



KANSAS  
SCHOOL  
SUPERINTENDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION

## Board of Directors Meeting

November 18, 2020

11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Topeka, KS – KASB & Zoom

### *Minutes in Review*

#### Attendance

Mike Argabright, Southern Lyon County USD 252, President  
Wayne Burke, Spring Hill USD 230, AASA Governing Board  
Tavis Desormiers, WaKeeney USD 208, Region 9  
Fred Dierksen, Dodge City USD 443, CoS Chair  
Loren Feldkamp, Tonganoxie USD 464, Region 1  
Mike Folks, Hutchinson USD 308, Region 5  
Cory Gibson, Valley Center USD 262, Region 6  
David Grover, Cheney USD 268, Region 6  
Kenneth Harshberger, Meade USD 226, Region 10  
Justin Henry, Goddard USD 265, AASA Governing Board  
Steve Karlin, Garden City USD 457, Region 10, President-Elect  
Darrel Kohlman, Nemaha Central USD 115, Region 4  
George Leary, Moundridge USD 423, Region 5  
Josh Meyer, St John-Hudson USD 350, Region 8  
Royce Powelson, Jayhawk USD 346, Region 2  
Richard Proffitt, Pittsburg USD 250, Region 3  
Mike Roth, Leavenworth USD 453, Region 1  
Jamie Rumford, Scott City USD 466, Region 9  
Brad Starnes, Mill Creek Valley USD 329, Region 4  
Khris Thexton, Great Bend USD 428, Region 8  
Blake Vargas, Caney Valley USD 436, Region 3  
G.A. Buie, USA-Kansas, Executive Director  
Jerry Henn, USA-Kansas, Assistant Executive Director  
Jim Karleskint, USA-Kansas Legislative Services

#### I. Call to Order

- President Mike Argabright called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

#### II. Consent Agenda

- George Leary moved to approve the consent agenda which included the agenda (with the addition of Mike Folks under agenda item 7), minutes from the September meeting, and

the finance reports from September and October. Seconded by Brad Starnes. Approved unanimously.

### III. President's Report

- President Mike Argabright gave an update on the Area meetings. He appreciates all who attended. There were good discussions. A couple had to be cancelled due to weather.
- Mike talked about the need to connect with elected officials, especially those newly elected. After we pass our priorities, this should be the center of focus when speaking with legislators. Now is the best time to do this. They get busier in January. He discussed the American Education League. We need to support each other. Building people need support and we need to take care of each other the best we can.
- Mike discussed the importance of supporting leaders, and thanked G.A. for sending out an email about superintendent call groups.

### IV. Executive Director's Report

- G.A. Buie gave an update on membership. We were concerned about numbers coming into this year. Last year we had 268 members, and we now have 272. 228 are superintendents and the rest are directors, KASB, and KSDE.
  - 56 superintendents still haven't joined. They are listed on the spreadsheet in your board packet. Please reach out to those in your region.
  - Mike Roth asked how many of those are interim, and whether the cost is the same. Yes, the cost is the same. This is something that should be looked at.
  - Should there be a reduced cost for first-year? A committee was formed to discuss this. Blake Vargas asked, "Is this not figured in to the contract of most superintendents?" Maybe we need to remind them at the Aspiring Superintendent and New Superintendent workshops to ask for that to be added in.
- G.A. discussed upcoming events. Do we need to think about delaying KSSA Day and the Superintendent of the Year awards? We usually do SOY in conjunction with the Advocacy in Action Conference, which is virtual this year. Thoughts on scheduling KSSA day in conjunction with SOY? Steve Karlin mentioned it is nice when it's paired with something else for travel purposes.
  - G.A. also mentioned the Distinguished Service Award. Forms are in your packet. We will probably email out next week for recommendations.

### V. USA-Kansas Update

- G.A. gave an update the Conference. We are currently scheduled for June 2-4. There is some concern that this will overlap with graduations and end of the school year. We need to check into this. We will continue to plan for these dates until we have more information. We are going to do our best to keep this in-person, maybe split into a couple of locations if absolutely necessary.
- G.A. discussed professional development. We weren't able to host a lot this semester. We will push through next semester online if necessary. Leadership groups are going well, meeting once a month. Many retirements are coming after this year, we need strong leaders coming up. We will continue the Building Ranks activities in the spring.
- G.A. discussed proposed By-Law changes. Before G.A. came on, KSSA was allowed 3 members, as well as the executive board for a possible 6 members. It was a verbal

agreement that was never added to the by-laws. It is now officially being added. Another change is with KPA. KAESP, KASSP, and KAMSA previously had their own memberships on the board. Current bylaws max out at 3 board members per association. It is being recommended that at 301 members, association gets additional members. One more per additional 100, with a limit of 6. Cory Gibson mentioned this is basically what is already being done. Justin Henry asked if KSSA is still the only organization requiring joint membership with USA? G.A. says yes, but will recommend KPA do the same.

- G.A. mentioned the Legislative committee has met all expectations and will be discussing the legislative platform shortly.

#### VI. AASA Report

- Justin Henry reported there will be no national conference. The COVID task force is still meeting every once in a while, and the COVID dashboard continues to be updated. They are comparing similar districts nationwide. There are a lot of resources, and it's not too late to sign up. Let G.A. know and he can get you the information to get signed up. It takes about 30 minutes to input initial data, then update every 2 weeks. Mike Argabright encourages participation.

#### VII. KSSA Committee Reports

- Steve Karlin reported on the draft legislative platform. One thing the committee has discussed is putting the document to work more by putting together talking points and using it to prepare for testimony, then sharing it will superintendents state-wide so we are all using the same voice.
  - We removed the vaping bullet because it's not as big of an issue this year.
  - We changed some language in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> bullets of the KPERS section, added clarification. Younger educators are recognizing there are better options than tier 3 in other states.
  - Added a new section, bridging the gap. This is the biggest difference.
    - Broadband access/affordable access
    - Temporarily eliminate KPERS penalty
    - Supporting additional resources to students
    - Flexibility, things related to the pandemic that are unexpected; SPED services, external support and resources, etc
- Jim Karleskint will be working with us as a lobbyist. He is a former superintendent and a former legislator.
  - Jim says it's good to be back. He is looking forward to working with the organization. He encouraged the board to meet with legislators before the start of the session. We need to work with them. With the results of the recent election, we have some challenges ahead of us. Republicans have a super-majority in the House and Senate. There are bills in the works that aren't favorable to public schools and we need to be ready. Superintendents, Board Members, and citizens should all be talking to their legislators.
- Mike Folks, speaking on behalf of Reno County Superintendents, is having issues with using SPARKS allocation. They have been told if they don't have purchased items in their possession by the December cutoff date, they can't use their SPARKS funds. Is

anyone else having this problem? Their county officials are saying the rules are pretty rigid. They have items with PO's submitted, but they are on backorder.

- George Leary was told this was more a federal issue than a state issue. He was told to speak with Senator Moran rather than Laura Kelly.
- Kenneth Harshberger said different counties are handling it differently.
- David Grover moved to approve the Legislative Platform. Seconded by Jamie Rumford. Approved unanimously.

VIII. Council of Superintendents

- Council of Superintendents today at 2:00. There is a good agenda lined up. Please attend, online only. Thanks to Fred Dierksen for hosting next month.

IX. Clean air presentation by Synexis

X. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Next Meetings

Feb 10, 2021 & April 14, 2021