

Kentucky Board of Education Regular Meeting October 7, 2013

Full Board Meeting, 500 Mero Street, CPT, State Board Room, 1st Floor, Frankfort,
Kentucky

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held its regular meeting on October 7, 2013, in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. The board conducted the following business:

Attendance Taken at 6:30 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Trevor Bonnstetter
Mr. Grayson Boyd
Mr. Leo Calderon
Ms. Judy Gibbons
Mr. David Karem
Mr. Roger Marcum
Mr. Jonathan Parrent
Ms. Nawanna Privett
Mr. William Twyman
Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler

Absent Board Members:

Ms. Brigitte Ramsey

I. Call to Order, Full Board Session - October 7, 2013, 6:30 p.m. (EDT)

Chair Roger Marcum called the meeting to order and reminded folks to turn off or mute their cell phones. He also indicated all meeting materials are posted on the board's online meeting materials system and that tonight is a work session for the board to discuss the commissioner's self-evaluation, with no action to be considered.

II. Roll Call

Chair Marcum asked Mary Ann Miller to call the roll.

III. Working Dinner and Discussion of the Commissioner's Self-Evaluation

Following dinner, Chair Marcum stated that the board must discuss the commissioner's self-evaluation in open session and it should yield both positive accomplishments as well as areas for

growth. He commented that the results of the discussion would be shared with the commissioner tomorrow during the full board meeting toward the end of the day.

Marcum took the members through each section of the self-evaluation and Mary Ann Miller recorded their comments, both the positives and areas for growth. Marcum asked Mary Ann to have a written summary of these items ready tomorrow so that the board can share the discussion with the commissioner.

The following is a list of positive accomplishments that were discussed:

- The board admires your incredible insistence on being transformative in order to have a profound impact. We understand that you are pushing for substantive change and concur that it is needed.
- It is significant that the college- and career-readiness rate has increased to 54% and more students are college- and career-ready, which is the goal of the entire system. Additionally, the increase in the number of proficient/distinguished schools and districts is cause for celebration. Please remind the board how the cuts were set for selecting proficient and distinguished schools. Were they the same as last time?
- We commend you for being vocal about the need for increased funding since schools, districts and the department have gone about as far as possible in doing more with less.
- Your meeting with the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents' board is appreciated and it is our understanding that you have followed through with all of the items that you agreed to pursue. We applaud this approach and see it as key to building those strong relationships that will be needed moving forward.
- The September 5th Superintendents' Summit was received very positively by superintendents and it was so successful, the board suggests that you do another one in the spring. Also, your follow-up of a meeting the next day with constituent groups really kept everyone in the loop and made them feel included.
- The hiring of Dr. Tommy Floyd as KDE's Chief of Staff is seen as another positive in improving communications with superintendents and constituent groups.
- Your use of electronic communications and social media is the best of any Kentucky commissioner. The information flows transparently and often to schools and districts to assist them in implementing Kentucky's education system.
- The board applauds your meeting the goal to get test results to schools at the beginning of August. Additionally, completing visits to all school districts by the agreed upon deadline and meeting with editorial boards across the state are other accomplishments of note.
- It is evident that you have gone the extra mile to build a strong relationship with Jefferson County and have supported the efforts of that district's superintendent by verbalizing confidence in the initiatives she is implementing to bring about positive change.
- You are recognized as a leader both nationally and internationally and we are very fortunate to have such a passionate educator leading our state education system. We commend your leadership roles in organizations, such as CCSSO, and the positive recognition you have brought to Kentucky's educational progress through features like the recent Time magazine article.

- We are grateful for your persistence in meeting with state and federal legislators individually to help them understand critical education policy changes that would support Kentucky's education reforms.
- The board commends you for using a data-driven model in your own evaluation that serves as a model for local district superintendents. It shows that you are implementing what is being asked of them.
- The board supports the decision to pursue a waiver of the timeline for implementing the Professional Growth and Effectiveness System for use in personnel decisions and state accountability to allow time for teachers and principals to transition successfully to the new system and also to make sure the system is valid and reliable.
- The implementation of the plan to integrate career and technical education into the department is a tremendous accomplishment and emphasizes the part that career-ready needs to play as part of Kentucky's education system.
- The board sees the value of the Best Practices website as a resource for schools and districts to draw from for both sound operational and innovative practices.

The following is a list of areas for growth/questions that were discussed:

- While we applaud your ability to be direct in addressing issues, one must consider that the response does not need to be counterproductive. However, we have also seen that your direct remarks have produced positive results, such as in the Jefferson County instance. Would you share with us your strategy in this situation?
- Your actions this year directed at building relationships with superintendents and education constituents have been well-received and must serve as the basis to continue relationship building and creating an atmosphere of mutual respect. The education community needs to be united and pull together to get the work done.
- The goals in the areas of proficiency and achievement gap were not met. We would like to hear from you how you plan to address these. Would part of the strategy include increasing the profile of the Commissioner's Raising Achievement/Closing the Gaps Council?
- The board would like to understand why the AdvanceKentucky goals were not reached on page 4 of the self-evaluation relative to the Race to the Top measures. Could you help us understand this?
- We commend the fact that goals for Program Reviews have now been set. However, concerns exist about trying to measure this without the funding needed to support these. Can you please give us your perspective on this?
- You indicated that the New Teacher Center has suggested that the TELL Survey goal on page 3 be reworded. Please clarify this for us.
- While the progress of Priority Schools on page 5 is laudable, the board would like to see an increase in the amount of progress in those schools over the next year.
- The board does not want to back away from implementation of the science standards as planned and does not want to be seen as undercutting the Governor's support for the standards. Please explain the plan for the science assessment, including funding, and for moving forward with the development of the social studies standards and assessment.
- We commend your administration of and performance on the commissioner's 360 survey. However, we ask that next year you focus on improving "The Commissioner respects and listens to all levels of employees", the one area that was below 85%.

IV. Recess

The board recessed until 8:30 a.m. EDT on Tuesday morning.