

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day two of its regular meeting on October 8, 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 9:00 A.M. ET.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Good News

- A. Eminence Independent's Jennifer Montgomery named 2025 Kentucky Teacher of the Year (Julie Pile)**
- B. LaRue County teacher is 2024 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher of the Year (Juston Pate)**
- C. Western Kentucky teacher Noraa Ransey is part of team helping to rewrite National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (Mike Borchers)**
- D. KDE staff elected to leadership positions in NAESPA (Lu Young)**
- E. KSB acquires new Braille reading devices (Randy Poe)**

IV. Board Member Sharing

Chair Robinson announced that the next item on the agenda is board sharing. It is an opportunity for board members to raise issues, pose questions, share concerns, and suggest topics to include on future board meeting agendas. Diane Woods began by sharing that she was able to attend the Continuous Improvement Summit in Lexington. She also shared that she attended a NASBE conference in Virginia. Lu Young shared that the annual NASBE conference will be held in Louisville starting October 23. Julie Pile and Lawrence McCrobie commented on joining the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Subcommittee.

V. Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education

President Thompson said that there was a five percent increase in enrollment rates from last year. He also said he visited The Academy at Shawnee (Jefferson County) and spoke to students in the aviation program. Finally he shared that the next meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education will occur on November 22, 2024, at Bellarmine University.

VI. Report from the Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet

Secretary Link said that he recently presented to the Economic Development and Workforce Investment Committee of the General Assembly. He said he received positive feedback. Link said that the cabinet is making incremental progress towards many goals.

VII. Report from the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner Fletcher said that in September education leaders from across the Commonwealth gathered in the Capitol Rotunda as We Lead Computer Science (CS) announced \$100,000 in microgrants to chambers of commerce. He said that at the recent Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) meeting, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) provided an update on the Kentucky United We Learn (KUWL) Council's ongoing efforts to transform the Commonwealth's assessment and accountability systems. Additionally, he shared that KDE recently honored outstanding educators during the 2024 Continuous Improvement Summit in Lexington, where 16 best practice awards were given to schools and districts for their work in areas including equity, family engagement, and instructional coaching. He also provided brief updates on the Kentucky School for the Blind, Kentucky School for the Deaf, and the Area Technology Centers.

VIII. Action/Discussion Items

A. Amendment to 704 KAR 3:365, Complaint procedures for programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965

KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Matthew Courtney, Ed.D., presented the proposed amendment. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the proposed amendment to 704 KAR 3:365, Complaint procedures for programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. The motion was made by Holly Bloodworth and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Waiver Request from the Paris Independent Board of Education Related to Section 4(4)(b) of 702 KAR 4:050, Building sites; inspection, approval

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the waiver request. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the waiver request from the Paris Independent Board of Education Related to Section 4(4)(b) of 702 KAR 4:050, Building sites; inspection, approval. The motion was made by Diane Woods and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

C. Waiver Request from the Martin County Board of Education Related to Section 4(4)(a) of 702 KAR 4:050, Building sites; inspection, approval

D. Waiver Request from the Martin County Board of Education Related to Section 4(4)(b) of 702 KAR 4:050, Building sites; inspection, approval

E. Approval Request from the Martin County Board of Education Pursuant to 702 KAR 4:050 Section 5(1), Building sites; inspection, approval

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and Martin County Superintendent Larry James presented an overview of the proposed waivers and request. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the following: the district's request for a waiver of 702 KAR 4:050 waiving the forbearance agreement requirement for acquisition of a site for the construction of the new Inez Elementary school; the district's request for a waiver of the easement restrictions in 702 KAR 4:050 to acquire the subject site for the construction of a new elementary school; and approval for the district's acquisition of the site for the construction of the new Inez Elementary School. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

IX. Discussion Items

A. Boyd County Update

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross presented the financial report. Boyd Superintendent Bill Boblett also attended the meeting virtually to address the board. The presentation updated board members regarding

the loan KDE provided the Boyd County School District and the district's steps moving forward.

B. Kentucky United We Learn Study Phase Update

KDE Executive Director of Education Policy Meredith Brewer, Ph.D., presented the update. The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the Kentucky United We Learn (KUWL) Study Phase, and highlighted key milestones, study questions, and target participants. Brewer responded to board member questions and feedback.

X. Presentation of the 2024 Kelly Award for Business and Education Partnership

Commissioner Fletcher facilitated the award presentation. The winner of the award was announced to be Meredith Rozanski of the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Fletcher offered his congratulations to the recipient and thanked her for her commitment to the students of Kentucky.

XI. Adjournment

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