



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Friday, January 27, 2017 (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  
Destry Brown, Pittsburg USD 250 - KSSA - Conference Call  
Cory Gibson, Valley Center USD 262 - KSSA  
Ryan Jilka, Goddard USD 265 - KAMSA  
Kristin Magette, Eudora USD 491 - KanSPRA  
Christie Meyer, Goddard USD 265 - KASCD  
Bert Moore, West Elk USD 282 - KASEA  
Suzan Patton, Pratt USD 382 - KSSA - Conference Call  
Dennis Peerenboom, Seaman USD 345 - KASPA  
Steve Splichal, Eudora USD 491 - Past President  
Glen Suppes, Smoky Valley USD 400 - KSSA  
Jeff White, Osawatomie USD 367 - KAESP  
G.A. Buie, USA-Kansas

Guest: Bret Church & Mark Tallman

The meeting was called to order by President Donna Zerr at 9:05 a.m.

1. Welcome

- President Donna Zerr welcomed the board and thanked those who attended. Board members went around the room and introduced themselves.

2. Consent Agenda

- Cory Gibson moved the consent agenda, which included minutes from the October meeting and financials from October, November, and December, be approved. Seconded by Glen Suppes. Approved unanimously.

3. President's Report

- President Donna Zerr discussed the President's Reception at the upcoming USA-Kansas Conference. It has been decided the reception will be moved up to 4:30, rather than 6:00 as it had been in the past to close up the large gap in time that occurred between the

Learning Clusters and the reception. This reception will recognize USA-Kansas award recipients, as well as award recipients from our member associations. Let Jessi know if your association gave out any awards throughout the year they should be recognized at this time.

#### 4. Executive Director's Report

- Professional Development Workshops – G.A. Buie handed out a flyer on remaining workshops, and reported they have gone well, with great attendance, and we are now working on identifying what topics should be for next year. They have been very productive financially. He discussed the possibility of expanding to different locations across the state, possibly further west. Pete Bastian said it has been helpful that their Superintendent, Cory Gibson, has sent out reminders to their district because they are PLN members and can attend workshops for free. Ryan Jilka and Christie Meyer offered up Goddard as a possible location for drive-ins.
  - Workshop topics to keep – Pete Bastian said leadership/aspiring workshops always a hit. G.A. mentioned Special Education and the School Leader had a huge attendance (almost too big), but needed beginner/advanced sessions.
- Professional Learning Network Membership & Planning Ahead – G.A. reported 35 school districts joined the PLN this year, and from that group 189 out of 322 possible administrators joined for the discounted fee of \$100. Districts of all sizes have joined the PLN. President Donna Zerr asked members to continue promoting the PLN. It was suggested to send a renewal bill to all current PLN districts for next year. G.A. asked if the Board felt that was too forward, but the Board members thought it was appropriate.
- 2017-2018 Workshop Dates – G.A. reported he is still working on dates for next year. Kristin Magette and G.A. discussed a possible partnership with Voss and Associates for online professional development opportunities centered around communication. Voss and Associates provides an online course program developed by David Voss and NSPRA. Kristin explained 87% of school districts across the country don't have a dedicated communications specialist. The courses are geared towards those not trained in communications, and they are extremely interactive. They can be completed all at once or at your own pace. G.A. asked the Board if they would be interested in buying into this program, and offering it at a discounted rate to members. Bert Moore said it is a great idea. Rural districts need all the help they can get, and new superintendents would benefit as well. This could be an additional marketable benefit to membership. G.A. suggested possibly offering at a greater discount to PLN members as an incentive. There are currently 3 courses in the program, but more will be added by next year.
- 2017-2018 Budget Prep Work – G.A. reported the association is doing well financially. The budgeted income did not anticipate for as many PLN members, so normal membership will be lower than projected, but the difference and then some will be made up in the PLN income. G.A. will be meeting with Brian Jordan with KASB next week to work on Regional Meetings. These brought in about \$6000 that has not yet been realized. We have brought in more corporate sponsorships this year than budgeted, so that will need to be bumped up in next year's budget. Next year the office will need a new phone system, which will need to be budgeted for. The copier change this year was within the budget. We will maintain current staffing levels next year, but in 2 years might look at expanding.

- USA Conference – G.A. discussed convention, and how hectic learning cluster day can be for the presenters, as they are generally on their own, and tend to run over on time. He asked if the Board Members would be willing to act as liaisons, meeting the speakers at the door, introducing them, and getting the presentation kicked off, as well as keeping them on time and helping clean up if necessary. Dennis Peerenboom mentioned this was the expectation of Board Members at the national conference. Kristin Magette explained this would be extremely valuable to the presenters as well. Bret Church suggested getting the projectors sponsored, as they could save on transition time. In the past, speakers have been expected to bring their own, so set-up and tear down time took longer. The Board agreed to take on that responsibility. G.A. said once the learning cluster schedule is finalized he will post a sign-up sheet, so Board Members could be sure to sign up for learning clusters they actually want to attend.

#### 5. School Funding Framework Update

- Mark Tallman with KASB gave a legislative report. He discussed the state's financial situation, which includes a \$350 million deficit, which could increase if revenues lag. The Governor has proposed a complex solution involving internal borrowing from state idle funds and repaying over the next 7 years, a freeze to KPERS funding at last year's level for at least the next 3 years, which would provide a projected \$100 million cushion. The only viable solution is to cut spending, and could come as a 7% cut across the board, making a \$219 million cut to education. The issue is how much could be absorbed by school district reserves. This would affect districts differently across the state, and does not account for earmarked spending between not and the end of the fiscal year. The Governor has also proposed \$300 million in tax increases not including LLC's. There are also bills involving a health insurance pool and joint purchasing coming up next week. With these options the savings would go to the state, not the districts. The Board discussed the implications of widespread budget cuts to education, and the importance of communicating with legislators what your district looks like and if those idle funds are present, what they are earmarked for. Mark Tallman also discussed upcoming bills including a school bus seatbelt bill, bathroom bill, and teacher due process bill. Cory Gibson asked about KASB's stance on due process. Mark explained they did not support the old law, believed it went too far and should still be subject to board review, but they aren't advocates of eliminating due process and hope to find some common ground.

#### 6. Committee Work

- Legislative Advocacy – KPERS Policy
- Budget & Policy – Review budget development and review policy for USA-Kansas Legal Services
  - Take a look at legal services policy, look over handout on potential new policy which includes progressive reimbursement plan.
- Membership Committee – Individual Membership – Marketing, Fee Structure, Services
  - Take a look at the fee rate, should it be capped for those with high incomes? Would this increase membership?
- Conference & Professional Development – Continue planning for 2017 Conference
  - Workshops next year – are we missing skills that we could provide a workshop for? Look at the Conference – do we need to reach out for proposals? Do we comp the registration fee for presenters we seek out? Different rates?

- The Board broke out into committees and resumed discussion at 11:26.

## 7. Committee Reports and Recommendations

- Professional Development
  - Pete Bastian reported the committee wants to keep current topics and add virtual learning opportunities, social/emotional support/mental health, assistant principal support, who are the stakeholders and how to engage them, SPED, section 504, grant writing, possible support from higher education; then we can look at this year's convention, and if a learning cluster was a hit we can possibly pursue it as a workshop.
- Budget & Policy
  - Legal Assistance Program – The committee thought the proposed graduated scale went up too quickly, and should be increased every 2 years rather than annually, keeping the 90-day minimum. This issue must take place in the current year.
  - Membership Pricing – The committee decided not to cap fees because there aren't many in the upper range to begin with, and higher paid superintendents often get their memberships paid by the district.
- Convention
  - Bret Church reported the committee discussed the learning cluster brainstorm topic list from the last meeting. The deadline for proposals is February 20, and once proposals are in they can be cross-referenced with that list, and we can reach out to others to fill in the gaps. All board members will host 2 learning clusters, introducing the presenter and reading a quick bio, possibly giving each presenter a gift card as a token of appreciation. Glen Suppes brought up the “conversation rooms” that were discussed at the last meeting. President Donna Zerr asked if it would be necessary to have someone at each table leading the discussion. IT was decided no, it could be more of an open room for conversation.

## 8. New Business

- Dennis Peerenboom reported Seaman USD 345 will be joining a few other districts in a virtual teacher career fair, the first of its kind in Kansas, taking place February 15.
- G.A. Buie asked Board members to share their thoughts on operating as a “working” Board. Jeff White feels it's a good way to generate conversation on issues, and a lot gets done in a shorter amount of time. President Donna Zerr feels that meetings have been productive, and encouraged members to attend the March 31 meeting.
- G.A. Buie reported current membership has exceeded numbers from the last 6 years. President Donna Zerr thanks G.A. and the excellent communication for this.

## 9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

## 10. Lunch provided by Discovery Education

The next USA-Kansas Board Meeting will be held March 31, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.