

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day one of its regular meeting on October 7, 2024. The KBE met both virtually and in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort KY. Members of the public were permitted to attend the meeting in person although encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Robinson welcomed all board members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. ET.

II. Roll Call

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Mike Borchers, Paul Long, Steve Trimble, Holly Bloodworth, Sharon Robinson, Lu Young, Randy Poe, Diane Woods, Juston Pate, Lee Todd, Julie Pile, Preston Graham, Lawrence McCrobie, and Secretary Jamie Link.

III. Internal Board Business

A. Summary Minutes for August 7, 2024 KBE Regular Meeting Day 1, August 8, 2024 KBE Regular Meeting Day 2, August 8, 2024 KBE State Schools Committee Meeting, August 8, 2024 United We Learn Committee Meeting, and September 26, 2024 KBE Awards Committee Meeting (Action/Discussion)

The minutes of these meetings were distributed to members in advance. Chair Robinson asked for any corrections to any of the minutes. There were no corrections. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Identification of the Strategic Priority and Criteria for the 2024 KBE Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson called on Awards Committee Chair Diane Woods to give the report. Chair Woods gave background on the award, saying that the priority area for the award changes from year to year based on the desire of the board. She shared that the committee met on September 26 and identified the following strategic priority area: "The goal of Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act, is to support evidence-based early literacy instruction throughout the commonwealth by investing in teachers to increase student success in reading. A child's ability to read is a critical predictor of both educational and lifelong success. Students must have

every opportunity to gain and strengthen this skill, and teachers must be equipped and empowered in the teaching of reading to best support their students. The 2024 award seeks to recognize a public school or district that has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing early literacy through the effective adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices, as outlined in Senate Bill 9 (2022), the Read to Succeed Act.”

Chair Woods also shared the criteria for the award, which includes: “notable efforts in supporting the successful adoption and implementation of evidence-based early literacy instruction, evidence of successful implementation of the Read to Succeed Act, and engagement with the community to support early literacy initiatives.” Chair Woods moved to approve the strategic priority and criteria for the 2024 Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award and asked Chair Robinson for the board’s consideration. Chair Robinson stated that since the motion came from the committee, the motion did not require a second. Chair Robinson called for a vote to approve the proposed award priority and criteria, which passed unanimously with a voice vote.

IV. KBE Member Ethics Training- KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen and Kentucky Executive Branch Ethics Commission Executive Director Susan Clary

KBE members heard a presentation regarding ethics and proper conduct as a board of education member. Susan Clary responded to questions from members.

V. Public Comment Session

Chair Robinson stated that the Public Comment Segment is limited to 10 speakers at a maximum of 3 minutes each. No one submitted items via the KBE email inbox, and no one was in attendance for public comment.

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. KBE Goals and Legislative Priorities

Chair Robinson stated that the proposed 2024-2025 Goals and Legislative Priorities were distributed to KBE members in advance of the meeting. Chair Robinson asked for the board to entertain a motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 KBE goals and legislative priorities. The motion was made by Julie Pile and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. 2024-2025 Commissioner Goals

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher stated that the proposed 2024-2025 Commissioner Goals were distributed to KBE members in advance of the meeting. Chair Robinson asked for the board to entertain a motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 Commissioner Goals. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

C. 2024-2025 Commissioner Evaluation and Communication Plan

Chair Robinson stated that the 2024-2025 Commissioner Evaluation and Communication Plan were distributed to KBE members in advance of the meeting. Chair Robinson asked for the board to entertain a motion to approve the proposed 2024-2025 commissioner evaluation and communication plan. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Hearing Officer's Report- KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen

B. Litigation Report- KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen

C. 2024-2025 Tax Rates Levied- KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter

D. Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Subcommittee Appointments

E. KBE Regular Meeting Calendar

VIII. Resolution Supporting the Use of State Dollars to Exclusively Fund the Common System of Public Schools (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson stated that the framers of Kentucky's constitution understood the importance of free public education for all children. "The constitutional framers made clear that public funds were to be used to fund our common school system at the exclusion of all (other school systems)," she said. In support of the resolution, Robinson referenced a passage from the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was later adopted by the Kentucky Supreme Court in the landmark 1990 ruling in *Rose v. Council for Better Education*. Robinson read the resolution, which stresses KBE's support for a system of common schools, where children have equal access to educational opportunities for all Kentucky children. Chair Robinson then opened the floor for the board to comment, and members including Julie Pile, Diane Woods, and Preston Graham stated their support for state dollars to exclusively fund the common system of public schools. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a

motion to approve the resolution. The motion was made by Randy Poe and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

IX. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Kentucky Board of EDUCATION

Resolution Supporting the Use of State Dollars to Exclusively Fund the Common System of Public Schools

WHEREAS, to eliminate the disparities in schooling options across the Commonwealth, the Kentucky Constitution established a common system of public schools, creating a uniform framework that ensures all public schools operate under consistent rules.

WHEREAS, the common system of public schools is designed to provide equal educational opportunities for all Kentucky children, regardless of place of residence or economic circumstances.

WHEREAS, the common public schools must be monitored by the Kentucky General Assembly to assure that they are operated without waste, duplication, mismanagement, or political influence.

WHEREAS, schools outside the common system of public schools are not subject to the same accountability and transparency requirements as the common public schools in areas such as academic standards, finances, teacher qualifications, and student assessment, which can lead to inconsistencies in educational quality.

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Kentucky General Assembly to adequately fund the system of common public schools and the creation of separate systems will lead to funding inequities and operational inefficiency.

WHEREAS, using state funds to support schools outside the common system of public schools diverts essential resources from public schools, weakening their capacity to effectively serve all students. This practice will also increase segregation based on socioeconomic status, race, and religion, thereby undermining the principles of equity and inclusivity that are fundamental to our public education system.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Board of Education is committed to ensuring that each and every Kentucky learner becomes an engaged citizen and empowered learner prepared to lead a life filled with purpose.

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Board of Education is resolute in its position that public tax dollars should be allocated exclusively to public schools within the common system of schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Board of Education opposes any legislation or policy that would allocate state dollars to fund schools outside the common system of public schools and believes that the best way to ensure all students in Kentucky receive a high-quality education is by supporting the existing public education system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board stands ready to work with the Kentucky General Assembly to advise on matters of education policy to elevate Kentucky's system of common schools to a national model that provides vibrant learning experiences for every student, regardless of background.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board urges the Kentucky General Assembly to prioritize investments in public education and continue to partner with the Kentucky Department of Education to support initiatives that strengthen existing public schools so that all students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

ADOPTED by the Kentucky Board of Education on this 7th day of October, 2024.