The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day one of its regular meeting on August 5, 2026. The majority of KBE members met in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor, Room 514, 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 the board members and audience. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. ET. Chair Robinson noted the meeting would serve as the board's annual retreat.

II. Swearing-In of KBE Members

Erin Gaines from the Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Legal Services, issued the oath of office to recently appointed members. Randy Poe and Julie Pile were reappointed to the Kentucky Board of Education, and Felicia Nu'Man and Patti Minter were newly appointed to the board as at-large members. The board also welcomed the new non-voting teacher member, Stephanie Phillips, and the non-voting student member, Trace Brooking. Phillips had been issued the oath prior to the meeting.

III. Roll Call

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Harold McKinney, Patti Minter, Felicia Nu'Man, Juston Pate (arrived 1:59 p.m. ET), Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Porter Robinson, Steve Trimble, Lu Young, Trace Brooking, Stephanie Phillips, and Secretary Jamie Link. President Aaron Thompson was absent. KDE Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., stated that a quorum was present.

IV. Internal Board Business (Action/Discussion)

A. Summary Minutes for June 3, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; June 4, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; and July 29, 2026 KBE Awards Committee Meeting

The minutes of June 3, 2026, KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; June 4, 2026 KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; and July 29, 2026 KBE Awards Committee Meeting were distributed to members in advance. Chair Robinson asked for any corrections to the minutes. There were no corrections. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve all of the meeting minutes. The

motion was made by Julie Pile and seconded by Lu Young. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Nomination and Election of Kentucky Board of Education Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair Robinson said that Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 156.029 requires that the KBE elect a chairperson at the first regular meeting in each fiscal year. Chair Robinson requested nominations for the Chair, and reminded the board that House Bill (HB) 10 of the 2026 legislative session amended KRS 156.0529 to require Senate confirmation of the KBE elected chair. Steve Trimble nominated Lu Young. There were no other nominations.

With only one nomination, Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the slate and elect Lu Young as Chair. The motion was made by Harold McKinney and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Lu Young invited Sharon Robinson to reflect on her experience as chair. Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and Lu Young provided their own reflections on Robinson's leadership and thanked her for her role as chair.

Chair Robinson then opened nominations for the Vice Chair. Julie Pile nominated Holly Bloodworth. There were no other nominations.

With only one nomination, Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the slate and elect Holly Bloodworth as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Chair Robinson called for a brief recess to change chairs.

C. Recipient of the 2026 Kelly Award for Business and Education Partnership

On behalf of the KBE Awards Committee, Chair Julie Pile presented the information related to the Kelly Award description. Chair Pile shared that the committee met on Wednesday, July 29, and determined that candidate 2 best met the criteria of the award. Chair Pile moved to approve candidate 2 as the recipient of the 2026 Kelly Award for Business and Education Partnership and asked Chair Young for the board's approval to recognize the recipient at the board's October regular meeting. The motion

did not require a second as it came from the committee. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

D. KBE Member Out-of-State Travel Requests

Chair Young said that the National Association of State Boards of Education's (NASBE) Annual Conference will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, in October. Chair Young said that per the KBE Policy Manual, "[the board] must approve membership on in-state and out-of-state study groups, task forces, and boards, and out-of-state convening and meeting attendance." Chair Young called for a motion to approve up to five out-of-state travel requests for members to attend the NASBE annual conference. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

E. KBE Goal Setting for 2026-2027

Chair Young stated that as part of the retreat focus, and per the KBE Policy Manual, it was time for review of the board's goals, discussion of major issues likely to face the board in the coming year, and establishing priorities for board action. Young asked for member input on the drafted goals for 2026-2027, and invited KDE Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd to assist with questions. Board members reviewed and discussed the 2026-2027 goals, commenting on the flexibility of the goals, extension of student voice, and adherence to the board's mission. Members discussed expanding advocacy to support student success. Young said the board would consider action regarding board goals at a future regular meeting.

F. 2027 KBE Regular Meeting Calendar

Chair Young stated that the board was provided a list of proposed regular meeting dates for 2027 in advance of the meeting. She said that the board provided feedback on the meeting schedule to support improved flexibility for members who reside further away from Frankfort. The board preferred a regular meeting schedule divided between two days in even-numbered months. Chair Young said board members could request virtual learning topics to support board member learning outside of the established regular meeting schedule. Following a discussion, Chair Young called for a motion to approve the 2027 KBE Regular Meeting Calendar. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Patti Minter. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

G. KBE Standing Committees

Chair Young stated that the board's committee structure has been under review. Under the proposal, board leadership recommended dissolving the United We Learn and State Schools Committees as the work of these committees had increasingly moved directly to full board review and discussion and to install three new standing committees: Awards, Waiver and Innovation, and School Improvement. Chair Young reviewed the charges and meeting protocols for each new proposed committee. She said the charge of the Awards Committee would be to "review nominations and recommend recipients to the full board for consideration of multiple board-sponsored awards.", the charge of the Waiver and Innovation Committee would be to "review innovation proposals and waiver requests submitted to the KBE; monitor trends in waiver requests and innovation initiatives; and provide recommendations to the full KBE for action and discussion.", and the charge of the School Improvement Committee would be to "monitor statewide school improvement efforts, accountability implementation, and district performance trends; identify areas of progress and opportunity; promote the dissemination of best practices and innovative approaches; and use these insights to inform full board discussions."

Board members were assigned to each committee and asked if they wished to join an additional committee. On the Awards Committee would be Julie Pile (chair), Lu Young, and Stephanie Phillips. On the Waiver and Innovation Committee would be Sharon Robinson (chair), Patti Minter, Steve Trimble, and Harold McKinney. On the School Improvement Committee would be Randy Poe (chair), Felicia Nu'Man, Holly Bloodworth, Juston Pate, and Trace Brooking. After a discussion with the board on the new committees, Chair Young asked for a motion to dissolve the standing United We Learn/Teaching and Learning and State Schools committees; establish the Awards, Waiver and Innovation, and School Improvement committees as charged; and approve the appointments of KBE members to committees. The motion was made by Julie Pile and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

H. Appointment of KBE Members to Serve on the State Evaluation Appeals Panel (SEAP) for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year

Chair Young stated that the KBE must appoint members to the State Evaluation Appeals Panel (SEAP). Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen provided that information will be provided to appointed members as needed. Chair Young asked for a motion to appoint Lu

Young, Felicia Nu'Man, and Holly Bloodworth to serve on SEAP for 2026-2027. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

I. Amendment to the KBE Policy Manual

Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen presented the recommended changes to the KBE policy manual. Allen stated that the policy manual is reviewed annually by KDE and proposed changes are shared with the board. Proposed changes include stylistic adjustment, clarification of the vice chair role, necessary changes to conform with updates from the 2026 legislative session, meeting schedule information, and voting procedures. After a discussion with the board, Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the amendment to the KBE Policy Manual. The motion was made by Patti Minter and seconded by Felicia Nu'Man. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

V. Legislative Priorities

KDE Director of Government Relations Brian Perry led the discussion on the drafted legislative priorities for the 2026-2028 biennium. To address program-specific questions related to priorities, Commissioner Fletcher introduced the KDE Leadership Team to board members. Board members discussed the need for fully-funded public school transportation, technology, and facility costs, and their concerns for underfunded districts being able to operate. Members discussed the need for further involvement and advocacy in the legislative process. Felicia Nu'Man requested consideration of legislative priorities focused on systemic issues affecting education and student success. Chair Young stated that the board will revisit the legislative priorities at a future meeting for further discussion and action.

VI. Lunch (no business to be conducted)

Chair Young called for a recess at 12:20 p.m. ET for lunch. The board reconvened at 12:50 p.m. ET.

VII. Good News

Board members shared information and updates about the following topics:

A. **Commissioner's Student Advisory Council** (Presented by Julie Pile)
B. **Kentucky Reads to Succeed Summer Conference** (Presented by Holly Bloodworth)
C. **2027 Teacher Achievement Winners** (Presented by Lu Young)

D. **Greenup County ATC Student** (Presented by Steve Trimble)
E. **Harlan High School Teacher Creates Scholarship** (Presented by Trace Brooking)

VIII. Board Member Sharing

Chair Young stated that the next item on the agenda is board sharing, an opportunity for board members to raise issues, pose questions, share concerns, and suggest topics to include on future board meeting agendas. Julie Pile began with an update regarding the Prichard Committee. Pile stated that she recently attended a Prichard Committee meeting related to Kentucky's assessment and accountability system, the importance of community for vibrant student learning experiences, and scholarship granting organizations (SGO) and opportunities for public schools. Chair Young shared that she and Juston Pate were invited to the Kentucky United We Learn (KUWL) Council to discuss the five pressing issues for high school transformation, identified as part of Kentucky's High School Transformation Work Group and supported through a multi-state collaboration led by NASBE. Young also said that she presented at the Education Commission of the States National Forum on Education Policy in Washington, D.C., with KDE Director of Education PolicyGlyptusAnn Grider Jones. Vice Chair Holly Bloodworth shared that she attended a session of KDE's Vibrant Learning Collaborative at Murray State University. Patti Minter shared that she is attending the opening of the Impact Center in Warren County next week. Randy Poe closed board sharing by stating he will also attend the opening of the Impact Center.

IX. Action/Discussion Items

A. Waiver Request 2026-WV-079 (Simpson County)

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented Simpson County's request for waiver of 702 KAR 4:050, Section 4(4)(b) for a wastewater easement at the Maintenance and IT Department facility. Ross explained that 702 KAR 4:050 prohibits school districts from purchasing property that has a traversing easement. Ross stated that Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 156.161 allows a school board to request a waiver from the regulation from the KBE. Ritter explained that Simpson County plans to relocate their IT department to a building with a traversing wastewater easement. Superintendent Tim Schlosser added that the waiver would grant the district more storage and better facilities. Commissioner Fletcher stated that pursuant to a recently amended statute related to KBE waivers (KRS 156.161), KDE cannot provide a recommendation to the state board regarding the waiver request

but is able to provide advantages and disadvantages. Ross said this waiver did not have a disadvantage identified. Chair Young called for a motion to approve Waiver Request 2026-WV-079. The motion was made by Randy Poe and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Waiver Request 2026-WV-080 (Perry County)

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented Perry County School District's request for waiver of 702 KAR 4:050, Section 4(4)(b) as it applies to the Robinson Elementary School Rebuild. Ritter explained that this request relates to a property acquisition for a new school, Robinson Elementary. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is donating property to serve as a turning lane into the school, which has a water drainage easement. The easement will not impact the use of the property, Ritter said. KDE noted no disadvantages to the waiver. Perry County Schools' Chief Financial Officer Jody Maggard added that the easement will not affect the construction of the school, and that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement support is in process to cover construction costs. After a discussion with the board, Chair Young asked for a motion to approve Waiver Request 2026-WV-080. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

C. Waiver Request 2026-WV-081 (Covington Independent School District)

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen presented the waiver request. Allen explained that 2026 Senate Bill 263 changed the waiver process timeline for the KBE to approve or deny requests within 30 days of receipt. As Waiver Request 2026-WV-081 was received from the district within less than 20 days of the board meeting, Allen stated that the request had not undergone a meaningful review. Further, meaningful consultation with the EPSB could not be achieved for the request of waiver of KRS 161.020(1)(a). Commissioner Fletcher described the waivers requested by the district, including requests related to school calendars, salary schedules, and truancy concerns. Board members discussed their concerns with the timeliness of the waiver request and expressed interest in tabling the request for further input. Chair Young called for a motion to table the waiver request until a special called meeting is held. The motion

was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion carried with a majority of ayes (with opposition votes noted).

X. Review Items

A. Proposed KBE/Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) Joint Resolution on Research Practice Collaborative (RPC) Recommendations

KDE Associate Commissioner Meredith Brewer, Ph.D., presented proposed language for a joint resolution highlighting the work of the KBE and EPSB Research Practice Collaborative and the two RPC recommendations (to develop a continuum of growth and support for educators from pre-service to retirement; and to develop a continuum of support and growth for school leaders in order to strengthen principal capacity for talent management, working conditions, and instructional leadership.) Board members discussed the purpose of the resolution and asked questions regarding the role of the EPSB related to the collaborative recommendations in the resolution. Brewer said that the EPSB is responsible for setting and enforcing the rules for teacher professional conduct and educator preparation. Chair Young stated that the resolution will be shared at a later meeting for the board's consideration of action and asked board members to communicate suggestions regarding the draft resolution to KDE staff.

B. KBE/EPSB Research Practice Collaborative Recommendations

KDE Associate Commissioner Meredith Brewer, Ph.D., led a hands-on activity regarding recommendations from the KBE/EPSB Research Practice Collaborative, where participants sorted the recommendations into categories such as low-hanging fruit, quick wins, long shots, and darlings, with the goal of discussing prioritized steps for teacher and leader support. Board members discussed their category placements. Brewer said the recommended placements would be shared with the KDE Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness for ongoing consideration.

IX. Reports

A. Report from the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)

EPSB Vice Chair CJ Fryer presented an update on EPSB activities, including educator preparation reviews, action regarding regulatory amendments, and the expansion of teacher credentialing opportunities without lowering standards. Fryer also noted that EPSB members discussed the implementation timeline for amendments to grade band

certifications. The EPSB plans to review the KBE/EPSB Research Practice Collaborative joint resolution at their next meeting, Fryer said.

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

Chair Young said that President Thompson's report was posted in the KBE meeting portal for board members to review. Thompson was not in attendance.

C. Report from the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

Secretary Jamie Link was not in attendance at the time for his report..

D. Report from the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher began his report by welcoming back students to school and sharing highlights from his recent school and district visits. Commissioner Fletcher presented an update on the construction underway at the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), affecting school year start dates for both schools. He shared updates on KSB and KSD students who participated in activities over the summer including work programs, theater, and group outings. He also highlighted work certification achievements from Kentucky Area Technology Centers' (ATC) students.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Young thanked the board for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m. ET.