

**Kentucky Board of Education Special Meeting
September 23, 2015
500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky**

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held a special meeting on September 23, 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 special meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. He announced the purpose of the meeting to be for reviewing and discussing the in-depth background report on the finalist for commissioner, considering a motion to select the next commissioner of education and authorizing the KBE chair to make an offer of employment and negotiate a contract of employment. He indicated that the board will soon be going into closed session after the roll call per KRS 61.810(1)(f) and will remain in closed session until right before adjournment today when it will come back into open session to allow for the possibility of considering the motion that is listed on the agenda. Marcum also welcomed Representative DeCesare to the meeting and thanked him for attending.

II. Roll Call

Marcum asked Mary Ann Miller to call the roll. Present for the meeting were Grayson Boyd, Leo Calderon, Debbie Cook, David Kareem, Roger Marcum, Jay Parrent, Nawanna Privett, Bill Twyman and Mary Gwen Wheeler. Absent were Sam Hinkle and Robert King.

III. Review and discussion of in-depth background check report on finalist for commissioner's position (Closed session per KRS 61.810 (1)(f))

Next, Chair Marcum asked for a motion, second and vote to go into closed session for the review and discussion of the in-depth background check report on the finalist for the commissioner's position per KRS 61.810(1)(f).

Mary Gwen Wheeler so moved and Debbie Cook seconded the motion. It carried.

Marcum then reminded those present that the board will not come back into open session until right before adjournment.

IV. Consideration of a motion to authorize the KBE chair to make an offer of employment to an individual for the position of commissioner of education and negotiate the terms of employment to be ratified through a written contract at a future meeting (Open session)

Chair Marcum announced that the board came out of closed session on a motion by Grayson Boyd and a second by Jay Parrent that carried unanimously. At this point, he asked board members to

share why a motion should be considered to offer employment as the next commissioner to Dr. Stephen Pruitt. The following members shared the cited comments:

- Jay Parrent - Dr. Pruitt is an outstanding communicator, very impressive and experienced in developing the science standards.
- David Karem - He has a personal and academic background that are strong and has a national status.
- Mary Gwen Wheeler - Dr. Pruitt has a proven record of building coalitions around issues.
- Debbie Cook - His enthusiasm for the job is evident.
- Nawanna Privett - Dr. Pruitt places an emphasis on collaboration and he wants to meet our partners as soon as possible.
- Leo Calderon - He has experience as a teacher, state agency leader and national leader on the science standards.
- Roger Marcum - Dr. Pruitt wants to be in Kentucky and says he will be on the job the day after Labor Day, if possible. He has the ability to build relationships and sees this as his capstone job.
- Bill Twyman - He is approachable but adamant about two-way communication.
- Grayson Boyd - Dr. Pruitt is a person that is comfortable in talking with anyone he encounters.

At this point, Marcum asked for a motion, second and vote to authorize him as chair to make an offer of employment to Dr. Stephen Pruitt for the position of commissioner of education and to negotiate the terms of employment to be ratified through a written contract at a future meeting.

David Karem so moved and Mary Gwen Wheeler seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Chair Marcum congratulated Commissioner Pruitt and noted that Sam Hinkle and Robert King had asked him to convey their full support of Dr. Pruitt. He indicated he is hoping Dr. Pruitt can start on Oct. 16. He then read the following statement from Dr. Pruitt: "I am honored and excited that the board extended an offer of employment for me to be the next Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I want to thank the Kentucky Board of Education for its support and confidence. I am looking forward to attending the October 6 board meeting to finalize my selection and begin making plans for starting work by mid-October. As a classroom teacher, a state administrator, and vice president for an education non-profit, my focus has always been on doing what is best for students and that will not change as Commissioner. I anticipate collaborating immediately with our state and community leaders to empower educators and parents, and provide every Kentucky student with an education that prepares them for success in the 21st century." Marcum stated he feels the right person was selected.

V. Adjournment

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

Nawanna Privett so moved and Leo Calderon seconded the motion. It carried.