



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY BOARD NOTES

(NOTE: The agenda and materials for all Kentucky Board of Education meetings can be found on the board's online materials site at: <http://portal.ksba.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&AgencyTypeID=1>. Also, a recording of the February 3 session can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx>.)

Volume 24, No. 1 -- Report of the February 3, 2016, Regular Meeting

COMMENTS FROM BILL TWYMAN, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION VICE-CHAIR



Roger Marcum, Kentucky Board of Education Chair, was absent from the February 3 KBE meeting due to a surgical procedure and I know that we all wish him a speedy recovery. Hurry back, Roger!

My comments from that meeting will address two of the main topics discussed during the board's time together, the novice reduction initiative and the proposed budget. First, while we are seeing progress from all student groups in improving test scores, for some it is still not at a rate that eliminates the achievement gap. This new work on novice reduction seems to really get at the issue directly to target those students that need to improve achievement at a faster rate.

The novice reduction initiative provides a framework within which districts and schools can look at strategies that can work and apply these to individual students to meet their needs. Not all students learn the same way or at the same rate; there is no magic bullet nor one program that will improve the achievement of all students. If your district or schools have not looked at using the novice reduction initiative from KDE, then I encourage you to contact Linda Rains, Novice Reduction Coordinator, at linda.rains@education.ky.gov or call her at (502) 564-5130, ext. 4012.

Relative to the proposed budget that has been submitted by Governor Bevin to the General Assembly, we are thankful that SEEK was spared from any cuts. However, the board is very concerned about the 4.5% cut that the department will have to make by June 30 if this budget proposal is implemented. There are only a few months left in this fiscal year and much of the funding under KDE's purview has already been spent. The board supports Commissioner Pruitt's statement that schools and districts, Kentucky Schools for the Deaf and Blind and Area

Technology Centers (ATCs) should be spared from cuts as much as possible due to the direct impact on students. But, since the majority of the education budget passes-through to districts and less than one percent supports Frankfort-based operations, it is highly likely that districts will have to share in some of the cuts to meet the \$18 million required to be cut by June 30. And, that does not even deal with the 9% cuts in each year of the next biennium.

I urge those superintendents and educators who are concerned about the impact of the cuts in the proposed budget to talk with their state representatives and senators to make sure they understand how the students of our state will be affected. The facts need to be made available to lawmakers so that they can make an informed decision as they vote on the content of the budget.

Sincerely,

Bill Twyman, Vice-Chair
Kentucky Board of Education

BOARD DISCUSSES BUDGET CUTS

At its February 3 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education heard details about the effect of the Governor's proposed budget. Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney shared that the Kentucky Department of Education would be asked to cut nearly \$18 million between now and June 30. She told the board that the department would look at personnel, monies paid by the department on behalf of districts and payments to outside partners. Kinney emphasized that the problem is that many of these funds already have been paid out, so options are limited.

Additionally, board members learned that in addition to the 4.5 % reduction (\$18 million) this year, proposed 9% cuts would occur in each year of the upcoming biennium. Board members expressed extreme concern about the effects on schools, districts and the department. Department staff clarified that most of the education budget passes-through to districts and that less than one percent supports Frankfort-based operations.

It was agreed by the board and Commissioner Pruitt that preservation of funds to districts should be a priority. However, Pruitt indicated that if the reductions are implemented, cuts to districts will have to be made.

For more information on the budget, contact Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney at (502) 564-1976, ext. 4302 or via e-mail at robin.kinney@education.ky.gov.

UPDATE ON NOVICE REDUCTION PRESENTED

Associate Commissioners Amanda Ellis and Kelly Foster and Novice Reduction Coordinator Linda Rains updated the board on the novice reduction initiative designed to close the achievement gap through proven research-based strategies.

Amanda Ellis clarified that the approach is to strengthen instruction and improve achievement for all students instead of targeting one group of students. She noted that in 2014-15, nearly 81,000 students performed at the novice level in reading and more than 62,000 did so in math. Ellis went on to say the needs of each school are different and no silver bullet exists.

It was reported that novice reduction staff had met with over 3,400 educators through face-to-face meetings across the state. Novice Reduction Coordinator Linda Rains shared the webpage resources that are available to educators at <http://education.ky.gov/school/stratclsgap/Pages/default.aspx>.

For more information on this initiative, contact Linda Rains at (502) 564-5130, ext. 4012 or via e-mail at linda.rains@education.ky.gov.

DISTRICTS OF DISTINCTION RECOGNIZED

The Kentucky Board of Education took the opportunity to recognize the state's highest flying school districts, the Districts of Distinction. These districts have achieved the state's top rating on the Unbridled Learning College- and Career-Readiness for All accountability system.

This year five districts were recognized as Districts of Distinction as follows:

- Calloway County (also a High Progress District)
- Floyd County
- Ft. Thomas Independent
- Hickman County (also a High Progress District)
- Russell Independent (also a High Progress District)

The three noted as High Progress Districts are among those making the highest progress in the state, the top 10 percent of improvement.

Districts received a banner, letter of commendation and a digital logo to use on their websites, letterhead or publications. The High Progress Districts also received a certificate of recognition for that achievement.

For more information on the recognition ceremony, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov.



Calloway County



Floyd County



Ft. Thomas Independent



Hickman County



Russell Independent

DR. SAMUEL ROBINSON AWARD GOES TO CO-WINNERS

This year’s annual Dr. Samuel Robinson Award went to co-winners, Playhouse in the Park/Murray Community Theater and the Partnership Institute for Math and Science Education Reform (PIMSER). Since 2004, the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award has been conferred on an individual or group in Kentucky for outstanding leadership, commitment and service in promoting equity and opportunity to learn at high levels for all Kentucky students.

Playhouse in the Park/Murray Calloway County Community Theater was singled out for its involvement with the Penguin Project, an inclusive, educational theatrical experience where children with special needs fill the lead roles in a production with the support of peer mentors. The Penguin Project was originally developed by Dr. Andy Morgan, a pediatrician in Peoria, Illinois, who selected Murray’s Playhouse as a replication site. Murray’s Playhouse is the only theater in Kentucky and one of seven in the United States involved in the project.

PIMSER was nominated for the Robinson Award by Tim Schneider, an interim Secondary Teaching and Learning Lead Teacher in the Campbell County public schools. Schneider described PIMSER as his “educational leadership Think Tank” that he uses frequently. “PIMSER is ‘that’ place where I can go to see and experience the current research put into practice. The research-based initiatives shared by experienced, well-qualified staff at the institute are phenomenal!”

Sara M. Poepelman, chair of the Lewis County High School Science Department, agreed with Schneider’s assessment of PIMSER. “Through their outreach programs and offerings for teachers who take these experiences back to enhance their student learning experiences, PIMSER

has positively impacted thousands of young Kentuckians' learning and understanding of mathematics and science and engineering concepts," she said.

Dr. Samuel Robinson, for whom the award is named, is a former educator, who served on the Kentucky Board of Education from 1991 to 2004, and is known for being a racial and social justice advocate and for promoting the difference education can make in the lives of all students.

For more information on the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov.



PIMSER



Playhouse in the Park

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 3 BOARD MEETING WERE:

- Minutes from the December 9, 2015, Regular Meeting
- New District Facility Plans for Bath County, Bellevue Independent, Boone County, Mayfield Independent and Warren County
- District Facility Plan Amendments for Morgan County
- 2015-16 Local District Tax Rate Levied for Lewis County
- Amendment to Commissioner Pruitt's contract regarding expenses

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED AT THE FEBRUARY 3 BOARD MEETING WERE:

- Update on Pending Elementary and Secondary Legislation Before the General Assembly
- Status Report on Danville Independent's Probation as a District of Innovation
- 780 KAR 4:031, Repeal of 780 KAR 4:030, Standards for Secondary Programs (First Reading) and 780 KAR 7:071, Repeal of 780 KAR 7:070, Equipment Insurance (First Reading)
- 780 KAR 7:060, Equipment Inventory (First Reading)
- 704 KAR 3:471, Repeal of 704 KAR 3:470, Ranking of Certified School Personnel (First Reading)
- 702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage Middle and High School Interscholastic Athletics and Revisions in Kentucky High School Athletic Association Bylaws (First Reading)
- State Assistance in Fleming and Robertson Counties and Caverna Independent
- State Management in Breathitt and Menifee Counties

- Hearing Officer's Report
- KDE Employment Report (All offices except the Office of Career and Technical Education)
- KDE Employment Report (Office of Career and Technical Education only)

KBE MEETING DATES FOR 2016 AND 2017

KBE Meeting Dates for 2016

April 13, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 8, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2016	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2016	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion & Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort

KBE Meeting Dates for 2017

February 8, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 12, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 7, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2017	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 3-4, 2017	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion & Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the February 3, 2016, regular meeting, conducted in Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Kentucky Board of Education Executive Director, at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840.

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