

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

Status Update on School Districts in State Assistance

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** The Fleming County School District (Fleming) and the Robertson County School District (Robertson) and have been designated for state assistance by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) for more than a year. Both districts have new leadership at the superintendent level since state assistance started. At the December 2014 board meeting, the Menifee County School District (Menifee) was designated for state assistance. At the February 2015 board meeting, the Caverna Independent School District (Caverna) was designated for state assistance.

Attached are progress updates for each district.

#### *Fleming County School District*

Fleming County district leadership continues to focus its efforts on the AdvancED Standards of Quality to prepare for the district diagnostic review in mid-March. The vision of the district is to become a “District of Distinction”. Although not a district or school requirement, PDSAs (Plan, Do, Study, Act) are being used by teachers in many classrooms across the district. These teachers believe in the process and are seeing substantial academic growth. Since the high school also is a Priority School, it, too, will participate in a diagnostic review in mid-March. The board voted to approve a new schedule for next year at the high school and KDE staff is assisting the district to prepare for student scheduling through Infinite Campus.

#### *Robertson County School District*

Two new board members took office in January and this has created a significant positive change in the working relationship between the board and school staff. Also, a new instructional supervisor/DPP has been hired by the district. The individual appears very capable and has already helped to make many needed changes in both academics and school climate. The superintendent, David Murray, resigned at the last board meeting. His resignation is effective June 30, 2015 and the board is already in the process of securing a search service to hire a new superintendent. Although there has been significant progress over the past few months, there is still concern regarding declining enrollment and the district’s ability to provide adequate services to meet the needs of all students with its current resources.

### *Meniffee County School District*

KDE education recovery staff have been working to assist district leadership in development of multiple PDSAs to correct the deficiencies found in the management audit. There will be at least twelve PDSAs developed due to multiple needs within the district. The vast majority of the PDSAs have already been completed at this time. There is a substantial need for KDE support in the area of finance. It is anticipated that two KDE consultants will begin work soon to help build capacity in all aspects of financial operations. There also appears to be need for board training; one board member resigned recently and the commissioner will have to appoint a replacement.

### *Caverna Independent School District*

KDE recovery staff have been supporting the district on a daily basis. The first month of advisory work at Caverna Independent Schools has shown a great deal of progress toward capacity building. The Caverna Independent Board has continued the process of working with KSBA on roles and responsibility training. They also have set working sessions to review the Management Audit with additional sessions planned for finance, facilities and governance. District and school leadership have begun the process to develop budgets collaboratively but there is still work to be done. Some PDSAs have been delayed due to weather. Superintendent Faulkner has been very cooperative and willing to work to improve the district for its students. He has focused a great deal of attention on communication and transparency with a “no excuses” attitude.

### **Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Districts must operate efficiently and conduct instruction effectively in order to ensure the graduation of college- and career-ready students.

### **Contact Person:**

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**Commissioner of Education**

### **Date:**

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