

# **Kentucky Board of Education Special Meeting July 10, 2015**

## ***SUMMARY MINUTES***

The Kentucky Board of Education held a special meeting on July 10, 2015, 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 meeting to order and reminded the attendees to either mute or turn off their cell phones. He announced that this is a special meeting for the purpose of considering state management for Menifee County, reviewing the status reports on the Districts of Innovation for Eminence Independent, Jefferson County and Taylor County and considering the placement of Danville Independent Schools on probation as a District of Innovation. Marcum noted that the materials for the meeting appear on the board's online materials site and welcomed all those viewing the meeting via webcast.

Mary Ann Miller announced a correction to the agenda noting that the first statute cited under Agenda Item III. should be KRS 158.780 on both the agenda and staff note.

### **II. Roll Call**

Chair Marcum asked Mary Ann Miller to call the roll.

#### **Attendance Taken at 1:00 PM:**

##### Present Board Members:

Mr. Grayson Boyd  
Mr. Leo Calderon  
Mr. Samuel Hinkle  
Mr. David Karem  
Mr. Roger Marcum  
Mr. Jonathan Parrent  
Ms. Nawanna Privett  
Mr. William Twyman  
Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler

##### Absent Board Members:

Ms. Debra Cook  
Mr. Robert King

**III. Consideration to place the Menifee County School District under state management pursuant to KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205 (Action/Discussion Item) - Associate Commissioners Hiren Desai and Kelly Foster and Policy Advisor David**

### **Wickersham - 30-minute presentation/discussion (Strategic Priority: KDE Support and Guiding Processes)**

Coming forward for this item were Associate Commissioners Hiren Desai and Kelly Foster and Policy Advisor David Wickersham. Wickersham began by going through the history of the situation in Menifee County that was summarized in the staff note. He pointed out a management audit had occurred in September 2014 that established a pattern of lack of efficiency and resulted in a recommendation to the Kentucky Board of Education for state assistance. Wickersham explained that the local board agreed to the recommendation and moved to formal state assistance. He went on to reference the corrective action plan and recommendation to now move the district to state management because the problems have persisted.

Sam Hinkle indicated that in the future, he would like staff to bring the academic data for the district and to introduce the superintendent and local board who are present.

Chair Marcum said that he planned to bring the local officials forward shortly.

Kelly Foster then shared a summary of the district's academic data.

At this point, Chair Marcum asked the superintendent and board members to come forward. He commented that stories like the one in Menifee County were hurtful and it seems that the reform measures have made minimal impact. Marcum emphasized that a change of culture must occur and said it will take courage on the part of local officials to make this happen. He said he was concerned about the financial picture and asked about the history of the property tax.

Board Chair April Smith replied that the board took the 4% this year but has not always done so in the past. She stated that the district has no choice but to take it in the future.

Chair Marcum then encouraged the local officials to get outside of their district and see how others operate. He noted that the audit findings are very serious.

At this time the local officials were introduced as Superintendent Benny Patrick, Board Chair April Smith, Board Vice-Chair Matt Cooper and Board Member Leanne Reed.

Chair Marcum asked Superintendent Patrick if he supports state management.

Patrick replied that he did not support it because the district has only had four months to correct many years of problems that the audit cited.

Marcum commented that the way he sees the situation is that a lot of work needs to be done and the department can provide resources under state management that it cannot offer under state assistance. He felt this was a positive thing rather than a negative one.

Patrick replied that early in his term as superintendent he had called Hiren Desai for help and said some improvements have occurred.

Chair Marcum continued that the local board has made the decision to proceed with state management and emphasized that it is in the best interest of the students of the district to support the decision.

Board Chair April Smith stated that she wanted the state board to know that Meniffee County is a wonderful district with good students and staff but help is needed. She commented that she is excited about the staff and resources that will be available.

Vice-Chair Matt Cooper then read a list of eight things he considered in making the decision on how to vote on state management and said he came down on the side of supporting it.

Board Member Leanne Reed stated that she was not at the meeting where the vote on state management occurred and explained she does not support it. She agreed that the district has not had enough time to fix the problems.

Chair Marcum thanked the local officials for their comments and restated his suggestion that they need to get out and see how other districts and boards operate. He said the state board is not saying that progress has not been made but is saying that state management can speed progress up.

Bill Twyman asked Superintendent Patrick if he could work effectively with state management.

Patrick replied that he would make every effort to improve for the students of the district.

Chair Marcum then suggested that Patrick consider making that kind of statement to the community upon his return there.

Sam Hinkle shared that he was impressed that the local officials came to the meeting and with their commitment to students. He encouraged them to look on today's vote to be about the best effort to do what is best for the students and if that kind of commitment persists, changes and improvement will occur.

Chair Marcum agreed with Hinkle's comments and said he sees this as raising the level of support for the district. He then asked for a motion, second and vote to place the Meniffee County School District under state management pursuant to KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205.

Before the motion was made, General Counsel Kevin Brown informed the board that if the motion is passed, an agreed order will be generated and signed today.

**Motion Passed:** Approval to place the Meniffee County School District under state management pursuant to KRS 158.780, KRS 158.785 and 703 KAR 3:205 passed with a motion by Mr. David Karem and a second by Mr. Samuel Hinkle.

Mr. Grayson Boyd	Yes
Mr. Leo Calderon	Yes
Ms. Debra Cook	Absent
Mr. Samuel Hinkle	Yes

Mr. David Karem	Yes
Mr. Roger Marcum	Yes
Mr. Jonathan Parrent	Yes
Ms. Nawanna Privett	Yes
Mr. William Twyman	Yes
Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler	Yes

**IV. Status report on Districts of Innovation: Eminence Independent, Jefferson County, and Taylor County (Review Item) - Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster and Division Director David Cook - 10-minute presentation/discussion (Strategic Priority: Next Generation Schools/Districts)**

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster and Division Director David Cook came forward for this agenda item. Foster noted that this is the first round of monitoring for the Districts of Innovation as required by law.

David Cook added that the staff note talks about the implementation of three districts' plans (Eminence Independent, Jefferson County and Taylor County) and reported them to be doing a good job with moving their plans forward. He then asked for questions on the information provided in the staff note.

Sam Hinkle asked what could be shared with other districts from the work of these three districts.

Cook replied that staff will know more when the assessment data is available.

Kelly Foster added that what the department staff are hoping is to see an impact on student achievement. She said an update will be provided at the board's December meeting.

Bill Twyman asked about whether new districts will be asking for this status.

David Cook replied that the interest has dropped off for the moment but indicated staff are working on some tweaks to the program to re-stimulate interest.

Roger Marcum stated that the board encourages districts to take advantage of this flexibility and shared that he would like to see some ideas on assessment coming out of these districts.

**V. Proposal to place the Danville Independent Schools on probation as a District of Innovation (Action/Discussion Item) - Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster and Division Director David Cook - 15-minute presentation/discussion (Strategic Priority: Next Generation Schools/Districts)**

Kelly Foster and David Cook remained at the table for this agenda item. Foster explained that the District of Innovation program requires continuous improvement, development of a plan, and implementation of the plan. She said that Danville's plan will require tweaking and a corrective action plan has been developed. Foster stated that staff will assist Danville in getting back on track and be in the district to help them understand the requirements of the program.

David Cook added that the district is implementing innovative things but not what is described in the plan. He commented that it felt different when staff visited this time from when the district was designated as a District of Innovation.

Mary Gwen Wheeler asked if the district is no longer interested or if they want to amend their plan.

Foster replied that if the board takes action today, the next step will be working with the district on how to implement the present plan or amend it.

At this point, Danville Superintendent Keith Look, Board Chair Lonnie Harp and Board Member Paige Matthews came forward to address the board.

Chair Marcum said that the state board still sees this work as the vision for the Danville Independent School District and noted that getting off track can happen with a leadership change. He felt this is an opportunity to get back on track.

Board Chair Harp stated that Danville became a District of Innovation and then had a leadership change. He indicated that innovation is uphill work and although the district is two years into the work, the progress is not to the degree that was anticipated. Harp then read a statement relative to the situation and ended with the fact that the district plans to move forward to correct the situation.

Ms. Matthews shared that she is a new board member but agrees with the statement that Mr. Harp read.

Then, Superintendent Look commented that the commitment of Danville Independent is to be innovative. He said the district accepts every opportunity to accentuate its growth.

Mary Gwen Wheeler stated that she felt this to be more of a recalibration than probation.

Chair Marcum encouraged the local officials to make sure everyone in the district shares the same vision and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He then asked for a motion, second and vote on putting the Danville Independent School District on probation as a District of Innovation.

**Motion Passed:** Approval to place the Danville Independent Schools on probation as a District of Innovation passed with a motion by Mr. David Kareem and a second by Mr. Jonathan Parrent.

Mr. Grayson Boyd	Yes
Mr. Leo Calderon	Yes
Ms. Debra Cook	Absent
Mr. Samuel Hinkle	Yes
Mr. David Kareem	Yes
Mr. Roger Marcum	Yes
Mr. Jonathan Parrent	Yes
Ms. Nawanna Privett	Yes
Mr. William Twyman	Yes

Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler      Yes

## **VI. Adjournment**

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

Grayson Boyd moved to adjourn and Jay Parrent seconded the motion. It carried.