

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board Appointment

Commissioner's Recommendation:

The Commissioner recommends that Brandi Hitzelberger and Mike Flynn be reappointed to the KSB Advisory Board.

Rationale:

To approve candidates for terms having expired. Reappointment of two current members to the KSB Advisory Board will complete the board. The candidates meet the necessary criteria for reappointment.

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the reappointment of Brandi Hitzelberger and Mike Flynn to the KSB Advisory Board?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 167.035

History/Background:

Existing Policy: KRS 167.035 allows the Kentucky Board of Education to appoint a five (5) member KSB Advisory Board upon the recommendation of the Chief State School Officer. The board acts in an advisory capacity to assist school leadership in conducting the activities of the school. Members shall represent each of the following role groups:

- Parent of currently-enrolled student
- Community business
- Consumer or alumnus
- School district or Special Education Cooperative
- At-large member from individuals or agencies that have a vested interest in education of students who are blind or visually-impaired

Summary: At this time, the terms have expired for Brandi Hitzelberger and Mike Flynn as members of the KSB Advisory Board and replacements or reappointments need to be approved.

The following individuals are recommended for reappointment:

Mike Flynn – Parent and Community Business Leader

Mike has lived in Louisville his entire life. He attended St. Agnes elementary school, St. Xavier High School and graduated from the University of Louisville with a degree in Business Administration/Marketing. He and his wife, Dana, have been married for 23 years and have three boys, David (20 years old and a Junior at Ole Miss), Daniel (18 years old and a student at KSB), and Andrew (16 years old and a sophomore at St. Xavier). After college Mike began working at ADP as a software sales person, he spent 19 years in various sales and leadership roles. He served as Vice-President of sales his last 6 years at ADP. In 2011, he was recruited to a smaller software company called Benefitfocus to help build a sales force and grow the company. At Benefitfocus, Mike has served in various sales leadership roles and currently is the regional vice president of sales for the Central region. His responsibilities include attracting and retaining top sales people, achieving sales quota, traveling to key meetings around the country and supporting company initiatives. His experience over the years has given him a good understanding how businesses run, how they can improve and how technology can improve the overall health of an organization.

As a parent of a visually impaired, special needs child, he is particularly interested in how assistive technology can improve lives. He believes KSB has been such a positive experience for his son Daniel and feels so fortunate to have Daniel thriving there. He and his wife love what the school is all about and is so impressed with the teachers and administrators. When discussing serving on the board, he states, “I am glad to help out the school in any way that I can”.

Brandi Hitzelberger- Parent

Brandi Hitzelberger serves as a passionate advocate for a variety of causes. Chief amongst them are children with visual-impairments and breast cancer patients. As the mother of two visually-impaired children, Brandi has spent years both becoming knowledgeable about helping her own children achieve their potential and sharing her knowledge with other parents, teachers and students. She has served on the Board of Directors and Education Committee for Visually-Impaired Preschool Services. Additionally, she has chaired their primary fundraiser for the past 5 years. Brandi has been a member of the KSB Advisory Board for 4 years and was the Chairperson for 1 year. She is currently the Vice President of the PSO where she has been a member for 3 years. Finally, she was the Parent-representative to the SBDM for 3 years.

Brandi is one of the founding members of Twisted Pink and currently serves on the Executive Board. Twisted Pink raises money for metastatic breast cancer research and has contributed over \$500,000 to this cause in the last three years.

She also takes advantage of other opportunities to help the community. As a member of Middletown Christian Church, she participates as a small group leader and a member of the Serve Committee. Finally, Brandi is a member of the PTA at Summit Academy. Brandi graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

Mike Flynn and Brandi Hitzelberger meet the criteria for reappointment. The advisory board will be fully staffed with these reappointments.

Budget Impact: Pursuant to KRS 167.035, members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in performance of their duties.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

Staff has consulted the following groups:

- KSB Advisory Board
- KSB Administration Staff

All parties listed above are in support of the proposed re-appointments.

Contact Person:

Amanda Ellis, Associate Commissioner
Office of Next Generation Learners
(502) 564-9850
Amanda.Ellis@education.ky.gov

Gretta Hylton, Director
Division of Learning Services
(502) 564-4970
Gretta.Hylton@education.ky.gov



Commissioner of Education

Date:

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