

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Appointment to the Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.770

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for the 2013 appointment to the Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. KRS 158.770 requires the Kentucky Board of Education to appoint the members of an advisory committee on writing which makes recommendations to the board on methods of integrating writing into the curriculum, teacher training programs and workshops designed to facilitate the effective teaching of writing, and the use of funds allotted for teacher professional learning and Kentucky Writing Project grants through the Kentucky Writing Program. The majority of the membership of the committee shall consist of educators currently employed by local school districts or public universities.

The Kentucky Writing Project State Network participants nominate committee members. Because the Kentucky Writing Program incorporates various platforms for the delivery of professional learning, it is important that an advocate for each platform be represented on the Writing Program Advisory Committee. It is also essential that committee members understand the necessity of professional learning and the components of research-based professional learning as applied to the field of writing.

Since the passage of Senate Bill 1 (2009), the work of the writing advisory committee has been directed toward the implementation of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards and Program Reviews in writing.

The following individual is recommended for appointment:

Emilee Morgan

Emilee Morgan is currently serving as Instructional Coordinator of Camden Station Elementary School in Oldham County. Her responsibilities include providing instructional support to K – 5th grade teachers in all content areas, overseeing the gifted and talented program, and serving as the Building Assessment Coordinator. She

previously served as a Literacy Coach for four years, and taught in the primary grades for nine years. She has been a National Board Certified Teacher since 2001.

Emilee participated in district curriculum development with the new math and English/language arts standards for two years. She has led multiple professional development sessions within and outside of the Oldham County school district. She is also currently an adjunct professor at Bellarmine University, teaching a master’s course in literacy.

Below is a chart reflecting the existing membership of the committee, with the proposed appointment noted with an asterisk.

Name	Role	Year Appointed
Cletus Turner	Teacher - Warfield Middle School (Martin County)	2010
Amanda Burns Klare	Teacher - Beechwood Elementary (Kenton Co.)	2011
Nan Ternes	English teacher - North Middle School (Henderson Co.)	2011
Claire Batt	Literacy coach & teacher - Athens-Chilesburg Elementary (Fayette Co.)	2011
Natalie Croney	Teacher - Bowling Green High School (Warren Co.)	2011
LeRonda Morton	Teacher - Bryan Station High (Fayette County)	2012
Jennifer Fowler	Teacher - Paintsville School - 8 th grade (Paintsville Independent)	2012
*Emilee Morgan	Teacher - Oldham Co. Camden Station Ele.	2013
Jean Wolph Lisa Maggard	University Writing Project Network (WPN) Coordinators	- - - -

All serving four-year terms; WPN Coordinator is elected annually

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):

Staff recommends appointment of Emilee Morgan. Advisory groups and instructional partners offered nominations to fill the vacancy. The proposed member has expertise in

the areas of writing instruction and professional learning. With the approval of this new member, the Writing Program Advisory Committee will continue to represent all areas of the state and all levels of education (elementary, middle, secondary, and postsecondary) in addition to representing gender and racial diversity.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Staff has consulted the current university writing project directors. The nominee is supported by the directors.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee (WPAC) supports and promotes professional learning in writing across the content areas, K-12. The purpose and activities of WPAC connect to the Unbridled Learning Accountability Model: Next Generation Learners by supporting Kentucky teachers in gaining instructional expertise in writing to further student achievement and college and career readiness. WPAC-supported activities target teacher effectiveness to meet the needs of gap students and promote student growth in writing. WPAC professional development specifically introduces and refines teacher efficacy in the type of real-world writing demonstrated through the Writing Program Review, which connects to Next Generation Instructional Programs and Support.

In creating Next Generation Professionals, it is essential that teacher growth is not only encouraged but delivered through proven, quality professional learning focused on student growth in writing. WPAC has consistently offered writing workshops, trainings and activities around the state that directly impact teacher effectiveness. Professional learning is led by Kentucky professors and local experts based in Kentucky institutions of higher education. Through participation in WPAC, leaders and learners develop capacity, in their local areas, for shared leadership and groups based on continued professional inquiry.

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Commissioner of Education

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