

## **Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report**

*Notes from October 23, 2018 meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Peter Herschend rejoined the board, following his re-appointment by Governor Parsons. Board president Charlie Shields joked, "It is likely no one else in Missouri history has taken this oath of office more than Peter Herschend." He has served on the board for more than twenty-four years.

Missouri NEA member Shelly Parks, a high school English teacher in the Francis Howell School District, was honored as the 2019 Missouri Teacher of the Year. Finalists present were also recognized, including the president of Montgomery NEA, Julie Ellis.

### **Board received annual report on educator evaluation in Missouri**

Continuous improvement is the goal of educator evaluation. Each year school districts report aggregate results of teacher and principal evaluations to DESE. Districts report the number of performance levels in the evaluation system used by the district and the number of staff rated at each level. All districts use a system in which every teacher is not expected to reach the highest performance level as elements of leadership that do not apply to all teachers are assessed. Among districts that use a system with four performance levels, 30% of teachers and 30% of principals were judged to reach the highest performance level. Among districts that use seven performance levels, 50% of principals and a third of teachers were judged to reach the top two levels. Roughly 10.3% of Missouri's 68,000 teachers were judged to reach the highest performance level available in their district.

### **Board holds lengthy discussion on 2018 MAP performance level determinations**

Students took new Missouri Assessment Program tests in 2018. As a result, new cut scores must be set to determine below basic, basic, proficient and advanced student performance levels. These results are used to meet requirements of both Missouri School Improvement Program and the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. In the first step of a multi-step process, groups of ten teachers selected by DESE for each assessment met in July to recommend cut scores. Ultimately, the recommendations of these teachers were changed for just four tests- two required and two optional tests.

Changes to cut scores for required tests:

- In seventh grade English language arts, the cut score to distinguish basic from below basic was lowered to keep vertical alignment with other grades. As a result, the percent of students below basic went from 23% to 15%, and more students were rated basic.
- For the English II end-of-course high school test, the cut score between basic and proficient was raised by one standard deviation, resulting in the percent of students rated at proficient or advanced moving from 68% to 57%.

Changes to cut scores for optional end-of-course tests in high school:

- The cut score between basic and proficient for English I was raised by one standard deviation, resulting in the percent of students rated at proficient or advanced moving from 70% to 59%.
- The cut score between proficient and advanced in Algebra II (required for students who take Algebra I in eighth grade) was raised by one standard deviation, resulting in the percent of students rated advanced dropping from 28% to 18%.

The board held a lengthy discussion about the validity, purpose, and use of cut scores. DESE will not publish a side-by-side comparison of 2018 student proficiency rates with 2017 student proficiency

rates because the new assessments make such comparisons meaningless. MSIP uses three-year averages when they compute Annual Performance Reports. In the end, the board did not vote on the matter because DESE staff informed them that their approval of the cut scores was not necessary. Board president Charlie Shields stated that the board wants to explore issues raised in the discussion as MSIP is revised.

### **Board approves the charter school application for Kairos Academies**

Kairos Academies anticipates opening in south St. Louis, in an area known as Dutch Town, for the 2019-2020 school year. The Missouri Charter School Commission sponsors the school. The school will open with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade serving 115 students. The charter school plans to add a grade every year, to eventually serve 700 students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Kairos Academies focuses on personalized learning in a collaborative environment where each student proceeds at their own pace. School leaders described the approach as “Montessori with tech”. The school is a year-round program with student attendance on a cycle of five weeks in school followed by two weeks out. Total attendance days match the traditional school calendar. School leaders are working within the community to find free day care for the two-week period students are out of school. Teachers will work six weeks followed by a one-week break.

### **In other business, the board:**

- Approved publishing for comment revisions to Rule 5 CSR 30-261.010; requirements for the operation of school busses. This change requires a physical exam for bus drivers every two years, rather than every year, and clearly states that new bus drivers cannot operate a school bus until such an exam is on file.
- Approved publishing for comment revised standards for charter school sponsorship. The Missouri Charter School Commission provided financial support for this update.
- Approved publishing for comment revisions to Rule 5 CSR 20-600.110, relating to the Early Childhood Development Act. This rule sets forth the general provisions governing early childhood screening, parent education, and programs for developmentally delayed children.
- Met in executive session on Mon., Oct. 22 to review applications for commissioner of education. Four applicants were selected to be interviewed by the board in closed session on Nov. 19.
- Received a report on the Missouri Leadership Development System, developed with the goal of increasing skills and retention of principals. Last year, over 1,000 of Missouri’s 3,500 principals participated.
- Heard the annual report on financially stressed districts. De LaSalle Charter School in Kansas City is the only district identified as a financially stressed this year. It was reported that De LaSalle is the only alternative high school in the Kansas City school district.
- Congratulated board member Vic Lenz on being re-elected as central area director of the National Association of State Boards of Education.

The next public meeting of the State Board of Education will be held on December 6-7, 2018. Missouri NEA will be there! If you have any questions, contact Brent Fullington or Ann Jarrett at 800-392-0236. Details of state board agenda items can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/state-board-education/agendas-minutes>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent Fullington, Vice President, MNEA  
Ann Jarrett, Teaching and Learning Director, MNEA

[Brent.Fullington@mnea.org](mailto:Brent.Fullington@mnea.org)

[Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org](mailto:Ann.Jarrett@mnea.org)