Friend stated their student high school population is 146 students, 24 percent of students have limited English proficiency, 46 percent are eligible for free/reduced priced meals, and 12 percent of the student body are served by special education services.

Mrs. Friend stated that out of the 32 graduates in 2007, 84 percent attended post-graduation schools and 78 percent were enrolled in four-year college/university or community colleges. She stated the graduation rates at Syracuse High School were well above the state and national averages. She advised the school district has agreements for student concurrent enrollment with Garden City Community College and Seward County Community College so that seniors can have college credits upon graduation.

Mrs. Friend and Mr. Zuzelski told Committee members of the struggles they have hiring highly qualified teachers because of the district's location in southwest Kansas. They stated the district offers teacher housing as a fringe benefit, and they offer good salaries as well as full health coverage for their employees.

Mrs. Friend told Committee members that they had added a migrant summer school to keep students studying English during the summer. Therefore, the district has established a migrant

summer school program which includes reading, math, and field trips. She advised the first year there were 15 students, and last year, there were 27 (Attachment 17).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

*Ellsworth Elementary, USD 327 Ellsworth*

Eric Reid, Principal and Julie Wright and Mary Ann Donnelly, Teachers, Ellsworth Elementary, USD 327, spoke to Committee members of their school and its success. Mr. Reid told Committee members how they are using testing data to instruct students. He stated this allows them to target groupings according to needed skills. The data will tell them where each student is, what steps are needed to challenge upper level students, and determine how to move the student forward (Attachment 18).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

*Beeson Elementary, USD 443 Dodge City*

Annette Aldape, Principal; Donna Roetzer, Teacher, and Judy Beedles-Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, Dodge City Beeson Elementary, USD 443, addressed the Committee members and told of their school and its success. Ms. Aldape told Committee members that 30 years ago, there was a Hispanic population of approximately five percent in Dodge City. Today, the city has an 80 percent Hispanic population.

Committee members were told the district had to develop a solid English as a Second Language (ESL) program and migrant program for the students. They now have an all-day kindergarten program which has been very important, especially for the Hispanic children.

Committee members were told of the struggles the district has to hire and retain teachers. They have developed a “grow your own teacher” program which has been successful. Committee members also were told of the parental involvement which has been very successful (Attachment 19).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

*Lincoln Elementary, USD 298 Lincoln*

Jackie Combs, Principal; Jill Naasz, Teacher; Gelane Cavilli, Teacher; and Gary Nelson, Superintendent, Lincoln Elementary, USD 298, spoke to Committee members of their school and its success. Committee members were told that teachers at Lincoln Elementary are always looking for ways to succeed and to boost reading abilities. They advised the community, for an unknown reason, is receiving a larger transient population and have noted more students are applying for free/reduced lunches. The staff of Lincoln Elementary told Committee members they are constantly restructuring their programs based upon student needs.

Committee members were told of the importance of early intervention and the school now has a district preschool program. They also provide tutoring for kindergartners and for first grade reading. In addition, they have developed a summer school program for kindergartners. For the At-Risk and Special Education programs, the staff has small group instruction and if necessary, one-on-one instruction to address individual needs (Attachment 20).

A question and answer session followed the presentation.

*Blue Valley North High School, USD 229 Blue Valley*

Dr. Carter Burns, Principal; Mark Dalton, Assistant Principal; and Ken Taylor, Teacher Communication Arts, Blue Valley North High School, USD 229, spoke to Committee members of their school and its success. Dr. Carter told Committee members the Blue Valley District strategic plan advocated:

- Unprecedented academic success; and
- Unparalleled student growth.

Dr. Carter stated the school is constantly focusing on a new culture of learning of “whatever it takes,” asking:

- What do we want students to know?
- How will we know when they know it?
- What will we do if they do not get it?
- What will we do if they already know it?

Dr. Carter told Committee members the staff meets once a week for 90 minutes and every time they are looking at curriculum and courses. Dr. Carter also stressed to Committee members the importance of staff and stated “You have to have the right people on the bus if you want to be effective” (Attachment 21).

A question and answer followed the presentation.

Chairperson Horst thanked all participants and congratulated all for their achievements.

The next 2010 Commission meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2008. The next LEPC meeting is scheduled for November 20-21, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Prepared by Janet Henning  
Edited by Sharon Wenger

Approved by LEPC on:

November 20, 2008  
(date)

Approved by 2010 Commission on:

November 6, 2008  
(date)