The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day two of its regular meeting on August 6, 2026. The majority of KBE members met in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard, 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 Lu Young welcomed the board members and audience. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

II. Roll Call

Chair Young asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Harold McKinney, Patti Minter, Felicia Nu'Man, Juston Pate, 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 a quorum was present.

III. Public Comment Session

Chair Young 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 attended in-person to comment.

IV. Internal Board Business (Action/Discussion)

A. Report on KBE Awards Committee on Action/Discussion Items

Chair Julie Pile stated that the Awards Committee met on Thursday, August 6, and made recommendations to the KBE awards nomination process. Changes included nomination form updates, criteria adjustments, and a new timeline for further overview of top candidates. Chair Young asked for a motion to approve the recommendations from the Awards Committee. The motion did not require a second as it came from the committee. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

V. Consent Agenda

Note: Chair Young stated that KDE staff identified items in the consent agenda as those that are noncontroversial and routine in nature. Chair Young remarked that the consent agenda items were distributed in advance for review and asked if any member wished to move a consent agenda item to regular discussion.

None of the items were moved, and Chair Young asked for a motion to approve items in the consent agenda. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A. **Assessment and Alignment Process-** KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D.
B. **Amendment to 701 KAR 5:160, Selection and appointment of non-voting Kentucky board of education members-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen
C. **Hearing Officer's Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen
D. **Litigation Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf Updated Policies

KDE Director of State Schools Shannon Sparkman and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper presented the updated policies. Cooper explained that the policies are updated annually to reflect laws passed during the legislative session and are routine in nature. KDE elected not to adopt changes regarding the dyslexia screening process due to concerns for screening validity for certain students, Cooper said. Cooper also noted that curriculum may not include phonics of phonemic awareness, depending on students' individual needs. Chair Young called for a motion to approve the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf Update Policies. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Area Technology Centers (ATC) Updated Policies and Procedures

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the updated policies and procedures. Engle stated that 15 amendments will be made to the ATC policies, on recommendation from the Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA) and KDE staff, and are primarily technical changes. The update policies and procedures were provided to the board in advance. Chair Young called for a motion to approve the Area Technology Centers (ATC) Updated Policies and Procedures. The motion was made by Randy Poe and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

C. KY Tech Student Handbook

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented this item. Engle explained that the changes in the handbook are organizational. The handbook changes were provided to the board in advance. Chair Young called for a motion to approve the KY Tech Student Handbook. The motion was made by Harold McKinney and seconded by Patti Minter. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

D. Amendments to 780 KAR 3:072, Attendance, compensatory time, and leave for certified and equivalent service

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the amendments. Graves stated that the amendment aligns with the requirements of House Bill 727 from the 2026 legislative session. The amendment would allow up to 30 days of maternity leave for KRS 156 employees, those that work in the Area Technology Centers (ATC), who give birth. Chair Young called for a motion to approve the amendment to 780 KAR 3:072, Attendance, compensatory time, and leave for certified and equivalent service. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

E. Amendment to 704 KAR 8:060, Required Academic Standards for Social Studies

KDE Deputy Commissioner Thomas Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Marinelli, KDE Division Director Chrystal Rowland, and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Medley presented the amendment. Marinelli explained that part of the amendment incorporates by reference the new Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies and contains a few technical changes. Rowland discussed the process for reviewing Kentucky's academic standards and stated that the standards focus on civic education, as well as the critical knowledge, skills, and capacities needed for success in a global economy. The standards are aligned from elementary to high school. KDE issued two public comment surveys, and advisory panels provided recommendations based on public feedback and research. Community members involved in the standards review included postsecondary representatives, Kentucky historical societies and regional educational cooperatives, Rowland said. Board members expressed interest in the standards related to civic engagement, media literacy, and current events. After a discussion with the board, Chair Young called for a motion to approve the amendment to 704 KAR 8:060, Required Academic

Standards for Social Studies. The motion was made by Patti Minter and seconded by Sharon Robinson. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

F. Amendment to 704 KAR 8:090, Required Academic Standards for Technology

KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch, KDE Chief Digital Officer Marty Park, KDE Digital Learning Coach State Lead Laura Raganas, and KDE Policy Advisor Lisa Moore presented the amendment. Couch explained the methodology regarding the development of the new technology standards and the concern for high technology usage in the classroom. Couch explained that the standards include artificial intelligence (AI) learning and guidance. Board members discussed concerns regarding academic integrity, environmental impact, and critical thinking with AI usage in education. Discussion included the benefits and drawbacks of AI in the classroom. Raganas stated that public feedback for the proposed standards was positive. After a discussion with the board, Chair Young called for a motion to approve the amendment to 704 KAR 8:090, Required Academic Standards for Technology. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

G. Kentucky Education Technology Systems (KETS) Operational Plan for School Year 2026-2027

KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch, KDE Chief Digital Officer Marty Park, KDE Division Director Mike Leadingham, and KDE Policy Advisor Lisa Moore presented the KETS Operational Plan for School Year 2026-2027 and the request of the KBE to approve the use of KETS funds in the amount of $15.4 million for the 2026-2027 school year. Couch explained the funding sources for educational technology for the plan. The plan includes a technology activity report and a digital readiness guide containing statistics from school districts. Couch stated that due to KDE's most recent additional budget request related to KETS funding not being funded in the most recent state budget, the cost of certain programs will be shifted to local district responsibility. Board members expressed concern for lack of statewide funding for technology. Chair Young called for a motion to approve the Kentucky Education Technology Systems (KETS) Operational Plan for School Year 2026-2027. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Harold McKinney. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

VII. Lunch (no business to be conducted)

Chair Young called for a recess at 11:43 a.m. ET for lunch. The board reconvened at 12:34 p.m. ET.

VIII. Action/Discussion Items (continued)

A. Amendment to 703 KAR 5:270, Kentucky's Accountability System (First Reading)

KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Jennifer Larkins presented the amendment. Stafford explained that the changes are prompted by 2026 legislation, House Bill (HB) 257, which impact the accountability system and testing. Stafford and Larkins provided the board with a summary of proposed changes in the amendment, including new components, an addition of a growth value table for individual student growth in reading and mathematics, new accountability weights, and technical elements. Larkins explained that a new component, the Chronic Absenteeism indicator, required new definitions for qualifiers for the purpose of accountability. Stafford and Larkins explained the growth value table. Commissioner Fletcher explained the development of the proposed values on the table and how they represent academic growth. Stafford requested the board's feedback on the content of the amendment and the growth value table.

Board members raised concerns about the number of points awarded in the table and the rationale behind the point values. Stafford presented an alternative table drawn after feedback from the Local Superintendent Advisory Council (LSAC). Board members made suggestions to change the values on the table. Stafford and Commissioner Fletcher explained the proposed accountability weight values table and weights placed on various subjects. After a discussion with the board, Chair Young reminded the board that no action is required for this item and the item is presented for review and discussion only. Stafford outlined how the board's feedback will be incorporated into a new proposal to be shared with advisory councils and groups for feedback and then presented to the KBE as a second reading in October.

B. Amendment to 702 KAR 6:090, Minimum nutritional standards for foods and beverages available on public school campuses during the school day; required nutrition and physical activity reports

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz presented the amendment. Ross explained that the amendment

covers food sold competitively in the school building. The amendment conforms to two pieces of legislation, House Bill 555 from the 2026 legislative session and the repeal of KRS 158.856 by Senate Bill 68 from the 2025 legislative session, to fit federal and state standards. Chair Young called for a motion to approve the amendment to 702 KAR 6:090, Minimum nutritional standards for foods and beverages available on public school campuses during the school day; required nutrition and physical activity reports. The motion was made by Robinson and seconded by Pate. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

IX. Review Items

A. Audit Update and Expense Reports for the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) and Commissioner of Education

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Karen Wirth gave the update. Ross explained that the report contains the expenses of the KBE and the Commissioner, and that the KDE was reviewed by the Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) as part of the Statewide Single Audit of Kentucky (SSWAK). The KDE had no audit findings.

B. Employee Satisfaction Survey Results

KDE Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd, KDE Data Analyst Rob Collins, Ed.D., and KDE Data Analyst Leslie McKinney presented the Employee Satisfaction Survey Results. Dodd gave an overview of the survey results and explained that the results were higher than anticipated goals. Collins and McKinney provided data on certain categories, analyzed by office. The results were on track with the KDE Strategic Plan, but some declines with leadership and culture/climate indicators were present. Concerns were shared with leadership for follow-up action.

X. Presentation of the 2026 Grissom Award

Commissioner Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., and KBE Chair Lu Young presented the 2026 Grissom Award. Each year, the KBE grants this award to a Kentuckian or a Kentucky organization that demonstrates outstanding dedication to improving student achievement for students with disabilities. The first winner of the 2026 Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education was announced to be Miranda Reed, former Director of Special Education and current Superintendent for Lyon County Schools. Ms. Reed accepted the award. The second recipient of the 2026 Grissom Award was announced to be Oldham County Schools' Exceptional Children Services Program.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Young 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. The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m. ET.