

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 11, 2007**

**1ST FLOOR, CAPITAL PLAZA TOWER
STATE BOARD ROOM
FRANKFORT, KY**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held a regular meeting on July 11, 2007, in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. The Board conducted the following business:

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Keith Travis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. local time and asked that all cell phones be turned off or muted. He then asked for the roll to be called.

ROLL CALL

Present for the meeting were C.B. Akins, Kaye Baird, Joe Brothers, Jeanne Ferguson, Bonnie Lash Freeman, Judy Gibbons, Doug Hubbard, David Rhodes, Keith Travis and Janna Vice. Absent were Tom Layzell and David Webb.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY INTERIM COMMISSIONER NOLAND AND COMMISSIONER BARBARA ERWIN

Interim Commissioner Noland began by introducing new Kentucky Department of Education staff as follows:

- Elaine Farris - new Deputy Commissioner of Learning and Results Services
- Dr. Larry Stinson - new Associate Commissioner of the Office of District Support Services
- Jamie Spugnardi - new Associate Commissioner of the Office of Teaching and Learning

He then went on to say that the purpose of today's meeting is to have a discussion on priorities, both short and long-term. Noland also noted that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) sends a message to the legislature on its budget priorities and commented that the discussion on these would begin today. He pointed out that the deadline for the Board's decision on budget priorities would be the October meeting. Noland explained that the budget discussion in August would provide general direction and then decisions would be finalized in October. He indicated that in previous discussions, the Board had articulated such priorities as getting to proficiency, low-

performing schools, capacity building, improving middle and high schools, enhancing the learning environment, increasing leadership, and efficiency of schools. Noland said that staff will be coming forward with discussion points and recommendations in these areas for consideration because there must be a lot of tools in the toolbox from which schools can choose. He emphasized that one size does not fit all and therefore options must exist. He stated that Deputy Commissioner Linda France would be coming forward after Dr. Erwin speaks to take this discussion forward.

Dr. Barbara Erwin then commented that it was wonderful to be in Kentucky and for the first time to be at the Kentucky Department of Education. She stated that since her appointment, she had been given the opportunity to visit and speak with a lot of folks in the state and was very impressed with the commitment to this place called school. Erwin clarified that in Kentucky the question is how to make proficiency a reality for all students. She emphasized that it is her belief that the state will be the first to reach proficiency for all students. Erwin commented that it will be her job to support and enable this to happen. She repeated that one size does not fit all schools as far as getting them to proficiency because of the diversity within the state as well as nationally. Erwin closed by saying she looked forward to starting full time on Monday and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as commissioner.

IDENTIFICATION OF MEETING GROUND RULES

Chair Travis asked that Board members really focus on strategic planning. He explained that staff would go through the recommendations on each area followed by discussion on each topic. Travis noted that this would identify objectives for the Department's work.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR REACHING PROFICIENCY AND BOARD DISCUSSION OF ITS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR REACHING PROFICIENCY

Deputy Commissioner Linda France stated that staff has organized its recommendations around the Board's three goals. She noted that a lot of progress has occurred but said we still have a ways to go. France explained that the Board's comments on the recommendations or their additional suggestions would be charted. At this point, the following recommendations from staff were offered followed by discussion/additional suggestions from the Board:

KDE Recommendations

Goal 1: High Student Performance

Focus on Literacy

- a. Develop adolescent reading programs.
- b. In low performing schools, implement an incremental student intervention system culminating in required summer reading instruction for low-performing students.

Focus on Mathematics

- a. Request additional funding to support mathematics coaches in every school.
- b. In low performing schools, implement an incremental student intervention system culminating in required summer mathematics instruction for low-performing students.

Provide tools and resources to support individual student learning needs

- a. Provide options for intervention tools in reading and math.
- b. Provide on-line options for diagnostic and summative assessment.
- c. Expand access to rigorous curriculum and content.

KBE Comments/Additional Suggestions**Goal 1: High Student Performance**

- Support additional funding for PD
- Chart a path of interventions based on data (“Roadmap to Proficiency”)
- Score card of results
- Funding for intervention system
- ID/standardized effective strategies statewide. Implement and audit to standards
- Increase job embedded PD/teacher collaboration
- Time/length of school year issues
- Funding for coaches
- Remediate student deficiencies as they occur
- Ask low-performing schools to document how they use best practices to improve math and/or literacy
- Use language that clarifies, not masks issues
- Use lessons learned by high-performing schools
- Middle school, high school focus
- Address resource availability
- Look at mandates as opposed to recommendations
- Work with colleges and universities to improve teacher preparation programs

KDE Recommendations**Goal 2: High Quality Teaching and Administration****Focus on Capacity Building**

- a. Strengthen Results-Based Decision Making and Setting SMART Goals through professional development
- b. Focus on Longitudinal Student Achievement
- c. Launch Kentucky Instructional Data Systems (KIDS)

Assist in Building, Modeling and Supporting Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

- a. Begin construction of Knowledge Management Portal (KMP)

Strengthen the quality of professional development

- a. Change requirements to allow greater local flexibility

- b. Promote initiatives that require adult collaboration around student achievement

Strengthen Leadership Capacity

- a. Expand teacher leadership programs across the state
- b. Work collaboratively with colleges and universities to redesign principal preparation and leadership development programs
- c. Support differentiated pay

KBE Comments/Additional Suggestions

Goal 2: High Quality Teaching and Administration

- Comparison of PD in schools, business, other fields
- Pooling of PD among districts
- Time factor for teachers (analysis is difficult)
- Pd not focused enough; must be reinforced, become part of culture
- Same accountability for participants
- How do we measure PD results?
- Revisit length of school year
- Alternative calendars – breaks meant to catch up kids
- To Goal 1: Must work with higher education to ensure prep programs provide information (core content, etc.)

KDE Recommendations

Goal 3: Strong and supportive environment for each school and every child.

Strengthen and Expand Statewide Systems of Support to Low Performing Schools.

- a. Scholastic Audits
- b. Highly Skilled Educators
- c. Voluntary Partnership Assistance Teams (VPAT), State Assistance Teams (SAT), Network Assistance Teams (NAT)
- d. Strengthen parent involvement based on the work of the Parent Advisory Council.
 - ✓ Collaborate with KSBA and other partners to communicate key messages to parents.
 - ✓ Launch a statewide communications campaign on the importance of parent and community involvement.

KBE Comments/Additional Suggestions

Goal 3: Strong and supportive environment for each school and every child.

- How do we get KBE goals to line up with district goals?
- Funding for scholastic audits
- Interventions for low-performing schools
- KBE policy to allow additional leverage to achieve student proficiency in all districts

At the end of this discussion, staff was asked to send the recommendations and additional suggestions from Board members via email to members in order for them to indicate which priorities are the most important.

RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LINDA FRANCE UPON HER RETIREMENT

Chair Travis asked that the Board take a short break to honor Deputy Commissioner Linda France upon her upcoming retirement.

Interim Commissioner Noland stated that he wanted to recognize Linda France for the many years she has served as an educator in multiple capacities. He commented that everyone knows of her vision, dreams and passion for education. Noland said that a cake for the Board and staff would be served in her honor.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF ON BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR REACHING PROFICIENCY AND BOARD DISCUSSION OF ITS BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR REACHING PROFICIENCY

Interim Commissioner Noland explained that today's discussion is just the beginning conversation on budget and that it will be continued in August, with a final decision required in October. He said that on the one page budget sheet sent to the Board, the following appear: mandated increases over which no control exists, other topics staff has heard the Board bring forward and several proposals from the priority discussion today. Noland emphasized the importance of what goes forward to the governor and General Assembly.

Chair Travis asked that the budget sheet be redone for the August meeting with costs associated with each item.

Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney then asked if there are additional items for which the Board would like to have the cost brought back to the next meeting.

Bonnie Lash Freeman replied that she would like to see the cost of gas/transportation, information on professional development, KECSAC students' cost, English Language Proficiency student costs and costs for Gifted and Talented students.

Robin Kinney said she would take the items back to her staff and bring forward specific costs to the August meeting.

Judy Gibbons then added that she would like to see the cost of raising the mandatory school attendance age to 18.

SITE APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN LOGAN COUNTY

Division Director Mark Ryles thanked the Board for putting this item on today's agenda. He noted it is similar to some the Board has recently seen where the site costs exceed 10% of the total project cost, which must be approved by the Kentucky Board of Education before the site purchase can occur. Ryles said that costs associated with grading and sewers are somewhat unusual with this particular site. He asked if there were questions.

Several members expressed concern about the possibility of flooding on the property. Ryles replied that it is his understanding that 19 acres will always be in the dry.

After some assurances by the local superintendent, Marshall Kemp, Doug Hubbard moved approval of the site for the proposed new elementary school in Logan County and C.B. Akins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF KBE MEETING PROCEDURES/PRESENTATION FORMAT

Chair Travis explained that he and Vice Chair Freeman meet with Kevin Noland and Mary Ann Miller after each Board meeting to discuss follow-up. He commented that sometimes those presenting to the Board need to get to the heart of the matter and indicate what is needed from the Board.

At this point, Joe Brothers handed out a proposal that he and Janna Vice had worked on to address getting to proficiency by 2014. He briefly went over the proposal and asked that the Board consider it.

David Rhodes commented that the opening reports at Board meetings and the Good News section seem to take up quite a bit of time and do not seem to always be necessary. Doug Hubbard agreed and said he does not always see the relevance of the reports.

Bonnie Lash Freeman then suggested that some of the one day meetings should be used to explore certain topics in an in-depth manner.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL

Chair Travis explained that the Board needed to take about 20 minutes to discuss what will be expected from Commissioner Erwin as far as objectives to meet and then come back out of session and share these with her. Second, he said that the Board would try to review them on an interim basis and make sure we're on target. He then asked for a motion to go into closed session.

At 3:40 p.m., Judy Gibbons moved to enter into closed session to discuss personnel and Joe Brothers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

At 4:35 p.m., the Board came out of closed session on a motion by C.B. Akins and a second by Joe Brothers. The motion carried.

Chair Travis announced that Bonnie Lash Freeman would recap the highlights of the Board's discussion and direction that is desired.

Ms. Freeman shared the following:

- Kevin Noland is asked to send the position description for the commissioner's job to the Board, if one exists, so that it can be reviewed and refined.
- For the August meeting, Dr. Erwin is asked to bring forward a 30-day action plan that outlines specific steps she plans to take within the next 30 days after the August meeting as related to reaching proficiency by 2014. It was clarified that this is an entry plan that should come forward after she has met with Department staff.
- Dr. Erwin was asked to make sure that when she is going to be in a Board member's area that the member knows well in advance.
- The Board would like Dr. Erwin to continue Friday Memo each week.
- As far as the Commissioner's Report at each Board meeting, the Board would like to get this in written form in advance.

Chair Travis clarified that at the October meeting, additional objectives could be developed.

ADJOURNMENT

At this point, David Rhodes moved to adjourn the meeting and Kaye Baird seconded the motion. The motion carried.