



The **Kansas Learning First Alliance** met on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at the KNEA building in Topeka. Chair Laurie Curtis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. for attendee introductions.

**Leah Fliter** of KASB briefed the group on national and state preparations for Public Schools Week 2020, which is Feb. 24-28. She stated KLFA is among the statewide organizations participating in observances at the Kansas State Capitol on Feb. 26. Activities will include the display of a

proclamation by Governor Laura Kelly; House and Senate proclamations honoring Public Schools Week, and displays and demonstrations by KLFA members including KASB, KNEA, the Kansas State Department of Education, and other public education advocates. The group discussed how the attending organizations can utilize the online toolkit found at [this link](#) to support local Public Schools Week activities in their communities. Activities can include school tours for patrons and community leaders, letters to the editor, news releases to local media outlets, and contacts with local legislators. All member organizations and encouraged to fully utilize the free resources found at the link above to advocate for Kansas schools. **If your organization would like to be involved at the February 26<sup>th</sup> event in Topeka contact Leah Fliter at [lfliter@kasb.org](mailto:lfliter@kasb.org).**

**Carol Strickland** of the **National Teachers Hall of Fame** in Emporia gave [a presentation](#) on the Hall's Memorial to Fallen Educators, located on a plaza near the National Teacher Hall of Fame. Strickland described how the organization fund-raised and did research to collect the names of educators (teachers, administrators, bus drivers, aides and others) who have given their lives in service of education. You can read more about the Memorial here: <https://nthfmemorial>. All were encouraged to visit the memorial and museum.

**Patty Jurich** of [Kansas PTA](#) provided information regarding the history of PTA and shared the free resources for school/family collaboration available through their organization. **Cort Buffington** of [KanREN](#) gave a presentation related to the challenge of providing technology infrastructure for teaching and learning across the state and collaborative efforts striving to overcome those challenges.

**Leah Fliter** of KASB and **Mark Desetti** of KNEA gave a legislative update.

**Dayna Richardson** of Learning Forward Kansas facilitated a panel discussion on Teacher Leadership featuring educators from the **Oskaloosa (#341), Topeka (#501), and Inman (USD#448)** school districts as well as other teacher leaders who shared via video-clips. Administrators and teachers discussed how teacher leadership empowers them to do their work and discussed how teacher leadership can look different depending on variables such as district size, location, faculty, staff and community support. The discussion included video clips from KLFA's Inspired to Learn video series, which can be found here: <https://learningforwardkansas.org/inspired-to-learn-video-series-kansas-stories/>.

The next meeting of the **Kansas Learning First Alliance** will be **Thursday, April 9, 2020** at the KNEA building (715 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Topeka, KS).