



Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 9, 2016 (9:00 am – 1:00 pm)
KASB Building

Minutes in Review

Attendance:

Donna Zerr, Augusta USD 402 – President
Pete Bastian, Valley Center USD 262 – President-Elect
Mike Berblinger, Buhler USD 313 - KSSA
Cory Gibson, Valley Center USD 262 - KSSA
Ryan Jilka, Goddard USD 265 - KAMSA
Kristin Magette, Eudora USD 491 - KanSPRA
Bert Moore, West Elk USD 282 - KASEA
Suzan Patton, Pratt USD 382 - KSSA
Dennis Peerenboom, Seaman USD 345 - KASPA
Joe Ryan, Smoky Hill Ed Service Center - KCCTEA
Donna Schmidt, Seaman USD 345 - KASSP
Glen Suppes, Smoky Valley USD 400 - KSSA
Jeff White, Osawatomie USD 367 - KAESP
G.A. Buie, USA|Kansas

Guest: Corbin Witt

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Zerr at 9:03 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- President Donna Zerr welcomed the new Board, and stated she is confident this will be a good year. The group made introductions.

2. Consent Agenda

- Joe Ryan moved the consent agenda (which included minutes from the April meeting, financials from May, June, and July, and to change mileage reimbursement from \$.56/mile to \$.54/mile) be approved. Seconded by Donna Schmidt. Approved unanimously.

3. 2016 Budget Report

- G.A. Buie reported the association is in much better shape at the end of this fiscal year than the 2014 fiscal year. Last year we couldn't afford to pay the Hyatt and had to get on a payment plan and cash in a CD. This year the Hyatt is paid and we still have \$62,000

in the bank. The plan is to leave that money in the bank, and we hope to put more in a CD after the 2016 fiscal year.

- G.A. Buie shared we retained our 3 Corporate Sponsors from last year, and added DLR Group and Discovery Education. We have already met budget for Corporate Sponsors for this fiscal year.
- G.A. reviewed the budget for the 2016 Fiscal Year. He explained specific lines of the budget, such as the Dues Income line, which he reduced by \$3,000 due to the PLN membership, which was added as a new line. Twenty-Six districts have already joined as PLN members. He increased the budget for corporate sponsorships, and explained this year we will also be charging member associations for credit card fees they incur. On the expense side he explained the office insurance was paid on the previous fiscal year last year, but needs to be budgeted for this year. He explained the Professional Services Workshop Costs are a new expense this year, and talked about Convention being an event in June that gets paid for the next fiscal year in July. He also discussed a new budget line for the salary and health insurance for a new Executive Assistant. Mike Berblinger questioned the difference between the KASSP and KAESP lines in the budget, and explained KASSP writes their own check for their Executive Director's Salary, but USA-Kansas writes that check for KAESP and gets reimbursed. We have also opened a new bank account in Topeka for KASSP and closed the account in Halstead. Glen Suppes questioned whether we were still paying off our lease from the Kansas Ave. office, which G.A. explained was paid before the move to the KASB Building.
- Suzan Patton moved the 2016 Budget be approved. Seconded by Glen Suppes. Approved unanimously.

4. President's Report

- The Board had planned to present Past President Steve Splichal with a plaque, but he was not in attendance.

5. Executive Director's Report

- G.A. Buie reported membership is still coming in, and we won't have a good picture of membership until the October meeting. History indicates a large percentage of memberships tend to come in after September School Board Meetings.
- He reported that 26 school districts have currently joined the Professional Learning Network and we still expecting a few more later this month. The Principal Support Workshops began this week in Garden City and Salina went well and were well attended. We have a number of workshops coming up in October, but we would like feedback on what kinds of workshops our members and member associations would like to see in the future.
- He reported that there will be some changes in the office staff. Our current Executive Assistant will become the Communications and Events Coordinator, and we are looking to hire a new Executive Assistant, which should make it possible to bring financial duties back into the USA-Kansas office, as we currently pay KASB to handle some of our financial tasks.

6. 2016 Conference Update

- G.A. reported the 2016 Conference was a success and received positive feedback from participants. We will be moving the 2017 Conference to May 31-June 2 in an effort to separate the conference from Riverfest activities. Issues related to parking, accessibility, and hotel space have prompted the date change. He reported USA-Kansas still has a 3-year contract with Wichita, and has had conversations with the Overland Park Convention Center for possible future conferences. There is some concern that when the conference is in Wichita surrounding school districts have a good showing, and we would need some assurance that the same would be true if it is held in the Kansas City area that surrounding districts would register. Registration numbers were up from previous years, some of which is likely due to team pricing and reaching out to our member associations for feedback on learning cluster topics they would find beneficial. We currently have a closing speaker, Rick Wormeli, lined up for the 2017 Conference, and are working to finalize Justin Jones as an opening speaker. Donna Schmidt suggested reaching out to Coca Cola to sponsor the event in an effort to curb cost, but G.A. explained the Hyatt does not allow us to bring in our own beverages.
- Future Dates: 2017 – May 31-June 2
2018 – May 30-June 1
2019 – May 29-May 31

7. School Funding Framework

- The Board discussed the Funding Framework meeting which was held on August 31. G.A. Buie stated the meeting was a great chance to get school board members involved, and there was more feedback given at this meeting than at the April School Finance Meeting. He explained all ideas should be kept on the table because after November elections the state may have a new legislature that is willing to look at things the previous group was not. There was some discussion on what administrators should be doing in their communities, and what kinds of questions they should be asking. Kristin Magette suggested framing questions around what is important to parents and teachers, and make it personal rather than using technical terms which may be boring or not well understood. The Board discussed the Guiding Principles established by the School Finance Committee:
 - Every public school student in Kansas will have an equal opportunity to be college and career ready, as defined by the Rose Standards;
 - Some students will require greater supports to meet standards;
 - Funding to districts must be directly related to what it costs to educate each individual student;
 - Any formula must meet constitutional standards for equity and adequacy;
 - The formula should recognize local control and provide funding of educational services;
 - The Legislature and school districts need budgeting predictability.
- Bert Moore moved to endorse the Guiding Principles put forth by the School Finance Committee. Dennis Peerenboom seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

8. Committee Work – Planning for the year

- The Board broke into their designated committees, held discussion, then reported out.

- Legislative Advocacy – USA-Kansas Advocacy Position 7 16-17 Position Statements
 - Support Guiding Principles as well as access to federal revenue streams and Kansans Can vision
 - Support retirees working after retirement, and the most qualified person should get the job regardless of retirement status
 - Separation of power
- Budget & Finance – Review finances and budget development for 2017
 - No committee members present
- Membership Committee – PLN & Individual Membership – Planning & Marketing
 - Emeritus Membership- Possibly increase to \$35, then \$50 in the future
 - Tangible Services – Some people may not know what the different memberships offer, and it could be helpful to create a cheat sheet of different benefits for each association; capitalize on the expertise of member associations and utilize the resources in the room
- Conference & Professional Development – Review Convention Survey – Planning for 2017 Conference
 - While it is beneficial to direct registrants to which sessions might benefit them, it was seen in some cases to be inhibitive. Some attendees saw that it was a session for a different group and didn't feel they belonged. We need to emphasize all sessions are open to all attendees.
 - It is also important to emphasize more than just principals and superintendents benefit from this conference. There is something for everyone.

9. Lunch

10. Upcoming Elections

- G.A. Buie explained USA-Kansas will work with whichever legislators are elected so it may not be wise to burn too many bridges before the elections. Cory Gibson explained there is a fine line, and we need to keep the door open enough to still be invited to the table. It may be wiser to let other organizations make the endorsements, and point people in the direction of those endorsements. He asked for feedback on how the Board should proceed. The board felt without proper vetting of candidates it would not be appropriate to endorse candidates, instead present our positions and point individuals in the direction of endorsements made by other groups such as KNEA and Game on Kansas.
- USA-Kansas received an invitation for sponsorship from Kansas for Fair Courts. The Board discussed whether a donation to this group would be appropriate. It was decided appropriate to support the process but not endorse individuals. Cory Gibson moved to sponsor Kansas for Fair Courts at the Bronze Level - \$500. Seconded by Kristin Magette. Approved unanimously.

11. New Business

- G.A. asked the Board if they would like to continue making an annual KTOY donation. It is already budgeted and is current practice. The Board agreed to continue that donation this fiscal year.
- G.A. talked to the Board about a donation request USA-Kansas received from the Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees. There was no suggested amount, and USA-Kansas has no history of offering monetary support to this group. Suzan Patton believed it would be

appropriate to offer moral support to KCPR, a champion for KPERS, in the form of a modest donation, as KPERS are important to all public school employees. Dennis Peerenboom moved to make a \$250 donation to KCPR. Seconded by Jeff White. Approved unanimously.

12. Adjournment

- Bert Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Glen Suppes. Approved unanimously. The Meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.