

Board of Education

Northeast Kansas Education Service Center

Minutes

Date: Jan. 19th, 2005

Location: Oskaloosa USD #341 - Central Office

Time: 7:00 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

At 7:00 p.m., President, Tom Holroyd called the meeting to order. Members present: David Tenpenny, Tom Holroyd, Keith Ostrander, Paul Brown, Carol Meneley, and Todd Gigstad and July Zule (arriving at 7:05 p.m.); Jim Wheeler, Ph.D., Executive Director; Judy Denton, Assistant Director; Susan Aspinwall, Business Manager/Clerk; Linda Kilgore, Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant; David Grove, Superintendent; Sharon Branson, Terri Coughlin and John Larrison, SETA Representatives; and John Willis, JDLA Student.

• Action - Consent Agenda

Ostrander moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Meneley seconded and motion carried 5-0.

1. Approval of Agenda
Under SpEd, add item #4 - Information/Discussion - Legislative Research Inquiry; under RSC, table item #3 - Update on Career Clusters Grant; and add an Executive Session.
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Approval of Bills and Claims

• Communications from Visitors Present

There were no communications from visitors present.

• Communications

1. Treasurer's Report
Susan provided copies of the Treasurer's Report for the month of January. Copies of the Audit Report for FY 03-04 were also provided for members to review and discuss/ask questions next month.

Todd Gigstad and Julie Zule arrived at the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

• Special Education

1. Action - Personnel Update

Judy reviewed the list of contracts, resignations and terminations for approval with one addition, a cleaning contract for Annette Cooper to clean both NEKESC buildings. Tenpenny moved to approve the list of contracts, resignations, terminations and amendments as made. Brown seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Meeting moved to RSC item #1.

2. Information/Discussion - CIM Changes from KSDE

Judy reported that this is the 4th year of our 5-year Continuous Improvement Monitoring program. She explained that as part of our CIM improvement plan, we are in the process of conducting peer file reviews on the indicators that we were needing improvement on. KSDE has made some

changes in the process due to guidance from the federal level. One of these changes is that we will no longer be allowed to have 10% of records with findings. Staff will be required to get that figure down to 0% by March 15, 2005. They will be required to correct any documents that are found to be out of compliance, which will likely entail calling an IEP meeting. We will then provide formal assurance to KSDE that we are in compliance and that corrective actions and been completed or will be completed within 60 school days of the file review.

3. **Information/Discussion - State Assessment Information**

Judy provided the aggregate scores for students with disabilities and giftedness in all seven districts on the State Assessments. Individual district information and a compilation of NEKESC as a whole were distributed. Some improvements were seen in reading and math at some of the grade levels in some of the districts; other areas showed a regression. She explained that due to our small number of students, the scores may be skewed, because one student's performance can make an overall difference when figuring percentages of improvement/regression on test results from year to year. Individual student information was not available and Judy would have to have the district password to access the website for that information. There has been a change in modified assessments and it is important that students needing modified assessments be identified.

4. **Information/Discussion - Legislative Research Inquiry**

Jim received a letter from the Kansas Legislative Research Department requesting information on our service center. He provided copies of the letter in which he responded about our co-op programs and how we serve our seven districts with special education, and the other programs that are offered to as many as 25 districts on a buy-in basis. Not all districts participate in all programs.

• **Regional Service Center**

1. **Information/Discussion - Report on JDLA Greenhouse**

Terri Coughlin, principal of JDLA, introduced herself and reported on the current year's activities noting that 4 students had graduated at the end of the first semester. She then discussed plans for presenting at the national service learning conference, this year to be held in Long Beach California. The group will again rent a house and "cook in" to cut corners on expenses. Terri introduced John Larrison, teacher at JDLA who presented information on the use of the greenhouse at Lecompton. We have had the greenhouse for several years, and John, who has training in horticulture, has finally been able to effectively integrate this into the JDLA curriculum. He and JDLA student, John Willis, provided a demonstration on their work with hydroponics, provided pictures of the plants they raised and explained how they are able to pollinate the plants inside the greenhouse with no wind or insects to help. They use a vibrating tool to accomplish this pollination. They then gave each board member samples of the tomatoes from their greenhouse. Larrison explained about his education in Horticulture Therapy at K-State and what a valuable tool it is in the JDLA curriculum. Using the example of a seed turning into a tomato, he explained how the same concept is used to help students to "learn how to learn". He provided a summary of pre and post-test scores from the horticulture class reflecting very significant improvement in student scores. They are currently working with Rees Fruit Farm to do grafting of fruit trees, one being the Turley Winesap, which is no longer available for purchase. After grafting, some of these trees will be given to Rees, planted at Pheasants Forever (the JDLA outdoor classroom), and returned to the original owner of the Turley Winesap apple tree where they acquired the grafts. Superintendent Grove then stated that Larrison was a teacher who could "get it done" in his work with the students at Valley Falls where he was an interrelated teacher for seven years. He felt John's work with counseling the students was "fantastic" and JDLA was fortunate to have him on staff. Members thanked the JDLA staff and student for their presentation, and Larrison and Willis left the meeting.

2. **Information/Discussion - Alternative Schools**

Jim reported that alternative schools have been in the news in Lawrence for the past month. The alternative school in Lawrence has been phased out and we have received a number of calls from parents/students and news outlets inquiring about the possibility of enrolling at JDLA. Jim has explained to them that JDLA is a "program" within our seven school consortium and not an "alternative school" open for public enrollment.

Meeting returned to SpEd item #2.

3. **Information/Discussion - Update on Career Clusters Grant**

This item was tabled until a later date.

- **Executive Session**

At 7:50 p.m., Meneley moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes until 8:05 p.m. to discuss negotiations and matters of non-elective personnel. Gigstad seconded and motion carried 7-0.

At 8:05 p.m., open session resumed and Meneley moved to offer a supplemental contract to Dr. Wheeler that does not go through K-FAST. Brown seconded and motion carried 7-0.

- **Adjournment**

At 8:10 Meneley moved to adjourn the meeting. Zule seconded and motion carried 7-0.

Tom Holroyd
President

Susan Aspinwall, CPS
Business Manager/Clerk