**The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Awards Committee met on August 6, 2026. The committee members met in-person at 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY 40601. Members of the public were encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Media Portal. The committee conducted the following business:**

## I. Call to Order

Chair Julie Pile called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. ET and welcomed members and viewers.

## II. Roll Call

Chair Pile asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Julie Pile, Lu Young, and Stephanie Phillips. No members were absent. KDE Director of Education Policy GlyptusAnn Grider Jones stated that a quorum was present.

## III. Overview of Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Awards

Chair Pile gave a brief description of the mission of the KBE Awards and the purpose of the meeting. Dr. Jones provided a timeline of the awards and the process by which KBE award nominations are considered, nominees are reviewed and the KBE approval process of award recipients.

## IV. Review of Award Criteria and Selection Processes

Chair Pile asked the members of the committee to review the awards nomination forms and offer suggestions. Phillips suggested additional evidence, such as requesting a letter of recommendation from a coworker, and Young agreed. Young asked for a reconsideration of the word count limit on the nomination form. The members discussed the need for supportive documentation to improve nomination validity and impact on nomination consideration. Young requested that this additional data be optional. The members suggested that the criteria for all awards should specify the recipient as a Kentuckian and clarify if each award qualifies an individual or organization.

Chair Pile offered if the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) could be involved in the candidate review process to provide further information and input to the committee. The committee discussed that the role of the KDE would be to provide information for the committee to consider in its deliberations. KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd Allen suggested that KDE could assist with review of a smaller nominee pool and provide information to the Awards Committee.

Chair Pile proposed that the KBE award nomination forms have a note that indicates current KDE employees are not eligible recipients for KBE Awards, since KDE has a separate award pool for employees. Young asked if this note would include language that retired KDE employees would be eligible for KBE Award consideration. Allen confirmed the possibility of this addition. Jones asked if KDE employees would be eligible to nominate eligible individuals for KBE Awards. Chair Pile and Young responded that while KDE employees would not be eligible for nomination, they would be able to nominate eligible individuals.

A. **Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education**
   Chair Pile reviewed the criteria of the Robinson Award. Chair Pile suggested that the number ranking system in the rubric be flexible. Committee members discussed their individual processes for scoring and the addition of examples to the scoring rubrics. The committee agreed to let the rubrics of all awards remain as is. Chair Pile and Young recommended that the nomination form include language that indicates additional evidence would strengthen the nomination.

   Chair Pile asked for any additional suggestions regarding the Robinson Award. No other suggestions were made.

B. **Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy**
   Chair Pile reviewed the criteria for the Karem Award and asked for committee feedback or suggested changes . No suggestions were made.

C. **Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education**
   Chair Pile reviewed the criteria for the Grissom Award and asked for committee feedback or suggested changes. No suggestions were made.

D. **Kelly Award for Business and Education Partnership**
   Chair Pile reviewed the criteria for the Kelly Award and asked for committee feedback or suggested changes. Chair Pile suggested adding language to the criteria to align with the KBE's goal of supporting and encouraging vibrant learning experiences. Young offered additional mentions of accountability.

E. **KBE Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award**
   Chair Pile reviewed the criteria for the Kevin C. Brown Award and asked for comments. No suggestions were made.

## V. Cross-Cutting Process Review (All Awards)

Jones stated that a summary had been created regarding the committee's recommended changes to the KBE Award nomination forms to include a longer word count and encouragement for nominators to include additional evidence; a change to indicate KDE employees are not eligible to receive KBE awards; an addition to the Kelly Award criteria to include alignment with vibrant learning goals; and revision to the awards timeline to include KDE candidate review of the committee's top nominee pool.

## VI. Recommendations for Process Improvement (Action/Discussion)

Chair Pile asked for a motion to approve the proposed recommendations to the KBE Awards, as summarized, and to forward those recommendations to the full KBE for consideration and action. The motion was made by Lu Young and seconded by Stephanie Phillips. All members voted unanimously in favor by roll call vote.

## VII. Adjournment

Chair Pile requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Phillips and seconded by Young. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m. ET.