

**Kentucky Board of Education Special Meeting  
March 18, 2020 9:30 a.m. ET  
300 Sower Blvd. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor State Board Room 514  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Video Teleconference Meeting**

*Minutes*

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its special meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. ET, at 300 Sower Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor State Board Room 514, in Frankfort, Kentucky. The board conducted the following business:

**I. Call to order**

Chair Karem called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. ET.

**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, David Karem, Patrice McCrary, Sharon Porter Robinson, Lee Todd, Lu Young, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, Aaron Thompson and Allison Slone.

The following member was absent: Cody Pauley Johnson.

KBE Executive Director Jennifer Fraker stated a quorum was present.

Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the KBE met utilizing a video teleconference. Furthermore, members of the public were not be permitted to attend the meeting in person, but were encouraged to view the meeting via the KDE's Media Portal. Accordingly, Vice Chair Young announced that the meeting still must comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Vice Chair Young reminded KBE members to ensure their video is streaming and that they can be seen throughout the duration of the meeting. Chair Karem also informed the KBE members that for any items that required a vote, a roll call vote was necessary to record the vote of each board member.

**COVID-19 Update (Information Item)**

Interim Commissioner Kevin C. Brown gave an update on COVID-19 as related P-12 education. Brown stated that all 172 school districts complied with Governor Beshear's directive to close schools for at least two weeks. Brown also announced that all 172 school districts were operating under Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) or had applied for NTI. Brown stated that the Governor, by Executive Order or the General Assembly through legislation, will extend NTI beyond the 10 days allowed presently. Brown also informed the KBE that KDE was working with the Chief Council of State School Officers (CCSSO) to take advantage of the expedited waiver process

through the United States Department of Education (USED). Brown notified the KBE that an Education Continuation Task Force was established to assist education partners with issues that arise during NTI days. The Task Force will meet weekly until they are no longer needed. Brown informed the KBE that the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council would convene next week to brainstorm and discuss social, emotional and educational needs during this time. Finally, Brown stated that all KDE associate commissioners were tasked with identifying all due dates required statutorily that will be hard for schools/district to meet, and he anticipates an executive order from the Governor to address any needed waivers.

### **III. Discussion and Drafting of Characteristics for the Next Commissioner (Action/Discussion Item)**

Chair Karem introduced Gene Wilhoit and thanked him for assisting with the facilitation of drafting characteristics for the next commissioner of education. The KBE mission was discussed, and each board member was asked to describe at least one personal outcome they will work toward during their tenure on the KBE; their responses will be used to draft the Characteristics for the Next Commissioner document focusing on what knowledge, skills, supporting dispositions and contextual understanding the next commissioner should demonstrate to be successful as Kentucky's next education commissioner.

Karen Dodd reviewed the results of the survey that was conducted from January 21, 2020 to February 6, 2020. The department facilitated this survey with education partners and the public as a directed by the board at its January 12, 2020 meeting. The results also will be incorporated in the characteristics for the next commissioner document.

Lee Todd made a motion to approve the list of board-generated characteristics desired for the next commissioner of education. Alvis Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

### **IV. Report from RFP Evaluation Team on Search Firm Interview Process and Vendor Recommendation (Discussion Item)**

Lee Todd provided an update from the RFP Team and stated that the team met on March 4, 2020 to review and provide technical scores for each proposal. The team took action to invite the top two scoring vendors to give oral presentations during a special called meeting of the RFP Evaluation Team on March 17, 2020. On March 17, 2020, oral presentations were conducted virtually from the top two vendors. The committee took action to recommend that the highest overall scoring vendor be recommended to the full KBE as the vendor to which to award a contract in order to conduct the search for the next education commissioner.

### **V. Selection of Firm to Conduct the Commissioner of Education Search (Action/Discussion Item)**

Lu Young motioned to approve the RFP Team's recommendation to award a contract to Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. to conduct the search for the next education commissioner.

Sharon Porter Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**VI. Lunch – 11:45-12:15 p.m. ET – No business conducted.**

**VII. Optional Presentation from the Selected Search Firm (Information Item)**

Betty Asher and Susanne Griffin with Greenwood/Asher & Associates, Inc. gave a presentation to the board which highlighted an overview of the vendor's company and their plans on conducting the search of the next commissioner of education. Members asked questions relating to the search process.

**VIII. Action to Waive Certain Requirements of 701 KAR 5:150 to Permit Emergency Application and Approval of Non-Traditional Instruction Program**

KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster and KDE Division Director David Cook presented information related to the approval of any future or retroactive waiver of 701 KAR 5:150, Section 2(1)(b) and (d)-(k) as well as Section 2(3), Section 3 and Section 6 sought by a superintendent through submission of the Temporary Emergency Application to the Interim Commissioner requesting immediate participation in the Nontraditional Instruction (NTI) Program for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year effective March 10, 2020 through June 30, 2020.

Mike Bowling motioned to approve any future or retroactive waivers of 701 KAR 5:150, Section 2(1)(b) and (d)-(k) as well as Section 2(3), Section 3 and Section 6 sought by a superintendent through submission of the Temporary Emergency Application to the Interim Commissioner requesting immediate participation in the NTI Program for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. This approval would be granted until June 30, 2020 and may be approved by the department retroactively, effective March 10, 2020 thru June 30, 2020. Holly Bloodworth seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**IX. Internal Board Business**

**A. Discussion and Approval to Amend Date and Location of April 8 Awards Committee Meeting, April 8 Special Board Meeting and April 9 Regular Meeting Locations to 300 Sower Blvd., State Board Room (514) Frankfort, KY 40601 (Action/Discussion Item)**

The KBE previously approved the change in location and the addition of April 8 as a meeting date to allow members to participate in the Student Technology Leadership Project (STLP) state championship in Lexington that was to occur on April 9, 2020. The event was canceled due to recent COVID-19 related guidelines. Accordingly, the meeting now will occur over one day and be a video teleconference meeting from Frankfort.

Mike Bowling made a motion to approve amending the date of the April 8 Special Awards Committee Meeting and April 8, 2020 Special Meeting to April 9, 2020 and to approve a teleconference meeting in lieu of an in-person meeting to be held on the original regular meeting

date of April 9, 2020. Alvis Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried by a majority roll call vote. (JoAnn Adams' vote could not be heard due to technical difficulties.)

## **X. Adjournment**

Mike Bowling motioned to adjourn the meeting, Patrice McCrary seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.