

**Kentucky Board of Education Special Meeting  
January 17, 2020 9:30 a.m. ET  
Berry Hill Mansion  
700 Louisville Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601**

*Minutes*

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its special meeting on January 17, 2020 at the Berry Hill Mansion, 700 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky. The board conducted the following business:

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Karem welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. ET.

Chair Karem announced that while the meeting is not available via live webcast, it is being video recorded and archived to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) website. Chair Karem reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

**II. Roll Call**

Chair Karem asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: JoAnn Adams, Claire Batt, Holly Bloodworth, Mike Bowling, Alvis Johnson, Cody Pauley Johnson, David Karem, Patrice McCrary, Sharon Porter Robinson, Dr. Lee Todd, Dr. Lu Young, Lt. Governor and Secretary of the Workforce and Development Cabinet Jacqueline Coleman and Allison Slone.

Absent: Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) President Dr. Aaron Thompson.

KBE Executive Director Jennifer Fraker stated a quorum was present.

**III. Welcome and Remarks**

Chair Karem shared the significance of the day: a relaxed setting in which to take advantage of engaging in collegial dialogue and professional learning. Interim Commissioner Brown shared a brief update on his time at the department, KDE leadership changes and the reestablishment of the Office of Teaching and Learning.

**IV. Getting Started with Board Technology**

KDE Technology Team Lead Andy Liaupsin led a quick discussion on best practices related to microphones and live webcasts. KDE Technology Team Lead Logan Bales provided a quick tutorial on using the provided board computers and software.

**V. Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) Portal Training**

KSBA Director Katrina Kinman presented a quick tutorial on how to access and use the board portal. Kinman walked board members through the portal on their individual computers and highlighted some of the portal's features.

#### **VI. Discussion on Board Meetings, Working with KDE Staff, Working with the Board and Current Issues**

Interim Commissioner Brown shared and discussed statutes that specify the roles of the KBE and explained the duties and authority of the board. He also shared that he is the appropriate contact for KDE-related questions and board-related correspondence. Chair Karem then shared his experiences as a former board member and highlighted board policy on speaking on behalf of the board, while giving examples to clarify sharing personal versus board point of views.

#### **VII. Executive Branch Code of Ethics**

KY Executive Branch Ethics Commission Executive Director Katie Gabhart presented training on the Executive Branch Code of Ethics and how the rules impact the board members. It was also noted that KDE Interim General Counsel Todd Allen is serving as the agency Ethics Officer.

#### **VIII. Discussion on the Legal Perspective of Being a State Board Member, Administrative Regulations, Board Procedures and Board Policy Manual**

KDE Assistant General Counsel Ashley Lant presented a brief overview on the legal perspectives of being a state board member, along with an explanation of the administrative regulation process. KBE Executive Director Jennifer Fraker highlighted sections of the board policy manual as related to communication and travel.

#### **IX. Nomination and Election of Kentucky Board of Education Vice Chair**

Chair Karem led the process of electing a board vice chair and opened the floor for nominations for KBE board vice chair.

Chair Karem nominated Dr. Lu Young as KBE board vice chair. Patrice McCrary made a motion and Mike Bowling seconded the nomination of Dr. Young. No other nominations were made.

Chair Karem closed the floor for nominations for KBE board vice chair.

Dr. Lee Todd made a motion and Alvis Johnson seconded the election of Dr. Lu Young as KBE vice chair.

The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

#### **X. Discussion and Approval of Board Committee Structure**

Chair Karem explained that after review of the former board's committee structure, he recommended the board approve the removal of the Finance Committee for transparency and

efficiency reasons. He shared that he believed all important financial matters should be under the purview of the full board and others should fall under the purview of the Operations Committee.

Motion to approve the creation of two committees, the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee and Operations Committee, was made by Dr. Lu Young and seconded by Mike Bowling. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

Chair Karem also asked for the board, as a matter of practicality and efficiency, to approve the establishment of the Awards Committee as an ad hoc committee to review applicants for the KBE awards and make recommendations to the full board regarding award winners, as well as provide recommendations related to the types of awards the board issues, and the criteria associated with each award.

Motion to approve the establishment of an Awards Committee was made by Alvis Johnson and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

## **XI. Election of Committee Chairs and Committee Members**

Chair Karem shared that KBE board policy stipulates that the chair, with the approval of the board, shall name members and chairs for all committees. As such, he asked for the board to approve the following members to serve on the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee:

Holly Bloodworth to serve as the committee chair  
JoAnn Adams  
Claire Batt  
Patrice McCrary  
Dr. Lu Young  
Allison Slone (as a non-voting member)

Motion to approve JoAnn Adams, Claire Batt, Patrice McCrary, Lu Young and Allison Slone as members, and Holly Bloodworth as the committee chair, of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment committee was made by Lee Todd and seconded by JoAnn Adams. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

Chair Karem then asked the board to approve the following members to serve on the Operations Committee:

Dr. Lee Todd to serve as the committee chair  
Mike Bowling  
Alvis Johnson  
Cody Pauley Johnson  
David Karem  
Dr. Sharon Porter Robinson

Motion to approve Mike Bowling, Alvis Johnson, Cody Pauley Johnson, David Karem and Dr. Sharon Porter Robinson as the members, and Dr. Lee Todd as the committee chair, of the Operations Committee was made by Patrice McCrary and seconded by Cody Pauley Johnson. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

Chair Karem then asked the board to approve the following members to serve on the Awards Committee:

Patrice McCrary to serve as the committee chair  
Claire Batt  
Dr. Lu Young

Motion to approve Claire Batt and Dr. Lu Young as the members, and Patrice McCrary as the committee chair, of the Awards committee was made by Dr. Sharon Porter Robinson and seconded by Mike Bowling. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

## **XII. Establish RFP Evaluation Team for Response to Commissioner Search Firm RFP, Duties and Authority of the Team, Election of Members, and Meeting Dates**

KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney presented information on the need for the establishment of an RFP Evaluation Team, which will serve as an ad hoc committee, along with its duties, authority and general timeline of its work.

Motion to establish the RFP Evaluation Team was made by JoAnn Adams and seconded by Claire Batt. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

Chair Karem then asked the board to approve the following members to the RFP Evaluation Team:

Cody Pauley Johnson  
Dr. Sharon Porter Robinson  
Dr. Lee Todd

Motion to approve Cody Pauley Johnson, Dr. Sharon Porter Robinson and Dr. Lee Todd as the members of the RFP Evaluation Team was made by Mike Bowling and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.

## **XIII. Discussion and Instruction that KDE Administer a Public Survey to Solicit Desired Qualities of the Next Commissioner**

KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney discussed the need to authorize the department to disseminate a survey to solicit feedback from education stakeholders and the public on the desired qualities and characteristics of the next Commissioner of Education. This survey will be used to inform what the board drafts with regard to the desired characteristics to be used by the search firm during the hiring process.

Chair Karem asked the board to authorize the KDE to create and administer a survey.

Motion to instruct the Kentucky Department of Education to create and administer a survey to solicit feedback from education stakeholders and the public on the desired qualities of the next commissioner was made by Claire Batt and seconded by Cody Pauley Johnson.

**XIV. LUNCH - 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. No business was conducted.**

**XV. Summary of Work by Each KDE Office**

**A. Office of Assessment and Accountability (OAA)**

KDE Associate Commissioner Rhonda Sims shared the overall structure and responsibilities of the OAA. Sims discussed topics such as the National Assessment on Educational Progress (NAEP), online tests and the amount of summative tests that are required by federal and state law.

**B. Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition (OCTEST), and Area Technology Centers (ATCs)**

KDE Executive Advisor Leslie Slaughter, on behalf of Associate Commissioner David Horseman, shared the overall structure, responsibilities and current initiatives of the OCTEST. Information related to the 53 state-operated area technology centers (ATCs) also was shared to explain the connection with the KBE and KDE. Slaughter also shared the latest work of the legislatively-mandated Career and Technical Education (CTE) Taskforce and current CTE funding.

**C. Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness (OELE)**

KDE Associate Commissioner Rob Akers and Policy Advisor Cassie Trueblood shared information on the history and context of the OELE and Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), and the impact of the executive order that called for the ESPB to be housed within the KDE. Trueblood also shared information about alternative pathways to certifications.

**D. Office of Education Technology (OET)**

KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch shared his history with the agency and the work experiences of his office. Couch also discussed the structure of his office and their current initiatives. Information then was shared on the Student Technology Leadership Project (STLP) and Couch invited board members to attend the state championship which will take place in Lexington on April 8, 2020.

**E. Office of Finance and Operations (OFO)**

KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney shared the major functions of the OFO. Kinney shared the differences of the various responsibilities of the office, from compliance to programmatic needs and services to school districts and the KDE.

**F. Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL), and Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)**

KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton shared the history and context related to the formation of the OSEEL. Information was shared regarding the work of the divisions and their current initiatives. Hylton also explained that the KDE maintains management and oversight of two state schools, the KSB and KSD.

**G. Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL)**

KDE Associate Commissioner Dr. Amanda Ellis shared the details of the recent re-establishment of the OTL and the programs it will house. Ellis also shared information on the recent revisions of the Kentucky Academic Standards.

**H. Office of Continuous Improvement and Support (OCIS)**

KDE Associate Commissioner Dr. Kelly Foster shared information related to the settlement agreement with Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS). Interim Commissioner Brown shared that, in light of his employment status with JCPS, he has delegated his authority to Foster to handle matters related to JCPS. Foster also shared an overview of the ongoing work in the OCIS.

**I. Strategic Planning and Research**

KDE Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd briefly addressed the KDE Strategic Plan and explained how KDE likes for its plan to be aligned with the vision and mission of the KBE, which will be addressed at a later meeting.

**XVI. Discussion and Approval of the KBE/KDE Legislative Agenda and 2020 Budget Request (Action Item)**

KDE Interim Director of Government Relations Tracy Goff Herman presented a proposal for the 2020 KBE/KDE Legislative Agenda in consideration of changes to reflect needs of the board and those relating to equity.

As an information item, KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney and Division Director Charlie Harman presented the 2020-2022 Biennial Budget Request, which previously was adopted by the KBE and submitted to the Governor's Office in 2019.

Chair Karem asked the board to approve the 2020 Legislative Agenda as proposed.

Patrice McCrary motioned to approve the Legislative Agenda as proposed. Claire Batt seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**XVII. Adjournment**

Mike Bowling motioned to adjourn the meeting, JoAnn Adams seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.