

# DORSEY...

FROM PAGE 4

of the Kansans CAN vision with the hook that “Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.” Believe it or not, he can say that with a straight face.

Watson’s bio summarizes the pillars of Kansans CAN.

Among the forward-thinking initiatives are balancing the emphasis between academic test scores and the characteristics Kansans identified as ensuring student success. Dr. Watson was instrumental in introducing statewide outcomes for social-emotional growth, kindergarten readiness, individual plans of study, graduation attainment and postsecondary success.

Balancing? Watson’s concept of balancing is reminiscent of the movie Monty Python and the Holy Grail, in which a ‘balance’ is used to prove that a witch weighs the same as a duck. Both are preposterous.

His other ‘accomplishments’?

A change in the way schools receive accreditation. The new acronym is KESA (Kansas Educational Systems Accreditation). KESA transformed school accreditation from the building level to the district level. The purpose of KESA is twofold: (1) to hide poor-performing individual schools by accrediting the entire district, and (2) to make sure every district gets accredited.

The hokey Kansans CAN school redesign project was a Watson vision that allowed schools to ‘innovate’ how they operate, analogous to the 1960s race to the moon. He picked seven schools to initiate the project and named them after one of the original seven Mercury astronauts. The truth

is, the “innovations” were nothing the schools could not already have done without this sophomoric designation. This was nothing more than a way to promote Kansans CAN and provide a distraction from failing student outcomes.

Watson’s latest, and current diversion in the face of the perpetually low state assessment scores, is to change the way state assessment results are defined. Initially, Watson wanted to do away with 10th graders taking the test, using logic unique to himself. Since that isn’t going to fly, his focus is now on the words to describe student performance. An excellent summary of this tactic is described by Dave Trabert.

The commissioner likes to employ sports analogies to make or supplement his points. Well, in the world of sports, what happens when a team annually suffers from poor performance? There is a change in those who coach or manage. Put succinctly, if Watson were a head coach or general manager of a sports franchise, he would have long been fired. But this is not about a sports team. This is much more important than that. It’s about the education of Kansas children.

How does Watson continue in that position? That’s on the members of the state board of education. If you don’t bother to watch state board meetings, and who could blame you, it is clear that the board is nothing more than a rubber stamp for the commissioner. And I thought the commissioner works for the board. How naïve of me.

Yes, the board has legal obligations that do not include student achievement. But when-

ever that issue is on the table, instead of taking action toward improving student outcomes, they complain about those who criticize low achievement scores.

Some might consider this Einstein’s definition of insanity: Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Not in this case, the state board does the same thing over and over while not caring if the results change. That’s not insanity, it’s indifference. The state board acts like feckless parents who allow their spoiled child to behave boorishly. Indifference is not acceptable.

Other states with similar achievement woes have taken the initiative to expand school choice, enact an A-F grading system, or implement other student-focused reforms. Unfortunately, Kansas is not among them.

Commissioner Watson is the symptom par excellence of a system that favors adults over students. His (lack of) leadership should be taken seriously by a democratically accountable KSBOE and legislature that must start demanding action on behalf of our students. It’s very hard to see how our elected representatives can enact the changes needed as long as Randy Watson is the education commissioner. Demanding achievement-based action from Commissioner Watson and KSDE as a whole, or finding someone who will, should be the first and only item on the KSBOE agenda.

– David Dorsey is a former classroom teacher and a Senior Education Policy Fellow with the Kansas Policy Institute.

# Public Notice

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## Notice of hearing - Daulton Estate

First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, May 22, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of BETTY JOY DAULTON, Deceased.  
Case #AN-2024-PR-000022

### NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed in this court by Lewis Ray Needham, as executor of the estate above-captioned, praying that his acts be approved and the sole heir’s waiver of account be approved; the decedent’s heirs be determined; the costs be paid; the estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto in accordance with decedent’s last will and testament; and that the administration of the estate closed and petitioner be finally discharged and released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 18th day of June, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the District Court, Garnett,

Anderson County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

LEWIS RAY NEEDHAM  
Executor

Terry J. Solander #7280  
503 S. Oak St. – P.O. Box 348  
Garnett, KS 66032-0348  
785-448-6131; FAX: 785-448-2475  
solander@embarqmail.com  
Attorney for Executor

## Notice of suit - GSSB vs Kelley

First published in The Anderson County Review, Thursday, May 22, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF ANDERSON COUNTY, KANSAS.

GOPPERT STATE SERVICE BANK Plaintiff,  
vs.  
DENNIS R. KELLEY, also known as DENNIS KELLEY, Defendant.

Case No. AN-2025-CV-000012

TITLE TO REAL ESTATE INVOLVED

### NOTICE OF SUIT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO DENNIS R.

KELLEY, and all other persons who are or may be concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Anderson County, Kansas for foreclosure on the Plaintiff’s security interest in the following personal property:

*All Livestock, Machinery, and Equipment now owned or hereafter acquired by Dennis Kelley.*

If the judgment is not paid forthwith the security interest of the Plaintiff will be foreclosed and the collateral sold as provided by law and the proceeds arising therefrom be applied to the judgment and costs, and for such other and further relief as set forth in Plaintiff’s petition. You are hereby required to plead to the Petition on or before July 2, 2025, in the District Court of Anderson County, Kansas, sitting at Garnett, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and

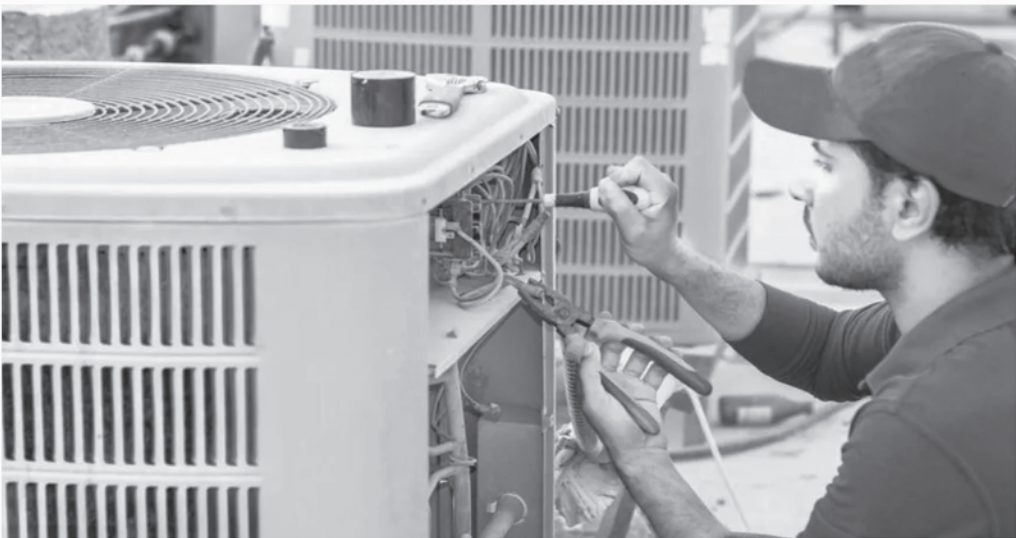
decree will be entered in due course upon the petition as filed by the Plaintiff.

Goppert State Service Bank  
106 East 5th Avenue  
PO Box 329  
Garnett, Kansas 66032  
Plaintiff.

Prepared by:  
Timothy L. Fielder- #08649  
Attorney at Law  
112 South Ozark- PO Box 99  
Girard, KS 66743  
(620) 724-4214  
(620) 724-8679 FAX  
Attorney for Plaintiff.

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