

Kentucky Board of Education Regular Meeting October 6, 2014

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education began its regular meeting on October 6, 2014, in the State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky. The board conducted the following business:

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

Chair Roger Marcum called the board meeting to order and indicated that the purpose of the October 6 session was to consider the commissioner of education's evaluation.

II. Roll Call

Marcum asked Mary Ann Miller to call the roll.

Attendance Taken at 6:30 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Leo Calderon
Ms. Debra Cook
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. Trevor Bonnstetter
Mr. Grayson Boyd
Mr. Robert King

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

Chair Marcum reminded the board that they had copies of the commissioner's self-evaluation, five-year progress report and the assessment briefing packet as data to consider for the evaluation. He noted that the focus would be on the self-evaluation document and explained that at the end of tonight's session, the board needed to produce a list of positives and areas for growth. Marcum also said that he would be asking some board members to assist Mary Ann Miller in writing the summary of the discussion and others to share the evaluation results with the commissioner at tomorrow's meeting. He then opened the floor for comments from the board.

After considerable discussion by the board, the following list of strengths and areas for growth resulted:

Strengths

Communication

- This is one of the strongest parts of the self-evaluation with everything being met.
- Especially of note are the positive results of the KDE 360 Survey, which indicate internal communications are strong, and superintendents' communications, including the monthly webcasts with superintendents and the Superintendents' Summit, which received a high level of participation.
- On a broader scale, the Kentucky Core Academic Standards Challenge was an extensive opportunity for input into Kentucky's standards by all constituencies across the state. This was an unprecedented communication effort that will result in stronger standards and an understanding of those standards by Kentuckians.
- We applaud your hiring of Tommy Floyd as chief of staff and can see the value he brings in attending to the direct needs of districts and partner groups.
- Your ability as a communicator and teacher continue to amaze us and is one of the areas in which you excel. We point out that this is true in spite of the voice condition that you have experienced. We do not see that this condition has impacted your effectiveness in any way.

Next Generation Learners

- Significant gains in the measures of college and career readiness and graduation rate are tremendous for a second year in a row. The college/career readiness rate jumped to 62.3 percent up from 54.1 percent last year and 47.2 percent in 2012. The four-year graduation rate is up as well from 86.1 percent in 2012-13 to 87.4 percent in the 2013-14 school year. These are so important in terms of what they mean for the students of our state and serve as a centerpiece for the Unbridled Learning system.

Next Generation Professionals

- All indicators were accomplished. The design and regulatory completion of the Professional Growth and Effective System with its focus on continuous improvement is a monumental accomplishment. The implementation of this system makes clear that professional growth for educators is as important as student growth. You have modernized the profession with this comprehensive system.

Next Generation Support Systems

- It is commendable that all of the Program Reviews exceeded their targets and districts are focusing on increasing the quality of these programs. However, some concerns exist about the accuracy of the results and how the audits will assist us to verify the progress. (Discussion: We would like to hear your thoughts about why the progress on Program Reviews so greatly exceeded the targets and if you have concerns about the accuracy of the results.)
- Relative to the Race to the Top goals for CIITS, all goals but one were exceeded and we commend you for the progress of this system that is designed to support teaching and learning. We are pleased with the deployment of technology as a strategy to support the

work of educators. (Discussion: Do you have a sense of why the goal on creating and publishing aligned curriculum maps through CIITS fell short?)

- The implementation of a system to track interventions is key to making sure that all students' needs are attended to and we appreciate the attention to the board's request to ensure this occurs. We look forward to seeing the analysis of the results of this data in 2015.

Next Generation Schools and Districts

- Your breadth of understanding of best practices from across the nation has benefited the districts in Kentucky. We commend you for the amount of strategies that you have addressed and the level of improvement that has resulted. (Discussion: What are your thoughts on how we can address the number of school districts with serious financial problems?)
- We recognize the significance of having Unbridled Learning as the single accountability system and one that is balanced. (Discussion/Comment: For next year, we see a next step as helping us to understand how the results of our Unbridled Learning system compare with national measures and national trends.)

Other

- Other outstanding accomplishments that the board recognizes include leading the board to begin to look at deeper learning options for teaching, learning and assessment/accountability; the resolution and policy statement on global competency; your serving as the President of the Council for Chief State Schools Officers (You are respected nationally and extremely informed and articulate on a broad range of issues.); and receiving the National Association of State Boards of Education's Policy Leader of the Year.
- The five-year progress report that accompanied your self-evaluation is quite impressive and it is appropriate to celebrate and recognize how far we have come. It is so significant that we intend to attach this report as an addendum to your official evaluation document that will be crafted for adoption at the December 2014 meeting. However, we request some clarifications be added to the document to strengthen it such as trend data, acknowledgement of the funding slide in education as well as the latest infusion of dollars, emphasis of the partnership between KDE, EPSB and CPE to produce an aligned system, recognition of the creation of the Dual Credit Task Force to address the issues in this area and the notation of Kentucky's early leadership in adoption of the English/language arts and math standards and their implementation across the state.

Areas for Growth

Relationship Building

- Relationship building with all partners has been strengthened and improved. The board recognizes that relationship building is a two-way street and that when implementing a systems approach to yield significant progress, pressure to improve can cause pushback. However, due to the importance of support from all partners in order to persist in moving forward, continued pursuit of productive, mutual relationships, based on listening and mutual respect, is necessary and requested for future emphasis.

Next Generation Learners

- We recognize that gains were seen in the areas of closing the achievement gap and proficiency even though the progress fell short of the goals. It would be helpful to reflect in your self-evaluation document what the rate was the previous year so we can know the exact degree of progress. Due to not meeting the targets and the importance of these measures, continued focus on these must occur. (Discussion: We would like to hear your thoughts on why the degree of progress for areas like college and career readiness and graduation rate is increasing at such a high rate versus the slower improvement in gap and proficiency. To set future goals in these areas, will we need more years to get where we need to be or expect larger gains each year in the future?)

At the end of the discussion period, Chair Marcum asked David Karem and Nawanna Privett to review Mary Ann Miller's notes of the discussion and finalize these in order that they could be shared verbally with the commissioner tomorrow. He also asked Jay Parrent to verbally share the areas for growth with the commissioner and Mary Gwen Wheeler to share the strengths.

IV. Recess

The board stood in recess until 8:30 a.m. ET the next day.