

Kentucky Board of Education Special Meeting June 26, 2014

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held its regular meeting on June 26, 2014, in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order

Chair Roger Marcum called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. local time. He also noted that his grandson, Gibson Hagen, was present with him today.

David Kareem pointed out that his niece, Rachel Reid, was in the audience.

Marcum noted that the board made the decision to call this special meeting to deal with the school district divisions in the Scott County School District.

II. Roll Call

Chair Marcum asked Mary Ann Miller to call the roll.

Results of the roll call were as follows:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Grayson Boyd
Mr. Leo Calderon
Mr. David Kareem
Mr. Roger Marcum
Mr. Jonathan Parrent
Ms. Nawanna Privett

Absent Board Members:

Dr. Trevor Bonnstetter
Mr. William Twyman
Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler

III. Chief State School Officer's Recommendation Under KRS 160.210(4) for School District Divisions in the Scott County School District (Action/Discussion Item) - KDE General Counsel Kevin Brown - 30-minute presentation/discussion (Strategic Priority: KDE Support and Guiding Processes)

General Counsel/Associate Commissioner Kevin Brown explained that KRS 160.210 says: " if one hundred (100) residents of a county school district division petition the Kentucky Board of Education stating that the school district divisions are not divided as nearly equal in population as can reasonably be expected, the chief state school officer shall cause an investigation to determine the validity of the petition, the investigation to be completed within thirty (30) days after receipt of the petition.

If the investigation reveals the school district to be unequally divided according to population, the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, shall order the local board of education to make changes in school district divisions as are necessary to equalize population within the five (5) school divisions.

If any board fails to comply with the order of the Kentucky Board of Education within thirty (30) days or prior to August 1 in any year in which any members of the board are to be elected, members shall be elected from the district at large until the order of the Kentucky Board of Education has been complied with." (Emphasis added)

Brown continued that the Scott County School District Divisions are not equally divided and emphasized that the investigation of the situation validates this point. He noted that the department received the petition and facts from the investigation and worked with the Scott County Court Clerk to validate the petitioners and signatures. General Counsel Brown stated that this particular situation is clear due to the recent census and the use of GIS software. He indicated that the numbers are displayed on the map, the letter to Chair Marcum and the staff note. Brown explained that the recommendation of the commissioner is for the divisions to be redrawn. He commented that his understanding is that the local board of education intends to act on this matter; however, he said it was necessary for the Kentucky Board of Education to act to start the 30-day deadline. Brown went on to say that staff had checked with the county court clerk and found out she can do the necessary work for the August filing deadline that would be required if the divisions are redrawn. He also clarified that if the local board does not act within the 30-day deadline, the local board candidates for the two affected seats must run at-large.

Chair Marcum then asked for questions.

David Karem asked what caused this situation to exist.

Kevin Brown replied that he was not sure but knows the situation was not addressed.

Grayson Boyd asked if each county would be required to address such a situation after the census results are known.

Brown responded that the petition is the triggering mechanism and noted this to be under the authority of the local board.

David Karem commented that he appreciated the folks who brought forward the petition and said they should be commended.

Roger Marcum also thanked the persons who brought forth the petition so that this problem could be rectified. At this point, he asked for a motion, second and vote regarding the Scott County School District Divisions.

Motion Passed: Approval to order the Scott County Board of Education to make the necessary changes in the school district divisions to equalize the population within the five school divisions passed with a motion by Mr. Jonathan Parrent and a second by Mr. David Karem.

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

IV. Adjournment

Chair Marcum asked for a motion, second and vote to adjourn.

Grayson Boyd moved to adjourn the meeting and Leo Calderon seconded the motion. It carried.