

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Appointments to the State Textbook Commission

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.405 (2)

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for two appointments to the State Textbook Commission?

Background/History:

Existing Policy. In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

John W. Hardy, teacher, Grant County High School (Grant County)
David McFadden, teacher, North Laurel High School (Laurel County)
Donna Lovell, administrator, Berea Independent Schools (Madison County)
Barbara M. Rollins, teacher, Audubon Elementary (Daviess County)
Cherissa Eden, parent/lay citizen (Shelby County)
Dr. Cynthia Houston, higher education, Western Kentucky University (Warren County)
Vasco Perry, teacher (Hardin County)
Mark Thomas, administrator (Spencer County)

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of June 2012, two positions are vacant due to resignations of members. The following persons are being recommended to fill the vacancies:

Wendy M. King - Ms. King is a teacher at Mount Vernon Elementary in Rockcastle County. She has taught K-5 and 9-12 special education resource and 5th grade general education. She participated in the Kentucky Writing Project through Eastern Kentucky

University. Ms. King has both school and district experience in the textbook adoption process through her involvement in the Curriculum and Instruction Committee at her school. Her classroom served as a model at Rockcastle County High School for classroom integration of various texts and resources to benefit student learning. Ms. King thinks textbooks should complement instruction in the classroom and that educators must carefully select and be intentional about materials that make their way in front of students. In addition, Ms. King emphasizes textbooks should align with standards as defined through the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS).

Patti J. Bowman - Ms. Bowman is a parent from London, Kentucky and has served on the site-based councils of local schools. As a former teacher, Ms. Bowman participated in the local textbook adoption process. She maintains the choice of textbooks, instructional materials or other resources will change depending on the teaching style, learning style and assessment process for each classroom. Ms. Bowman states that although information is available online, we still must teach the importance of choosing a reliable resource.

If these members are approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of four (4) males and six (6) females, will be composed of one (1) African-American and eight (8) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff proposes that the board approve the appointments of Wendy M. King and Patti J. Bowman to the State Textbook Commission. The applicants are fully qualified to be members of the Commission.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

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Commissioner of Education

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