

Kentucky Board of Education, Special Meeting August 26, 2014

SUMMARY MINUTES

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Roger Marcum called the special meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Mary Ann Miller was asked to call the roll.

Attendance Taken at 9:00 AM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Trevor Bonnstetter
Mr. Grayson Boyd
Mr. Samuel Hinkle
Mr. David Kareem
Mr. Roger Marcum
Mr. Jonathan Parrent
Ms. Nawanna Privett
Mr. William Twyman
Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler

Absent Board Members:

Mr. Leo Calderon
Ms. Debra Cook

III. Hearing pursuant to KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785, KRS Chapter 13B, and 703 KAR 3:205 to determine whether to adopt the Commissioner of Education's recommendation to extend the Kentucky Board of Education's designation of the Breathitt County School District as state managed

The hearing officer, Susan Durant, noted that the Kentucky Board of Education must decide whether state management should continue in the Breathitt County School District. She went over a handout with board members on the instructions to follow for the hearing.

Representing Commissioner of Education Terry Holliday were Lisa Lang, David Wickersham and Larry Hammond.

Representing the Breathitt County Board of Education were Ned Pillersdorf, Liz Edmonson and Rochelle Hamilton.

Ms. Durant continued that the burden of proof lies with the commissioner and said witnesses will testify under oath. She asked if the attorneys had any questions and none came forward. Then, Durant said the hearing would be conducted on the record and the decision based on today's evidence with all documents admitted to evidence marked and submitted. She asked for opening statements and pointed out this hearing falls under KRS 13B.

Attorney Lisa Lang gave the opening statement for the commissioner and called the following as witnesses: Christine Duke, Judy Littleton, Kay Kennedy, Cheri Meadows, Greg Dunbar, Susan Barkley and Larry Hammond. Mr. Pillersdorf cross examined the witnesses.

Attorney Ned Pillersdorf gave the opening statement for the Breathitt County School Board and called the following witnesses: Rochelle Hamilton, Albert Little and Rebecca Holbrook Watkins. Attorney David Wickersham cross examined these witnesses.

The closing for the commissioner was done by Attorney Lisa Lang, who asked for continuation of state management. Mr. Pillersdorf did the closing for the Breathitt County Board of Education and he asked to restore local control to the Breathitt County Board of Education.

IV. Deliberation in open session

Chair Roger Marcum thanked everyone for testifying and for their passion for the education of students in Breathitt County. He indicated that he hoped the witnesses would stay around for the deliberations. Marcum then asked the board members to read over the "Burden of Proof" section of the document prepared by the hearing officer and explained that he would then be requesting comments from board members in the areas listed under the "Factual Findings" section.

After reviewing the sections from the hearing officer's document, board members then shared their feedback in the areas of planning, operational support, fiscal management, personnel administration, and instructional management.

Chair Marcum then asked Mary Ann Miller to take a roll call vote of the state board to see if they believed from the evidence presented that the pattern of ineffective and inefficient governance or administration and the specific deficiencies determined by the management audit have been corrected. All nine members who were present voted "no".

Following the vote, Marcum indicated the following:

- The state board thinks the local board has potential but is not quite ready to have state management ended.
- A lack of knowledge exists and skill development is needed by the local board.
- Communication with the state manager and his communication with the board must be improved.

- The local board chair is encouraged to sit down with the state manager and jointly develop the board agendas.
- Both sides need to remember that they are there to serve the students of Breathitt County.
- More evidence is needed that the local board is ready before the state board can turn the management of the district back to it.

David Karem then requested that Mr. Hammond and the local board chair could come back in the future to a state board meeting to give an update.

Chair Marcum agreed that this would be a positive thing to do. He commented that it had been a long day and that he hoped when the chair and state manager come to the state board meeting to give an update that the report indicates communication has improved.

V. Announcement of final order

Ms. Durant announced that she would write up the findings of fact and conclusions for the board to approve at its next meeting. She noted that once this is approved and sent out, the Breathitt County Board will have appeal rights.

VI. Adjournment

At 7:40 p.m. ET, David Karem moved to adjourn and Bill Twyman seconded the motion. It carried.