

***Report from the Kentucky Commissioner of Education  
Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.***

***Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Meeting  
April 11, 2018***

**Ongoing Joint Initiatives at the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD):**

- *The schools are collaborating to develop their Certified Evaluation Plan (CEP).*
- *Plans for identifying and serving students who are twice exceptional are being developed for implementation next school year.*
- *Mental health services are continuing to improve for students. Teachers and staff are participating in training to learn how to address the social and emotional needs of students and identify those who need counseling. The technical assistance is being provided by the Advancing Wellness and Resilience for Education (AWARE) grant at KSD and Center on Trauma and Children (CTAC) at KSB.*
- *Both principals are involved in the Principal Partnership Project (P3) initiative.*

**KSB Highlights:**

- *First grade student, Addy Clarkson, sang the National Anthem for the Louisville women's basketball game on February 22.  
To see a video of the performance, click here:  
<http://www.wave3.com/story/37583903/girl-7-sings-national-anthem-at-uofl-womens-basketball-game>*
- *Students performed a play for the American Printing House (APH) about Louis Braille on February 2.*
- *A Fiscal Officer and Operations Supervisor have been hired.*
- *Teachers have read "The Fundamental Five" and will be incorporating critical writing ideas into instruction, with the results to be shared and discussed at PLCs.*
- *KSB is in the planning stages for a new career pathway for the next school year. The program is through the Kentucky Business Enterprises and the State Committee of Blind Vendors. Upon successful completion of the program, the students would be awarded a vending license.*
- *The residential students participated in the Louisville Children's Film Festival at the American Printing House. They enjoyed several "green screen" activities.*
- *Facility Updates:*
  - *Howser Hall renovation has started, and the anticipated completion date is December 2018. This will provide more dorm space and infirmary facilities.*



- *A greenhouse project is in the beginning stages.*
- *Several projects are on-going relating to heat/air and other interior upgrades.*

### **KSD Highlights:**

- *The 2<sup>nd</sup> shift is fully staffed for the first time in years.*
- *Five (5) of the ten (10) seniors have received college acceptance letters.*
- *Winter MAP scores show academic gains.*
- *Three (3) new student teachers started on March 6.*
- *Culinary students have catered three events on campus and received second place in the Deaf Culinary Bowl in California (week of March 5).*
- *Three (3) students are participating in Education for Employment (EFE). Two work in the kitchen at Center College and one is in the Teaching and Learning Pathway (which began this year). She shadows a Danville High School ASL teacher.*
- *The advanced manufacturing students competed against 30 schools at EKV's Technology Student Association Regional Competition. They placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Technology Problem Solving, and one student won first place for his dragster design.*
- *To access a video about the KSD teaching and learning career pathway click here: <http://www.ksd.kyschools.us/olc/page.aspx?id=5020&s=186>*
- *Facility Updates:*
  - *The new elementary building groundbreaking ceremony was March 13. The anticipated date of completion is January 2019.*
  - *High voltage replacement is on schedule. This will keep the campus running if there was a failure in the old cabling.*
  - *Campus lighting project will be out for bid soon.*
  - *Remodeling and upgrades to several buildings are on-going.*
  - *To improve safety, a new electronic check-in system was installed, which includes photographs on visitor badges.*

### **2018 Commissioner's Town Hall Tour**

This year once again, I will be conducting Town Hall Meetings across the state. The topic is high school graduation requirements. I am seeking the public's input on what our future graduates should know and be able to do, as well as what the Kentucky public high school diploma should signify to postsecondary institutions and employers.

We are encouraging educators, parents, students, business leaders, legislators and community members to attend.

The schedule for the Town Hall Meetings follows. All of the Town Halls begin at 6:30 p.m. local time and end at 8 p.m.

If you have any questions about these meetings, contact Rebecca Blessing at [rebecca.blessing@education.ky.gov](mailto:rebecca.blessing@education.ky.gov).



**Town Hall Meeting Schedule – 6:30 – 8 p.m. Local Time**

| <b>Day</b> | <b>Date</b>     | <b>Location</b>                                                                                       |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday   | <b>April 12</b> | Laurel County Schools<br>Center for Innovation<br>1100 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street<br><b>London</b>     |
| Monday     | <b>April 16</b> | Atherton High School<br>3000 Dundee Rd.<br><b>Louisville</b>                                          |
| Monday     | <b>April 23</b> | Scott High School<br>5400 Old Taylor Mill Rd.<br><b>Taylor Mill</b>                                   |
| Thursday   | <b>April 26</b> | Graves County High School, Performing Arts Center<br>1220 Eagles Way<br><b>Mayfield</b>               |
| Tuesday    | <b>May 1</b>    | Raceland-Worthington High School<br>Stephens Cultural Arts Center<br>500 Ram Blvd.<br><b>Raceland</b> |
| Thursday   | <b>May 3</b>    | Logan County Career and Technical Center<br>2400 Bowling Green Rd.<br><b>Russellville</b>             |
| Monday     | <b>May 7</b>    | Frederick Douglass High School<br>200 Winchester Rd.<br><b>Lexington</b>                              |
| Tuesday    | <b>May 8</b>    | Magoffin County High School<br>1100 East Mountain Parkway<br><b>Salyersville</b>                      |
| Thursday   | <b>May 10</b>   | Henry County High School Auditorium<br>1124 Eminence Rd.<br><b>New Castle</b>                         |

**KBE Strategic Planning Update**

KDE’s strategic work is well underway. The purpose of KDE’s strategic plan is to move the agency toward becoming a more systematic entity.

The plan has two primary goals

- 1) cultivate conditions for success in schools and districts and
- 2) create a culture of collaboration within KDE.

To achieve these goals, each KDE office has developed an operational plan. The plans identify processes that either need to be developed or need to be improved. Process maturity will be a key measurement for the agency. A “role model” process measures progress on critical strategic and



operational goals. These role model processes, along with targeted strategies, will ensure KDE is pushing on the Commissioner's five key priorities – KIDSS.

Progress on the KIDSS priorities will be shared with the board as follows:

**June** – K-3 Literacy. A review of other states' initiatives and what Kentucky is currently doing to build a strong foundation of reading skills early in a child's education.

**August** – Student success in postsecondary. Will include data regarding industry certifications and dual credit along with what changes will occur to ensure students are ready to succeed after high school.

**October** – Baseline data on our strategic plan.

**December** – Social and emotional health. Current work and challenges in this growing area of concern.

**Each board meeting** – Diploma Requirements. We will share the work that has occurred including a business leader forum, town hall meetings and student advisory committee input. How this input has shaped our work and where we are toward completing the new diploma requirements.

### **Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Legislative Conference**

I had the pleasure of attending the annual CCSSO Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. in early March. Attending with me was KDE General Counsel Kevin Brown and KDE Deputy General Counsel Todd Allen. The event provides an opportunity for state education chiefs from across the country to meet with legislators regarding the status and impact of federal education policy on the P-12 education system. I, along with our additional staff, had the privilege of meeting with Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, as well as Representatives Andy Barr, James Comer and Brett Guthrie.

During the event, I also provided opening remarks to the conference attendees about the topic of school safety, the tragic incident at Marshall County High School and the continued need for intense focus on the social and emotional well-being of our students. To view the recording of my speech, please see here: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?442005-4/council-chief-state-school-officers-legislative-conference-opening-remarks>.

### **100th Anniversary of the Kentucky Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

April marks the 100th Anniversary of the Kentucky PTA. On April 27, 1918, the Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers joined the National Congress, which had been formed 20 years before. The current PTA has changed a lot over the years, but the goals remain the same: to promote the welfare of children and youth through close cooperation between families and schools.

The PTA is a leader in supporting diversity and inclusion in our schools. A strong parent-school connection will be essential to meet our goal of cutting the achievement gap in half. Local PTAs will be an important partner in supporting the work to get that done.



Local PTA members are in schools every day, working alongside educators, and ensuring kids have what they need to succeed. The Kentucky PTA is visible in Frankfort advocating for public policy that is good for public schools. State PTA Board member Debbie Wesslund is in the audience today. Unfortunately, PTA President Cherie Dimar was not able to be with us.

We owe a great debt to the volunteer leaders that make up Kentucky PTA and every local PTA. Be sure to thank them for giving so much of their time and talent to our schools. Parents involved in their PTAs are leaders in their community and will continue to make a big difference in the achievement of Kentucky students far into our future.

## **New Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Employees -- April**

### **Office of Continuous Improvement and Support**

Michelle Campbell, Administrative Specialist III, Division of Student Success

Whitney Crowe, KBE/KDE Education Academic Program Manager

### **Office of Finance and Operations**

Amy Ortwein (ORT-WINE), Program Coordinator, Division of Resource Management, Physical Resource Branch

Kanaka (CAN-A-KA) Aspari (AS-PAR-EE), Administrative Specialist III, Division of Resource Management

### **Office of Teaching and Learning**

Kimberly McDaniel, Administrative Specialist III, Division of Program Standards

Carol Ann Morrison, Exceptional Children's Consultant, Division of Learning Services

### **Office of Career and Technical Education**

Landon Tingle, KBE/KDE Education Academic Program Manager