

My notes from the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBOE) meeting on 9/13:

Kansas Dept. of Education (KSDOE) Commissioner Diane DeBacker reported that Kansas has a great chance to be the lead state for Next Generation Science Standards program funded by the Carnegie Foundation. Kansas may use these as a basis for our own science standards; public drafts will be available by the start of 2013. She also stated that KSDOE was chosen as the lead agency for the state to apply for a federal Early Learning Challenge Fund grant. Up to \$50 million is available, this must be approved by the Governor's office, and public comment opportunities will be available (check KSDOE website).

Dr. Don Wells, chairman of the Kansas School Superintendents' Association, reported that the organization will maintain a much closer relationship with the KSBOE this next year.

An update was given on the New Teacher Center and Leadership Mentoring Contract program. Sally Cauble, board member, emphasized that a mentor is NOT an administrator. Walt Chappell, board member, wanted to know how this center was different than other programs already present in schools, particularly in light of the \$32K price tag. He also asked to clarify what it means to be an effective teacher if this is the goal of the center. A motion to fund the Center for another year was passed unanimously.

Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner KSDOE, updated the board on legislative issues. Most pressing is the Redistricting process, which happens every 10 years following the census. Board of Education seats are comprised of 4 Senate districts. Mr. Dennis urged the board to provide input to the appointed legislative Redistricting committees. He also reported that Kan-Ed funding was being discussed (see link below).

After lunch, we heard a presentation on Physical Education/Physical Activity in Kansas schools. This included information about K-FIT, Let's Move, Healthy Kansas Schools, Eat Smart Play Hard, NASPE, and the 2010 Federal Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act.

At this point I had to leave to attend the Governor's Council on Economic Development meeting.